

Junior On-Field Safety Policy

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to prevent serious injury to junior athletes due to inappropriate on field stick and ball behaviours.
- 1.2. This policy also aims to provide education and preventative skills to junior team coaches.
- 1.3. This policy aims to assist in the implementation of an induction system for all junior coaches within Grafton Hockey Association (GHA).

2. SCOPE - Who is this policy intended for?

- All junior coaches
- All Managers of teams with junior coaches
- Parents of junior coaches

3. POLICY STATEMENT

There doesn't appear to be any policy within Hockey NSW or Hockey Australia that specifically addresses on-field unsafe stick behaviour during training or competition for junior athletes. Eg. swinging sticks above heads, throwing sticks, leap frogging sticks.

This policy is deemed necessary as a result of a serious incident occurring to a junior athlete that may have been prevented with better education of coaches of junior athletes. The potential of further incidents has been observed during competition games. Eg throwing sticks and dangerous stick behaviours.

We hope that this policy and coach induction will reduce the likelihood of serious incidents occurring in the future.

4. AIM

Our aim is for all junior athletes to enjoy hockey in a safe environment free from risk of injury due to dangerous stick and ball behaviours from self or others.

We aim to impart knowledge to coaches of junior athletes in injury prevention measures and on field management of junior athletes, through a pre season induction clinic.

5. METHOD

- 5.1 The minimum age for coaches of junior Athletes at GHA is to be 13 years and above.
- 5.2 Coaches aged between 13-16 years must have an accompanying supervising adult with a current Working With Children Check. The supervising adult MUST be on the field and actively supervising the junior coach and athletes during training.
- 5.3 Coaches and on field supervisors are required to be registered with both GHA Inc. and HNSW as Non Playing Officials if not registered as players.
- 5.4 Managers of junior teams to accompany junior coaches to a pre season coaching induction (parents of junior coaches are encouraged to attend). ALL junior Coaches, regardless of age, must attend this pre season induction at GHA , dates to be advised.
- 5.5 Coaching induction to occur before commencement of training each calendar year. Induction to be delivered by our Regional Participation Coordinator (RPC) - Rick Sampson. Only coaches who have completed the induction will be allowed to coach junior athletes. Email admin@graftonhockey.com.au for further enquiries or to arrange induction after commencement of season.

6. OUTCOMES

Junior coaches to sign agreement of receipt of induction on field safety, including safe stick behaviour & preventative measures during training and competition.

Junior athletes to be encouraged in correct and safe use of sticks and balls during training and games.

Procedure

Induction for Junior Coaching

Presented by

Regional Participation Coordinator (RPC)
Rick Sampson

1.4. The purpose of this procedure is to prevent serious injury to junior athletes due to inappropriate on field stick and ball behaviours.

1.5. This procedure aims to provide education and preventative skills to junior team coaches.

1.6. This induction clinic will address the following areas:-

- Duty of care
- Safe Stick Behaviour
- Safe Stick and Ball Behaviour
- Strategies of implementation
- Safe Behaviours
- Preventative Strategies
- Keeping yourself safe
- Reporting and recording

I have undertaken the Induction for Junior Coaching. I understand my role in ensuring the athletes I train learn and practice good stick and ball behaviours.

Junior Coach

Supervising adult

Rick Sampson (RPC)

Date.....