

Oxton Hockey Club



Membership Fee & Accessibility Policy

As a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), Oxton Hockey Club (OHC) is committed to ensuring that the sport of hockey is accessible to all members of the community, regardless of their financial circumstances. This policy outlines our approach to setting fees, maintaining match fee compliance, and providing discretionary relief to ensure that cost never acts as a barrier to participation.

1. Purpose and Scope

The main purpose of OHC is to provide facilities for and promote participation in the amateur sport of hockey in the Borough of Wirral. In accordance with CASC requirements and our club rules, membership is open to all individuals interested in the sport regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, social status, sexual orientation, or religion.

2. Fee Structure and Transparency

- **Annual General Meeting (AGM):** Subscriptions for each class of member are set annually at the AGM.
- **Membership Categories:** To ensure fairness, the club maintains different classes of membership, which currently include:
 - Full Senior Member.
 - Concession (Student / Retired / Unemployed / BTH).
 - School Member (Beavers, Badgers, and U10s).
 - Playing and Non-Playing Social Members / Umpires.
 - Aged 18-25, not otherwise eligible for concession
- **Match Fees:** In addition to annual subscriptions, players pay a match fee per fixture to contribute towards ongoing costs.

3. Payment Deadlines and Selection Eligibility

To maintain club finances while remaining fair to players joining at different stages of the season, selection eligibility is linked directly to fee payment status:

- **Annual Membership Deadline:** Subscriptions are due by 30th September. Existing members who have not paid by 31st October are strictly ineligible for team selection or voting at general meetings until settled or an arrangement is made.

- **New / Mid-Season Members:** Members joining after the start of the season have a four-week deadline from their first training session or match to pay their annual membership fee (or arrange a payment plan) to remain eligible for match selection.
- **Match Fee Arrears:** Match fees must be paid promptly after each fixture. Any player who falls behind by four or more unpaid match fees will be deemed ineligible for team selection for subsequent fixtures until the balance is cleared in full.

4. Accessibility and Financial Support

OHC recognizes that financial barriers can prevent participation. To uphold our commitment to inclusivity, the following measures are in place:

- **Affordability:** Fees are set at levels designed not to pose a significant obstacle to participation.
- **Discretionary Relief:** The Membership Secretary, Chair, and/or Treasurer have wide discretion to make individual arrangements for members facing financial hardship.
- **Flexible Payment:** Support may include payment by instalments or the remission of part of the subscription fee based on a member's specific circumstances.
- **Confidentiality:** To protect the dignity of our members, confidentiality is paramount and arrangements need not be disclosed to the full Committee.

5. Non-Discriminatory Limitation & Conduct

While the club is open to all, membership may be limited based on available facilities (e.g., pitch capacity or coaching ratios) on a strictly non-discriminatory basis. The Committee reserves the right to refuse or remove membership for persistent non-payment of fees or behaviour bringing the club into disrepute.

Policy Version Control

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