



TUNBRIDGE WELLS HOCKEY CLUB

Founded 1898



Transportation Policy – Young Players to Junior Training & Matches

Dropping off and collecting young players at the club/training session

- Coaches and club staff are responsible for young people in their care
- It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to transport their child/children to and from the club
- It is not the responsibility of coaches or volunteers to transport young people to and from the club.
- The club will provide a timetable of activities at the beginning of a season and notify parents/carers of any changes to this timetable in writing via the weekly team sheet by email and publication on the club's website.
- The club requires emergency contact numbers for parents/carers.
- The club adopts and publicises a late collection policy (see points below)
- The club provides the parents/carers with a contact number (Junior Co-Ordinator) which may be used if the parent/carer will be late to collect their child/children.
- The club asks parents/legal guardians to complete a membership and consent form providing contact details, and information about their child/children, including medical details.

Late collection

If a parent /carer is late the club will:-

- attempt to contact the parent/carer, and check the club contact number for any information from the parent/carer
- wait with the young person at the club, with wherever possible other staff/volunteers or parents
- remind parents/carers of the policy relating to late collection
- as a last resort, report the situation to Social Services or the Police if parents/carers remain uncontactable

Private cars

The club advises that private cars, other than those of parents, should not be used by coaches, club volunteers, team managers, and umpires to transport young players at any time, either to and from a training session, or to away fixtures.

The club's recommendation is that parents organise transport between themselves. It is the responsibility of a parent to give permission for their child to travel in another parent's car. The club is not responsible for these arrangements.

If for any reason the use of coaches/minibuses, or of private cars owned by volunteers, team managers and umpires, is the only feasible method of transport the following guidelines must be followed: :-

- drivers must ensure the safety of passengers
- drivers must ensure that their vehicle is roadworthy and they have a valid licence and insurance cover

- drivers must only use vehicles fitted with seat belts and must ensure that their passengers are wearing these when in transit
- drivers must be aware of their legal obligations when transporting young players
- parents/guardians/carers must give written permission if their child/children are being transported in another adult's car
- clear information on the expected times of departure and arrival needs to be communicated to relevant people, i.e. parents/guardians/carers
- drivers should not be alone with a young person in the car at any time. If this situation unavoidably arises, drivers need to ensure that the young person is in the back of the car

Legal Obligations when Transporting young players

The Department for Transport has provided the following advice :-

Transporting children using private cars

The new regulations for using the appropriate child restraint apply to all children up to 135cms in height or 12 years old whichever comes first, in the front and rear seats. Check the vehicle handbook to see what the manufacturer says about children and air-bags - cars will differ. We strongly recommend that advice is followed because air-bags are powerful and must be treated with respect.

Transporting Children using Minibuses

Seat belt wearing has long been a requirement in minibuses (and child restraints have to be used if they are available). The updated regulations do not change these arrangements . There is no obligation on anyone to provide child seats or boosters in minibuses (and in practice they very frequently cannot be installed in the seats of buses and coaches because they simply do not fit).

One thing that is new is that operators must notify passengers of the requirement to use seat belts. That can be achieved by the operators choice of announcements, signs or pictograms.

Transporting children using taxis

It is impracticable to expect the right child seat or booster to be available in a licensed taxi/private hire vehicle unless parents have brought one with them. Therefore, there is a qualified exception so that if child restraints are not available in a licensed taxi or licensed private hire vehicle.

- under 3s may travel unrestrained but in the rear only
- those 3 years and above must use an adult belt in the rear seat only.
- Remember that a child up to 135 cms in a front seat of any vehicle must use the correct child seat or booster.

The driver of the vehicle is responsible for seat belt wearing by children under 14 years (except in taxis with fixed partitions).

For full details on the application of this recent legislation for private cars, minibuses and taxis visit:

<http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/childcarseats/childcarseats.htm>
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This is updated periodically.