Overage Players Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 England Hockey occasionally receives requests from parents or teachers to play over-aged players in its competitions, i.e. a player whose date of birth means that under normal circumstances they would be ineligible to play in line with the competitions' regulations.

1.2 These requests are often due to legitimate reasons why it would not be appropriate for a player to play in their correct age group and in exceptional circumstances a request will be granted to waive the date of birth regulation for a player in England Hockey competitions. England Hockey will issue an Out of Age group certificate for this in line with the procedure outlined below.

2 Process

2.1 England Hockey Competitions Department will consider these cases and will draw upon specialist department if required.

2.2 Any request to waive date of birth regulations should include the following information. This should be sent to **Treena Partridge, Competitions Development Manager**, England Hockey, email **competitions.info@englandhockey.co.uk**

2.2.1 The player's Date of Birth

2.2.2 A letter from the player's parent outlining their child's individual circumstances.

2.2.3 A letter from the player's club and / or school giving details of the player's ability and, if they are participating in the Talent Pathway, and at what level.

2.2.4 A letter from the player's GP or any medical specialist, if relevant.

2.2.5 A letter from any other agency as determined by the parent that is relevant to the case.

2.3 EHCD will consider cases received at any time and commits to making a decision in respect of these within 21 days of receipt of all required information.

2.4 Where a request to waive the date of birth regulation for a player is granted, England Hockey will issue a certificate to the parent to confirm this, so it is important we have their email address. The parents may share with other parties. Team management should submit it to any tournament organiser to accompany any team sheet noting the player's date of birth. Tournament Organisers are asked to note that this information is confidential and whilst may be shared with a competition Tournament Director, should not otherwise be onwardly disseminated by either party.

2.5 i. For players aged 14 and under a request will be granted until the player reaches the age of 14 when a reapplication will be required.
ii. For players aged over 14 a request will be granted until the end of the season in which the player reaches the age of 19.
iii. In all instances England Hockey reserves the right to withdraw the certificate.

2.6 Where a request to waive the date of birth regulation for a player is not granted, a parent may appeal to the England Hockey Appeal Panel to request the decision be changed. This is in line with the standard Appeals process which will be communicated as required. The findings of the Panel shall be final.

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