

# **Hockey ID – Support Officer Volunteer Role Description 2025 season**

This is an amazing opportunity to support the ongoing development of the Hockey ID programme and to ensure that the athlete experience is positive, safe, and professionally managed at domestic training days and international competitions.

Since the summer of 2022 England Hockey has seen the squad develop with more training days, more competitions and longer stays away for competitions, with attendance at the Special Olympics world games 2023 in Berlin culminating in a gold medal after 12 nights away being a highlight for players and their travelling supporters.

Fostering excellent working relationships with athletes, parent/guardians, England Hockey staff, other Hockey ID staff and tournament officials, the Support Officer will be responsible for ensuring the best experience for the athletes, placing their welfare at the heart of everything and enabling them to perform as well as they can in an unfamiliar environment.

Hockey ID is played across half a pitch and is a 6-a-side format with the squad working towards gender balance\*\* guidelines set by EHF. All selected players will have to demonstrate that they meet National Eligibility Status (NES). The definition of intellectual impairment for NES is:

- IQ of 75 or below.
- Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour.
- Impairment present before age 22.

\*\* Due to gender balance guidelines that we are working towards and the often sensitive nature of support that athletes may require, a female staff member would be a good fit for this role.

The initial date of the Hockey ID selection day, taking place at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, SL7 1RR, ahead of competition in summer 2025 is Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> 2024;

Training dates for 2025 will be confirmed shortly but are likely to be once a month at Bisham Abbey from 11-3 pm on a Saturday or Sunday.

- April, May, June, July and August 2025

With the international competition taking place;

- EHF Hockey ID Championships (TBC in August 2025, Monchengladbach) – Competing as ENG. This is likely to be 4-5 nights away.

This is a voluntary role, with reasonable expenses considered.

It is expected that the role will take 2-3 hours per week in the lead up to training days and competitions, plus attendance at all training days and competitions.



### **Key Tasks and responsibilities – Off Programme Days (Prior and post training / competitions)**

- Work closely with EH's Participation Officer responsible for Disability Hockey and other programme coaching and support staff, to input into the development and smooth execution of the Hockey ID programme.
- Working with other programme staff to member of the selection team, ensure the selection policy is fair and adhered to.
- Contribute to full evaluations of the programme after each training day and competition to take learning to ensure future engagements are the best and most efficient, they can be.

### **Key Tasks and responsibilities – On Programme (Training / Competitions)**

- Attendance at all Hockey ID training days/weekends and international competitions.
- Be 'in loco parentis' of young players and vulnerable adults (all over 17) during training days and international competitions. Working with the athletes to be responsible for their welfare and protection from meet up to returning home.
- To support the Hockey ID Team Manager and Head Coach to ensure a smooth and successful programme.
- Ensure a safe training and playing environment is always maintained.
- Ensure the necessary paperwork is completed for any incident/accidents involving members of your team
- Represent England Hockey in all training and competition environments favourably.
- Adhere to the England Hockey Code of Ethics and Behaviour and Safeguarding policies.

### **Qualities & Skills**

- Well-developed liaison, interpersonal and people management skills.
- Strong communicator, able to disseminate information clearly and accurately, both written and spoken.
- A 'can do' attitude, with the ability to work independently and part of a team.
- Efficient and organised with proven administration skills.
- Have experience of working within disability sport.
- Understand the issues affecting individuals with learning disabilities and the sensitive way in which this must be managed.
- Have experience of working with vulnerable individuals in sport and accompanying groups on trips.
- Have an understanding and appreciation of the need to respect confidentiality.
- Be able to follow procedures and, recognise when to seek advice and not rely solely on own judgment.
- Hold and maintain a current enhanced DBS check through England Hockey.
- Have attended a relevant Safeguarding workshop within the last three years.
- Hold and maintain a current First Aid Qualification.

### **In competition, what does a competition / day look like:-**

\*Typically, players (and staff) will meet very early at a central airport, players meds may be checked in, and last-minute checks are carried out on bags etc.

\*Players supported around airport etc.

\*Days may be from 6am-late dependent on circumstances, it's vitally important that the staff 'team' support each other in a range of tasks, all to ensure that the players feel as comfortable as possible which in turn enables them to perform as well as they can.

\*Days will be spent at pitch side, with frequent check ins with players and parents.



\*Staff will be 'on call' for long stretches of a day, this has included late nights and early mornings ensuring players kit is correct and ready for a day of competition, ensuring players eat correctly, attending managers / staff meeting requested by tournament officials.

### **Before a tournament**

Some of the tasks that may be needed prior to the tournament will be around liaising with players and families and trying to gather as much of a picture of them as we can, to ensure we as a staff team can support them fully.

This role description is not regarded as exclusive or exhaustive. It is intended as an outline of the arrears of activity and will be amended as the programme develops.

If you are interested in the role please submit a short expression of interest to [steven.bradley@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:steven.bradley@englandhockey.co.uk) by 09:00 on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, outlining;

- Why you are interested in the role
- Your skills and experience to enable you to fulfil the role
- Anything further you can bring to add value to Hockey ID

For an informal chat about the role please contact Stevn Bradley.

