

# Over Age Players Policy

January 2023

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

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. England Hockey will issue a letter of confirmation of this in line with the procedure outlined below.

England Hockey has set up a panel to consider these cases. This is made up of the following members of staff

- Stephen Barlow (Competitions Manager)
- Alison Hogg (Ethics & Compliance Manager)
- Heather Williams (Head of Elite Talent Development)
- Jo Duff (Young People & Students Manager)

In addition the England Hockey Medical Officer, will be involved where required. Any request to waive date of birth regulations should include the following. This should be sent to

Stephen Barlow, Competitions Manager, England Hockey, Bisham Abbey NSC, Marlow SL7 1RR. Tel 01628 897500, email [competitions.info@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:competitions.info@englandhockey.co.uk)

- The player's Date of Birth
- A letter from the player's parent outlining their child's individual circumstances
- A letter from the player's club and / or school giving details of the player's ability and, if he/she is participating in the Player Pathway, and at what level.

- A letter from the player's GP or any medical specialist, if relevant.
- A letter from any other agency as determined by the parent that is relevant to the case.

The Panel 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.

Where a request to waive the date of birth regulation for a player is granted, England Hockey will issue a letter to the parent to confirm this so it is important we have their email address. The parent

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.

The request will be granted until the player reaches the age of 19 unless there is reason to withdraw it.

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.