

HOCKEY CAMP RECOMMENDATIONS

The Irish Hockey Association's objective is that all hockey camps are safe and fun for all players, coaches and administrators. Whilst the IHA does not support or endorse any particular camp or camp operator, it has formulated these recommendations for all those involved in summer camps in Ireland as follows:

Parents: These recommendations should be taken into account when a parent is choosing a camp for their child or children. The IHA recommends that any parent or guardian checks the criteria below and asks the camp operator whether they adhere to each point.

Clubs: Any club that is considering setting up a camp or hiring its pitches to a camp operator should consider these recommendations.

Schools: Any school that is considering setting up a camp or is considering hiring its pitches to a camp operator should consider these recommendations.

Camp Operators: Camp operators should ensure that their camp is meeting all of the criteria below so that all camps in Ireland are being run to the highest standard possible.

Child Protection & Safety:

Every camp should provide the best possible environment for young people involved in hockey. In order to provide a child friendly atmosphere, each camp organiser and participant should at all times show respect and understanding for participants' rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles and guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport*. The IHA is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its participants and has produced its own 'Code of Ethics For Hockey for Young People '. All camps should subscribe to this code. [Download Code here.](#)

What to ask:

- Do all coaches have an Irish Sports Council or Sports Council of Northern Ireland Code of Ethics basic awareness course certificate?
- Does the camp have a Children's Officer and a Designated Person, who have received training, along with a complaints system for the children and their parents?
- Do all other additional staff working with children have an Irish Sports Council or Sports Council of Northern Ireland basic awareness course certificate?
- Is there access to a qualified first aider and medical practitioners?
- Do all camp facilities (pitch type, catering, equipment) meet health and safety standards?

Coaching:

It is important that camps take the necessary coach to player ratio into account. The IHA guidelines are based upon the ages of the player and are as follows;

- Up to 12 years of age: Ratio of 1:10 non residential and 1:8 residential.
- 12 years of age and older: Ratio of 1:12 non residential and 1:10 residential.

Coaches must have recognised qualifications. The IHA's recommendation is that each coach has at least a foundation level coaching certificate with a preference for Level 1 or equivalent recognised qualification. All sessions should be led by a Level 1 coach or equivalent recognised qualification.

What to ask:

- What is the coach to player ratio?

- Has the camp organiser checked the referees of all coaches and are they satisfied with them?
- Is the camp content relevant to the level and ages of the children that will be attending?
- Are sessions planned in advance and signed off by a coaching camp coordinator?

Insurance:

In order to cover for any accidents or injuries, it is extremely important that each camp has adequate insurance. Evidence of this cover must be provided if requested. The insurance needs for each camp will vary based on a number of factors such as its location or whether it is residential or non-residential.

What to ask:

- Does the camp have public liability insurance?
- Does each coach have private liability insurance?
- Is there anything that the camp's insurance policy does not cover?

Promotion and Marketing

In the marketing of the hockey camps, ANY promotional material that is planned on being distributed amongst either Educational Institutions and/or affiliate members of the Irish Hockey Association, can only be carried with express permission of those institutions or members.

What to ask:

- Has the camp received permission from each point of distribution?
- If the camp is storing a database of participant names, does it have permission to do so from parents?
- Have parents given permission for photos of the participants to be shown in future promotional footage such as brochures or posters?

EACH CAMP HAS THE BELOW DUTIES TO FULFILL:

1. Duty to plan training sessions properly.
2. Duty to provide adequate supervision.
3. Duty to warn athletes of risks involved.
4. Duty to provide a safe environment.
5. Duty to assess players' capacity to take part in the activity.
6. Duty to adhere to the Irish Hockey Code of Ethics.
7. Duty to protect with first aid and emergency procedures.
8. Duty to provide proper instruction (best current practice).

Don't be afraid to check that the camp you are considering fulfills all of the above!

These recommendations are made for the welfare of your child and any complaints made should be reasonable and in good faith.

If you have any questions about the above information, please contact the IHA on 01 260 0028.

If you are considering or are in the process of setting up a camp and would like some advice on the above criteria, please do not hesitate to contact the IHA.