

Selection Policy & Match Day Rotations – Mini Hockey

In Belper Mini Hockey we have a different selection policy depending whether the fixture is Competitive or Non-competitive.

The match-day Rotation Policy also varies between competitive and non-competitive games, and is described below. In hockey, unlike football, unlimited substitutions are permitted and players are often rolled on and off frequently during a match. Hence players who start as a substitute can often play a large portion of the game with other players rolling on and off as well.

The majority of our fixtures are non-competitive, otherwise known as Friendly Fixtures or Development games. The intent for these games is to develop every player in the squad and generally speaking all players will have the opportunity for roughly the same number of fixtures within a season.

Selection for specific non-competitive fixtures will be based on the following criteria :

- Number of fixtures played previously (with the aim of equal opportunities for all players)
- Availability
- Attendance at training
- Attitude and Effort at Training

Match Day Rotations for non-competitive fixtures are intended to provide roughly equal pitch time for each player, although the coach will always be mindful of keeping a good structure on the pitch which all players will benefit from when playing. Rotations will also be used to move players around and give them opportunities to try out different positions on the pitch.

A small number of our fixtures are Competitive fixtures where the club is looking to achieve the best result possible. These fixtures also have a place in Mini Hockey as they give the more able players an opportunity to play at a higher level and sometimes progress to Regional and National tournaments. Examples of Competitive Fixtures are the County Championships and Regional Finals. Coaches and Squad Managers will always be able to advise whether a fixture is Competitive or Non-Competitive.

Selection for specific competitive fixtures are based on the following criteria

- Ability
- Availability
- Attendance at training
- Attitude and Effort at Training

Match Day Rotations at Competitive fixtures will be managed strategically and often result in players having unequal pitch time. It is important that players are aware that this is part of playing competitive hockey and are prepared for the possibility on these limited occasions. Coaches will explain this to the players at the start of the match and will always aim to get all the players on the pitch.