

Dear Junior Academy Member/Parents/Guardians

Sorry a long read but a very important read.

Below is the update from England Hockey in regards to playing and training across Tiers in force from today:

<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/news.asp?itemid=49970&itemTitle=Impact+of+Local+Restriction+Tiers+on+return+of+hockey+from+2+December&section=22>

Also below is the link to the latest Q & A from England Hockey which can clearly answer many questions:

<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/news.asp?itemid=49971&itemTitle=Return+to+Play%3A+Updated+Frequently+Asked+Questions&section=22>

However, a brief summary of the regulations in line with EH's and the Governments guidance for our U18 members is below:

- England Hockey have stated that Junior activity (under 18 teams) is exempt and can continue across all Tiers. However please note this only applies to junior training and matches, therefore any U18 players who live in a Tier 3 area who comes to junior training CANNOT stay on for senior training.
- Cars can be shared if necessary as long as safer travel guidance is followed.
- Volunteers supporting junior hockey can travel between Tiers (this includes coaches and managers).
- The Sports Training Village have issued guidance that no player from a Tier 3 area can enter the STV building/facilities. In light of England Hockey's guidance this afternoon we are trying to get clarification on this and will update you as soon as possible.

This means that we can play against teams in Tier 3 areas such as Bristol. However, I must stress that we are under no obligation to play these fixtures and will assess each fixture when availability is known. All we ask is that you update your child's availability on Teamo according to how you feel travelling to and playing matches.

Finally I would just like to draw your attention to a statement on the EH guidance:

Importance of adhering to government advice

Outdoor team sport has been given dispensation to return but must demonstrate that it can continue to be done safely with people complying with the necessary expectations. Government has stated more strongly to all team sports' National Governing Bodies that there are significant expectations that all sports adhere to the necessary social distancing and compliance with the government advice. Failure to adhere to these could lead to the removal of the current dispensation to play if breaches are reported, something that could be a local or national decision.

Therefore, we must stress the importance that all participants are compliant with Government rules and the supporting England Hockey Return to Play guidance. We all have a responsibility to play our part in returning safely. Adherence to measures will be monitored and any poor practice will reflect badly on the sport and may impact our longer-term return. Where guidance is clearly not being adhered to England Hockey will follow up with clubs accordingly through its disciplinary procedures.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions,

Jo

Covid Officer/Junior Membership Secretary