



Ball Hockey UK

Appropriate Contact Policy

Scope Of This Policy Statement

This policy sets out guidelines for appropriate physical contact between adults and children or vulnerable adults within the sport of Ball Hockey.

Physical Contact

In general, physical contact between adults and children (or vulnerable adults) will not take place. However where it is deemed essential, physical contact should always be intended to meet the child's needs, NOT the adult's. The adult will use appropriate contact when the aim is to assist in the development of a skill or activity or for safety reasons, e.g. to prevent or treat an injury. Ideally, this will be done in an open environment with the permission and understanding of the child or vulnerable adult.

In general:

- contact should be determined by the age and developmental stage of the participant - don't do something that a child can do for themselves; and
- never engage in inappropriate touching that might cause a child distress or embarrassment.

There are several principles that should be followed when the activity involves physical contact.

The adult should only use physical contact if the aim is to:

- develop sports skills or techniques;
- to treat an injury;
- to prevent an injury or accident from occurring; and
- to meet the requirements of the sport.

The adult should seek to explain the nature and reason for the physical contact to the child reinforcing the teaching or coaching skill.

Unless the situation is an emergency, the adult should ask the child for permission prior to any contact being made.

Any form of physical punishment of children is unlawful, as is any form of physical response to misbehaviour unless it is by way of physical intervention to prevent a young person from harming themselves, harming others or damaging property.

It is particularly important that adults understand that this advice about physical contact is to ensure the safety of young people and vulnerable adults and to protect their own position as well as the overall reputation of Ball Hockey UK.

Monitoring & Review

We are committed to reviewing our policies and good practice every three years or sooner if there are any changes in legislation or government guidance or as a result of any other significant change or event.

Policy Owner	Ball Hockey UK
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