**Bangor Hockey Youth Section 2024-2025 - Welcome Letter**

We are delighted you are part of or are considering being part of Bangor Hockey Club for your young player. We have a very active and successful youth section catering for all children from P3 to Year 11.

The following letter provides you an update on what to expect for the coming season.

**Club Calendar**

A rough overview of the year (approx 30 week season) as follows:

Start back and Train: September through to April

All ages to commence training w/c 9th September

Girls U11/U13 Blitzes: September, October, November, February, March

Boys U11/U13 Blitzes: September, October, December, January, February

Girls & Boys U15 League and Cup matches: September to May. Dates TBC

Finals days:

U11 - 30th March 2025

U13 - 6th April 2025

U15 - 13th April 2025

U.H. U15 & U18 Indoor Hockey Tournaments: December and January

**Registration & Fees**

The club has aligned junior fees across all ages and all sections for the girls and boys.

They are as follows:

First child £115

All subsequent siblings at £85 each

We are holding a waiting list and therefore following re-registration of existing members we will then offer any spaces to the waiting list until the sessions are full.

**Training Schedule - Girls**

* U9 - Friday 6pm to 7pm @ Aurora
* U11 - Friday 7pm to 8pm @ Aurora
* U13 - Wednesday 6pm to 8pm (Year 8 6pm start; Year 9 7pm start) @ Glenlola
* U15 - Monday 7pm to 9pm (Session is split 7-8 and 8-9 by ability, decided in the first few weeks) @ Glenlola

**Training Schedule - Boys**

* U9 & U11 - Tuesday 6.20pm to 7.20pm @ Bangor Grammar School
* U13 - Tuesday 6.30pm to 7.30pm @ Aurora
* U15 - Thursday 6.15pm to 7.15pm @ Aurora

**Kit Update**

The kit shop opens early in the season and both playing and leisure kit can be ordered from there directly - links will be added when available through our club Spond app.

**Volunteers**

BHC Youth is run by volunteers and we have a brilliant group of volunteers who make BHC a success. There is always room for more volunteers - no hockey experience is necessary. We need support throughout the year - coaches; parent's committee; giving out kit; supporting fundraising days (organising and attending!) - there are loads of ways to help the club, so please do get involved.

**Child Protection**

There are 2 Designated Safeguarding Children's Officers in the club - Caralyn Scales and Peter Hopkins. They are there to support the welfare of our young members and ensure the strict safeguarding principles are adhered to at all times.

**Training and Matches**

BHC follows the Ulster hockey Code of Conduct and we encourage our members, coaches, parents, volunteers and supporters to adhere to this when in attendance at training, matches, blitzes or any event associated with the club. Your support of this approach is greatly appreciated.

Under 9's Youth

The emphasis will be on fun, coordinated movement and developing the basic hockey skills. We understand that joining a club with lots of children can often be daunting for some of them and we aim to make entry into a team sports environment a fun and enjoyable experience.

Under 11's Youth

At BHC we feel very strongly that each youth should have the opportunity to develop their talent to their chosen level. This may mean that at certain stages through the season we may stream children so that they are able to develop at a level they are comfortable with. We will continually assess the children and if applicable will facilitate movement between streams.

For some of our P7's this can be an important point in their educational development with exams. None of the youths should feel uncomfortable or worried when they need to prioritise their studies, the club fully supports them through this stage and our training program and matches will reflect this.

Under 13's Youth

The u13 group is very much a split group, with some new to the game, but also some very experienced players. With the less experienced members, the emphasis will be on fun, skill development and the basic game development. With the more experienced, it will be enjoyment, advanced skills development and a much greater focus on game awareness. If your child is just starting to do not be concerned that there are others with more experience. At this stage they catch up very quickly and we have a number of members who are now some of our strongest players who only started hockey in Y8.

Under 15's Youth

Many of our u15s not only play hockey, but support the club by volunteering during junior coaching sessions (u9, u11, u13) and the social events/blitzes etc. We could not run the Junior sessions without these volunteers. This attitude is great for the club's future and we hope it continues. We lead Development, Intermediate and Performance squads. We want every player to define their own goals within hockey i.e. progressing their hockey skills or enjoying hockey as social sport. With that in mind the opportunity to move between squads is always open and we will assess their development regularly.

Once your child is 15 years of age they are also eligible to play for our senior squads. If they wish to do so, following their 15th birthday they can attend 2 training sessions, which will allow the coaches to assess which senior team they should begin in (There are 6 senior men’s and 5 senior women's teams). Senior hockey is managed through the Spond app as well.

**GDPR**

We have reviewed the Club's use of Personal Data and have prepared a Data Privacy Policy. We encourage you to read this carefully. This will be reviewed and updated periodically. You can also find this on our website: [www.bangorladieshockeyclub.org](http://www.bangorladieshockeyclub.org/).

Finally - we really do want all players to enjoy hockey, however from time to time issues arise. If something does happen to your child that affects them negatively, please come and see us. These things can normally always be addressed and lead to a positive outcome. Either approach the session coach, the youth leader for your child's age group or the Safeguarding Officer (Caralyn Scales/Peter Hopkins). As per last year we will use facebook to publicly broadcast information about the Club and the Spond app to communicate private information including fixtures, training cancellations etc.

We hope the above helps give you a flavour of what's to come this season and how the club is run.

Best wishes for the coming season

Emma Rayner Adam Reading Caralyn Scales

Boys Youth Coordinator Girls Youth Coordinator Youth Admin and Safeguarding