

## WLHC Selection Policy

### Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this document is to act as the main framework for Westberries LHC to select the best players available based on requirements of the club, individual teams and the development of talent to ensure both team and club goals are achieved.

Westberries LHC aim to select the most appropriate team for each level, taking into consideration player and team objectives every week. The Club also needs to meet league rules so it is of primary importance to have 11 eligible players in each team for every league game.

### Who attends Selection?

The Selection Committee comprises the Club Captain (or nominated Club Committee Member) and the team captains (or vice captains).

### What happens at Selection?

Selection takes place at the start of the week (normally on a Sunday / Monday evening).

Match reports for the previous week's game are given by the captains, and players' performance and availability is discussed by all Selection Committee members.

From the pool of players who have indicated that they are available on Teamo by Sunday lunchtime, the Selection Committee select the strongest possible squad for all league matches in the following order: 1st XI, 2nd XI, 3rd XI, 4th XI, 5th XI, 6th XI.

The selection process is aimed at putting out the strongest six squads that the club possibly can with the available players as well as giving as many members as reasonably possible the opportunity to play.

### Club Selection Requirements

To be selected for league games, all players must be;

- registered on the Teamo app and demonstrated availability using the app.
- registered members of WLHC prior to their first league game of the season
- registered on England Hockey GMS for Westberries LHC.
- up to date with annual subscription and match fee payments. Please note: Payment of annual subscription does not guarantee a match every week. If you are concerned about this, please contact the captain you last played for, or the club captain to discuss your concerns.

Non payment / behind agreed schedule of payment – players will not be eligible until resolved with Club Treasurer.

### Club Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied when required, for strength of squad decision, discussion on decision making between players of equal ability and movement of players within the Club.

- Availability (Player shows good availability for Club games taking into account personal circumstances).
- Commitment (Player demonstrates good commitment to the Club through training and matches, volunteering and good attitude).
- Development potential (Player has the potential to develop in a higher WLHC squad and / or other player pathways and has aptitude and attitude to do so.)
- Fitness (Player demonstrates a appropriate level of fitness for the level they are being selected for).
- Skill (Player demonstrates a required skill level for the level they are being selected for).
- Tactical/team awareness (Player demonstrates good understanding and application of Club / team tactics during game play).
- Temperament (Player demonstrates a positive attitude and temperament on and off the pitch, representing WLHC in a positive way to other Club members, team mates, opposition and officials).
- Training attendance and performance (Player regular attends training and demonstrates coachability).



## **Returning from injury / pregnancy / long term absence**

Selection, post injury is at the Selection Committee's discretion, taking into consideration length of absence and match fitness. A phased return through lower squads maybe considered appropriate.

## **What happens when a new player joins?**

At the Selection Committee's discretion, new players may be introduced in training squads consistent with their previous and recent playing record.

## **What happens when a player is selected for a higher or lower team?**

Any player can move up or down a team during the course of a season. A player who has been selected for a lower team who they have been regularly playing for will be informed of the decision and the reason by their regular captain. Players will normally be moved one team at a time.

Players are expected to continue to be available to play when selected for a team other than their regular team or position when required to, assuming adequate notice has been given.

Failure to do so maybe taken as the player making themselves unavailable for any team both that week and maybe taken into consideration at selection for the following week.

## **What happens to a captain if selected for a higher or lower team becomes a necessity?**

Captains are selected in the same way as other Club members. Team captains can selected for a higher or lower team. If a captain is selected for a higher or lower team, they may wish to remain with their squad. Captains should notify the Club Captain if they chose to remain with their squad, and do not wish to play for the other team (higher or lower). In the absence of the team captain, the vice-captain should undertake the roles/responsibilities of the captain. If a team captain is consistently playing for another team then it may be necessary to review captaincy.

## **Players' Responsibilities**

Once advised of their selection, players must confirm with captains that they can play immediately or by Wednesday at the latest using Teamo.

Players must advise their Captain on return from a period of unavailability.

Players should complete and keep up to date their match and training availability on Teamo as far in advance as possible and notify their captain (to in turn notify Club Captain) of any long absence with a reasons (two Saturdays or more) during the season at earliest opportunity to allow the selection committee to plan/prepare for these absences.

## **General Selection Points**

In the case of late selection due to player shortage the order of selection will be with the highest team. It is the duty of the Captain that is short of a player or players to inform the lower team captain as soon as possible. The Captain who will lose a player must select from the next lowest team until the lowest team has been selected from.

Players should not assume they have been selected in their favoured position, selection of players will be to ensure the strongest team/squad.

Selection of specialist roles such as Goal Keepers will be generally done following this policy. However, due to the importance of this role, at times the policy will be applied to ensure that as many teams as possible can field a goal keeper.

All selection will adhere to all England Hockey and West adult competition regulations.

## **Internal Selection Discipline**

Any player bringing the Club into disrepute may be subject to disciplinary action by the Club Committee. The Selection Committee will be notified of the outcome of the investigation.



Should a player have a query with the selection process, they should see their captain, Club Captain or Chair. The decision of the Club Captain is final.

### **Summer League**

Summer League is separate from the Winter league and provides opportunities to trial players in alternative squads. Summer League performance may be used as an early indicator for Winter League section, however, it is an optional activity.

Captains for Summer League are volunteers from within the club.

We hope you enjoy playing for the Westberries Club and support your captain and team and Club members.

**Approved at AGM: May 2023**