

Basingstoke Hockey Club – Adult Events Policy

Introduction

Our club values social gatherings that build team spirit and community. To ensure safety and inclusion, especially for under-18s (U18s) in adult hockey, we have established guidelines to distinguish between U18-friendly events and those where alcohol is the primary focus. Our premises is a licensed venue, and we take our responsibility to promote responsible drinking, ensure the safety of our patrons, and comply with UK licensing laws very seriously.

Scope

This policy applies to all club-organized social events, including post-match gatherings, celebrations, award nights, and other functions. All members, including players, coaches, volunteers, and guests, must adhere to this policy. Where this policy states **U18s**, this refers to individuals in school year 11 and above unless stated otherwise.

Social Events for All Ages (Including U18s)

Events open to U18s must not prioritize alcohol. In line with UK licensing laws, alcohol will not be served to U18s under any circumstances, nor should alcohol be purchased for them by others. These events focus on inclusivity and a safe environment for all members.

Examples of U18-friendly events (non-exhaustive):

- Award & Celebration Nights: Alcohol may be served to adults, but it is strictly prohibited for U18s. Adults are responsible for not purchasing alcohol for underage members.
- Post-Match Gatherings: Alcohol may be available for adults, but U18s must not be served alcohol or have it purchased for them. The event should ensure non-alcoholic options are readily available for U18s.
- Daytime events e.g. Team BBQs / Family Days: Alcohol may be served to adults, but it is illegal to provide it to U18s. These events prioritize family-friendly activities.

Key Rules for U18-friendly events:

- Alcohol will not be served to U18s, and adults must not purchase it for them.
- Event organizers, captains and coaches are responsible for enforcing these rules and ensuring appropriate behavior around U18s.
- Non-alcoholic drinks must be available and encouraged for U18s.
- Safe travel options for U18s must be ensured.
- Parental consent should be provided for any U18s attending these events
- Regardless of whether U18's are permitted to drink in their home, or are accompanied by a parent, they will not be allowed to consume alcohol whilst on the hockey club premises in line with UK licensing laws.

Alcohol-Centered Social Events (Adults Only)

Events where alcohol is the main focus are for adult members (18+) only. These gatherings are designed for social interaction among adults, where alcohol plays a central role.

Examples of Adult-only events:

- **Club Bar Nights:** Alcohol-focused events like beer pong and wine tastings are restricted to over-18s, in line with UK licensing laws.
- **Pub Crawls and Off-site Bar Events:** Alcohol-centered events at licensed venues are strictly for those aged 18 and over.

Key Rules for Alcohol-centered events:

- No U18s are allowed to attend.
- Events must comply with UK alcohol licensing laws, ensuring only those 18+ are served alcohol.
- Event organizers must verify attendees' age and are responsible for preventing the purchase of alcohol for under-18s.

Event Promotion and Communication

All event promotions must clearly state if the event is U18-friendly or adult-only.

For U18-friendly events:

Promotion must state that alcohol will not be served to under-18s, and that adults should not purchase alcohol for them. It will also note whether there will be a curfew for U18's.

For Adult-only events:

Clearly indicate that the event is for over-18s only and emphasize responsible alcohol consumption.

Responsible Behavior

All club members, especially adults, are expected to model appropriate behavior, respecting UK laws and ensuring a safe environment at all times.

Enforcement

Violation of this policy or UK licensing laws may result in disciplinary action, including warnings or suspension from the club. Event organizers are responsible for ensuring compliance during all social events.

Conclusion

This policy ensures a balance between creating enjoyable events and the safety of U18s. By respecting these guidelines, we aim to maintain an inclusive and responsible club environment.