**NURIOOTPA HOCKEY CLUB**

**GUIDELINES**

The Nuriootpa Hockey Club values all members, both playing and non-playing, and recognizes the important role each person plays within the club. As a registered Good Sports club, we fully endorse the aims of the Good Sports Program.

The following guidelines will be followed wherever possible. However, we acknowledge that exceptions may arise where adherence is not in the best interest of certain players or teams.

**Teams**

* Full field teams should consist of no more than 16 players whenever possible to maximize playing time for all members.
* Every team member holds equal importance, regardless of gender, age, ability, or field position.
* Players in full field teams should receive equal playing time throughout the season, based on attendance, reliability, and attitude at training. During finals, all players should be given a fair opportunity and reasonable time on the field. The club recognizes that lack of playing time is a major factor in children leaving sports.
* Mini Juniors (U8, U10, and U12) will receive equal playing time each game and will rotate through all positions during the season. While this may affect game outcomes, the focus at this level is on participation rather than winning.
* When entering multiple teams in the same competition:
	+ Teams will be balanced as evenly as possible.

**Coaching, Team Management, and Training**

* Each full field team will have a designated team manager to assist the coach with administrative tasks such as distributing information, filling out match cards, and handling first aid.
* Mini Junior and junior coaches should commit to staying informed on child growth and development principles.
* Specialist coaching, such as goalkeeping training, will be utilised where possible.
* Players playing a second match in one day will start on the bench if there are more than 11 players available.
* Coaches with concerns should first approach the Junior Coordinator (for junior teams) or the Club President (for senior teams).

**Safety**

The club is committed to injury prevention by:

* Ensuring teams are supervised by qualified and competent coaches and managers who promote safe sports behaviour and skill development.
* Organising clinics on sports medicine, injury prevention, first aid, and coaching.
* Encouraging coaches, team managers, umpires, players, and parents to attend these clinics to enhance their knowledge.
* Providing an up-to-date first aid kit for each team, brought to every match by the team manager, along with ice.
* Regularly inspecting playing fields, training areas, equipment, and facilities (including change rooms and toilets) for safety.
* Supplying all goalkeepers with modern protective gear and ensuring proper maintenance and replacement as needed.
* Encouraging all field players to wear mouthguards and shin pads.
* Teaching players age-appropriate skills and ensuring they compete in suitable competitions (advocating for modified sports leagues if necessary).
* Promoting safe sports practices, including warm-ups, stretching, cool-downs, and hydration.
* Encouraging players to maintain appropriate fitness levels.

**Life Membership**

All Life Member nominations must be evaluated against existing Life Members to ensure they meet the club’s established standards. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the club secretary using the nomination form available on the club website.

**General Guidelines**

* No trophies will be awarded at the Mini Junior level. Instead, all Mini Junior players will receive a participation medal. At junior and senior levels, each team will be limited to three trophies, with names determined at the coach’s discretion.
* Players are encouraged to support other club teams to foster club spirit (e.g., juniors watching senior games and vice versa).
* Parents should address any concerns directly with the team coach. If unresolved, they may escalate issues to the club executive.
* Nuriootpa Hockey Club players and supporters must respect umpires’ decisions and uphold the integrity of the game both on and off the field.
* Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including temporary suspension from the club.

Authorised and Endorsed by the Nuriootpa Hockey Club Committee 2025