

## Travelling to Matches Procedure

The following procedures should be adhered to when travelling to matches:

- Arrange means of transport at least three days in advance of your away fixture. This will give time to check tyres, water, fuel and availability etc. of vehicle.
- Ensure that your vehicle has up to date insurance, Tax and NCT Certificates and that it is in good working order.
- Drivers should hold a current and clean full driving licence.
- Learner drivers are not permitted to drive team members.
- Never feel pressurised into driving if you are unwell or have any doubts about the safety of your vehicle.
- Take out any excess luggage that is not necessary for the journey. This will lighten the load and make more space for your passenger's comfort and their gear.
- The vehicle must be suitable for use and it must not be overloaded with passengers or gear. Remember, one seat, one person, one safety belt.
- Young and inexperienced drivers on a team should never be put under pressure to drive to a match even if they have a car.
- Limit young and inexperienced drivers to a maximum of 40km journey away.
- Good time keeping is essential and all those travelling away are required to turn up at the designated meeting point on time out of courtesy to fellow passengers and drivers.
- The consumption of alcohol or drugs by any driver on the night previous to driving to an away match is forbidden.
- It is forbidden to consume alcohol or drugs during the journey or at any celebration that may take place while you are away and before your return.
- All drivers and passengers are required to wear a safety belt at all times whilst the vehicle is in motion.
- Due care is to be given to the drivers of any vehicle in which you may travel and you must never distract the driver allowing them to lose their concentration.
- Always help the driver in any way you can as some journeys can be long and difficult. This can be very tiring for the driver.
- Behave in an orderly manner at all times and never allow horseplay to take place.
- Remember when you travel that you must represent the club at a match or an event in a positive way and promote hockey.
- Children (those under 18 years of age) should not travel alone with any adult. Ensure they travel with two or more adults and if possible, with others of their age group.
- Be mindful of the conversations you may have and the language you use as it may not be suitable for young ears.
- Never leave anyone behind.
- Work out your departure and arrival times as best as possible. This is particularly important for parents who will be collecting children upon returning home.
- Give consideration to those travelling who are in exam years and particularly around exam time as they are willing to play matches away but do not wish to spend the whole day away.
- Always check the weather forecast prior to your journey.

- If you have concerns about the weather at your destination, ring ahead to check that all is well before you depart.
- Avoid very late fixtures, i.e. after 2.30pm, in particular, during winter time and on a Sunday. It may mean heading home late at night in very bad weather.
- When undertaking long journeys, plan your stops for food and stretching out. This will be of benefit to both driver and passengers and you will be better able for playing hockey.
- If drivers feel tired at any time, they must stop and rest, take a walk and have some food.
- Drivers must obey the rules of the road at all times.
- Never pick up hitch hikers.
- Do not leave rubbish in the vehicle or drinks bottles rolling around the drivers' feet.
- Stay safe!