

Dear Player

Just in case you don't get the newsletters from Hockey Ireland we wanted to let you know about the subscription changes for next season.

In short things break into two categories.

1. Players who **are** paid up members of a club on the island of Ireland.
  - You will be contacted by email from HI and asked to pay €10.
2. Players who **aren't** members of a club on the island of Ireland.
  - You will be contacted by an email from HI and asked to pay €50.

To be clear these memberships simply are to be a member of Hockey Ireland and nothing more. We will continue to charge memberships for the Over 55's to cover pitch hire, coaching, equipment etc.

Our membership will be kept to a minimum. We haven't run a budget for next year yet but hope to carry forward a small surplus after pitch costs and a significant contribution made to your free playing kit items. We anticipate our costs will not rise from this year unless we face a bigger rise in costs than inflation.

We are told you will be contacted within the next month with payment details.

We will then be update from HI as to those players who are eligible to play internationally – in simple terms you have paid you fee.

Thanks

Chris

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## MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM



A notice of changes to the membership fees for the 2021/22 fees to be introduced after the Hockey Ireland AGM on 20 May 2021 has been circulated to the Clubs. Some important changes to the fee structure are going to be introduced:

Following an extensive consultation process with the Branches and Clubs, the introduction of a new online membership system has now been achieved, with the result that we have a national database for the sport of hockey with the capability to

gather reliable and accurate information about those who participate in hockey in Ireland while ensuring all GDPR requirements are being adhered to. Over 30,000 playing members are now registered on Hockey Ireland's membership system.

The next phase of rollout will see added functionality enhancing day-to-day management and administration benefiting clubs, branches, and ultimately all our members.

This added functionality will provide accurate national player information which is crucial to the development of the sport across the island of Ireland, in supporting Hockey Ireland's sport grant applications and to also assist in marketing and commercial sponsorship.

### **New Strategy**

Hockey Ireland has recently launched an ambitious strategy for the period 2021-2024, focused on growing participation, enhancing the sports profile, and very much supporting our members and clubs nationally.

At present, Hockey Ireland is largely dependent on Sport Ireland for funding. This comes in 3 budget allocations: high performance, core, and additional projects, such as women in sport. Each budget is ring-fenced to that area, so for example, high performance must be spent on high performance. Hockey Ireland must now urgently move towards developing other revenue streams to be able to lead and grow the sport of hockey.

Currently, Hockey Ireland funds cover operating costs and fulfil the conditions of grant applications that have been successful, but little remains to develop a range of grassroots and other strategic initiatives to make a long-term difference to the sport in Ireland. The new strategic plan focuses on diversifying revenue streams including commercialising hockey, developing a charitable foundation, increasing core grant allocations, and changing the membership fee structure in line with other NGB's. A new approach to membership management is crucial to the delivery of this new strategy.

### **New fees**

In contrast to many NGB's, Hockey Ireland is very reliant on Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland grants for funding to support its core services.

In addition, Government finance received through Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland is increasingly granted as 'restricted' funding, linked to projects and goals described by the funding agents. Currently, only the senior members contribute financially to Hockey Ireland, while a significant proportion of Hockey Ireland membership is made up of juniors., The current Hockey Ireland senior fee is €465 euro per team, giving an average of 31 euro per individual with an average of 15 players per team.

A fair affiliation fee structure needs to be introduced, one which is transparent and equal for all members on the island of Ireland that will properly fund the activities of Hockey Ireland and realise its purpose, *to lead the growth and success of hockey in Ireland.*

Being mindful of COVID-19 challenges and the management of this change for clubs, Hockey Ireland will introduce a change in affiliation fees over several periods. Being mindful of COVID-19 challenges clubs are facing, Hockey Ireland will introduce a change in affiliation fees over the next 2 seasons. If the new scheme causes unforeseen financial consequences for clubs, the Board of Hockey Ireland will look at supporting these clubs on an individual, case by case basis.

### Fees for the 20/21 Season

Membership Type	Fee
Senior Club	465 Per team
Schools (Boys)	100
Schools (Girls)	100
Junior Player (U18)	20
Junior Player (U13)	10
Adult player	10
Coach*	35
Non-Playing Member	10
International Player (overseas)	50

- The 'Team Fee' to Hockey Ireland which is currently being paid by the clubs will apply for the last time for 2021/22 season.
- A personal accident insurance plan will be provided to all paying members.
- The School fee will be collected directly by Hockey Ireland through the membership platform.
- The players and coaches will be paying their membership fees directly to Hockey Ireland, the team fee will be paid by the clubs via the branches as usual.
- The membership fees need to be paid before 1 November 2021 for a member to be eligible to play in any hockey competition. Sanctions as per the Rules of Hockey Ireland and the Branches.
- \*Coach defined as coaches active with teams in 'All Ireland Leagues' and Branch division level 1.
- Junior Membership:

U-18 = Born on or after 1 January 2004

U-13 = Born of or after 1 January 2009

- Non-playing member -Hockey Ireland supporter- optional, not mandatory

### **What do you need me to do?**

Simple really. Your club will take care of registering you and inputting your data in the system. The system will contact you to enable you to directly manage your profile with Hockey Ireland. It is important that your details are correct to ensure you are a member of Hockey Ireland for the new season and able to play.

### **What about the security of my personal information? Is it safe?**

We take our responsibility in this area really seriously. All the information held on you and everyone else will be on a secure server compliant with all the upcoming GDPR regulations.

If you need any help or advice on the membership system, please contact [membership@hockey.ie](mailto:membership@hockey.ie)

### **How do I access the Membership System?**

Please go click the following

link: <https://hockeyireland.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>