

HAREWOOD HOCKEY JUNIOR PROGRAMME



Kia ora all,

Welcome if you are new and welcome back to our returning club members! We are quickly approaching another year of hockey and excited to get underway. Upon launching our junior programme we want to provide a detailed overview of how the year will run. Please read through the grade descriptions and FAQ's thoroughly before directing any enquires to our team.

Our junior programme has been a strength of ours for many years something we are very proud of. Keeping the players' interest at the front of mind is important to us and guides our decision making. Please keep in mind that all of our junior coordinators are also volunteers and we ask for flexibility and understanding during this process. We want to be as transparent as possible about how we are looking to run things this year hence the detailed information. Due to our large numbers we will close registrations strictly on the dates provided to ensure we can provide the best experience possible for all. If you wish to withdraw your registration please advise us as early as possible to allow space for somebody else. After registrations close a waitlist will be enforced which may not guarantee your place even if you have played with Harewood before.

As we have not held our AGM for 2024 the season fees are not yet established. As soon as we know these we will publish them so you can plan accordingly. We are predicting an increase of fees this year due to Hockey New Zealand increasing their affiliation fee. More information about how subs are determined will be explained when the fees are released. We are seeking grant funding to offset costs.

We will look to name all teams ASAP after the registrations close before the Easter weekend.

Please read through the below grade descriptions to find the place suitable for your family.

Fun Sticks - Year 1&2

Fun Sticks is a Harewood run programme in collaboration with GOALab Hockey directed by Chris Leslie. This year 1&2 programme introduces kids to the basics of hockey through small activities and games. Fun Sticks is held at Nunweek Park on a Saturday morning from 9:00am - 10:00am. We are privileged to have a number of premier players coach in this programme and have received great feedback about the engagement of these coaches over the past years. Our well organised plan includes themed days such as olympic day and red and blue day, we are also looking to do some sessions in collaboration with other clubs this year. This is an awesome way for kids to try out hockey for the first time and we are flexible in ensuring everyone has the best experience possible. No uniform is required for this grade, players need to come equipped with shin pads and a mouthguard. We have a number of hockey sticks they can use or they may wish to

bring their own. Please note no teams will be named for Fun Sticks as we interchange groups throughout the programme and they all play in one place.

Fun Sticks will run for 9 weeks in three blocks;

Block 1: 11th May, 18th May, 25th May

Block 2: 8th June, 15th June, 22nd June

Block 3: 27th July, 3rd August, 10th August

Mini Sticks - Year 3&4

Mini Sticks is a Year 3&4 grade played on either a Friday evening or Saturday morning. Mini Sticks teams can be either single gender or mixed gender on both days. They play on $\frac{1}{4}$ of a full size turf for 3 periods of 12 minutes. 6 players are on the field at a time and there are rolling substitutions. Teams will be made up of 9-10 players to allow for fair playing time, sickness cover and meaningful training sessions. This grade is designed to introduce kids into game play either transitioning from the fun sticks programme or new to the sport. We aim to place players in their respective school year allowing them to progress through the grades with a similar core group of players. Mini Sticks train in their teams on either a Monday or Tuesday. Upon registration you will be asked for your preferred training day which is largely dependent on coach availability. You will also be asked your preference for what day you wish to play on and in a single or mixed gender team which the teams are made up on. Please note that even if you choose to play in a single gender team you still may play opposition that are in a mixed team or single gender (eg, an all girls team can play an all boys team). We do try our best to accommodate kids with their friends where possible however we believe some of the best friendships can be made through sport too so it's great to be surrounded by a diverse group.

Mini Sticks begins on the 10th / 11th of May and ends on 23rd/24th August. Non playing dates include 1 June (Kings birthday), 13th July (middle week school holidays) and 20th July (last week school holidays).

Kiwi Sticks - Year 5&6

Kiwi Sticks is a Year 5&6 grade played on either a Friday evening or Saturday morning. Kiwi Sticks teams are single gender. They play on $\frac{1}{2}$ of a full size turf for 14 minute thirds. 7 players are on the field at a time including a goalkeeper and there are rolling substitutions. Teams will be made up of 11-12 players to allow for fair playing time, sickness cover and meaningful training sessions. This grade is designed to develop game play on a slightly larger field than Mini Sticks. Rules start to be enforced more and goalkeepers are introduced. There are non goalkeeper grades however we intend to enter all our teams in the goalkeeper grade if resources allow. Unless a player clearly states they want to play as a goalkeeper this position is rotated around the team to give everyone a chance to learn a new skill. We aim to place players in their respective school year allowing them to progress through the grades with a similar core group of players. Kiwi Sticks train in their teams on either a Monday or Thursday. Upon registration you will be asked for your preferred training day which is largely dependent on coach availability. You will also be asked your preference for what day you wish to play which the teams are made up on. We do try our best to accommodate kids with their friends where possible however we believe some of the best friendships can be made through sport too so it's great to be surrounded by a diverse group.

Kiwi Sticks begins on the 10th / 11th of May ends on 23rd/24th August. Non playing dates include 1 June (Kings birthday), 13th July (middle week school holidays) and 20th July (last week school holidays).

Kwik Sticks - Year 7&8

Kwik Sticks is a Year 7&8 grade played on a Saturday Morning. Kwik Sticks teams are single gender with 7 players (including a goalkeeper on the field at a time). They play on ½ of a full size turf for 3 periods of 16 minutes, there are rolling substitutions. Teams will be made up of 11-12 players to allow for fair playing time, sickness cover and meaningful training sessions. This grade is designed to prepare players for the 11 a-side format of the game in year 9 by enforcing all hockey rules and more game concepts. Previously there has been an 11 a-side transition for year 8 players during the second half of the season which will not be happening this year for a number of reasons including reduction of club administration, social considerations and alignment between all clubs. In the past we have trialed for this grade however we will not be doing so this year. We take on board feedback from previous coaches to create well balanced teams giving every player the chance to thrive and develop in their environment. Kwik Sticks train in their teams on either a Tuesday or Thursday. Upon registration you will be asked for your preferred training day which is largely dependent on coach availability. You will be asked your preference for what day you wish to train which is a factor in which the teams are selected. We do try our best to accommodate kids with their friends where possible however we believe some of the best friendships can be made through sport so it's great to be surrounded by a diverse group.

Kwik Sticks begins on the 10th of May ends on 23rd/24th August. Non playing dates include 1 June (Kings birthday), 13th July (middle week school holidays) and 20th July (last week school holidays).

Coaching

Harewood is a volunteer club and we rely on our club members including parents to step in and support our teams. We understand it may be daunting stepping up to coach a team if you have no previous hockey knowledge however we are here to support you in doing so. This is a large reason why we have set training days for each grade so someone from the club can be there to support everyone through their journey. We have a large number of senior club members who volunteer their time to coach but as we are a large club we cannot cover all teams. All coaches will be police vetted this year and required to complete the [Hockey New Zealand Coaching Ticket](#) which is a quick online course on the basics of coaching. We have a number of coaching resources available for you and can direct to plenty more too. A large part of coaching is having some fun and establishing a positive culture amongst your team. It's a great idea to team up with a friend or another parent to share the load. If you want to chat more about coaching please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Managing

Another great way to help out is by managing a team which involves communicating to all parents/guardians training and game details, managing substitutions and keeping in touch with junior coordinators. If you are able to contribute in any way please indicate this upon registration and we can discuss your options.

FAQ'S

Q. What time are the games and where are they played?

Games on a Friday evening are played between 4:00pm - 6:00pm at Nunweek Park and Nga Puna Wai. Saturday games can range from 8:00am - 12:00pm. These are played at a range of venues which may include Nunweek Park, Nga Puna Wai, Rangi Ruru, St Margarets, Rangiora, Wycola Park, Cathedral Grammer or other satellite venues depending on the grade.

Q. Where will trainings be held?

Our intention is to hold all trainings at Nunweek Park depending on turf availability. Alternatively these may be held at Burnside High School. This is dependent on the turf space we are allocated by Canterbury Hockey and the amount of teams we have.

Q. What happens if I can't train on the day my team is listed to train?

We do try our very best to accommodate all preferences however if this happens we are able to arrange another team you can train with on a different day but still play in the team you are listed in. We are flexible to work out an option that best suits you. Flexibility is appreciated however given turf space is limited.

Q. What equipment is required?

Players must be equipped with a mouth guard, shin pads and a hockey stick. The club does have some sticks if you need, otherwise everything is available to be purchased from [Just Hockey](#) at 37 Mandeville Street who can assist you in recommending the most suitable equipment for the grade you play in.

Q. What uniform is required?

Fun Sticks: No uniform required

Mini Sticks & Kiwi Sticks: A playing shirt is provided by the club for the season. Your own red skirt or shorts and red socks will need to be purchased. There is a global shortage of red skirts currently so they may be hard to locate. Our [club shop](#) has junior red shorts and socks available to be purchased. [Just Hockey](#) also has red socks and may have shorts too. Our club shop will be open in a window before the start of the season that we will communicate when we know what date that is.

Kwik Sticks: A playing top and bottom is provided by the club for the season. Your own red socks will need to be purchased either from our [club shop](#) or [Just Hockey](#). Our club shop will be open in a window before the start of the season that we will communicate when we know what date that is.

Q. Do you have any other merchandise available to be purchased?

Yes we sure do! Our new uniform providers at Dynasty Sport have designed plenty of merchandise available to be purchased from our [club shop](#). Our club shop will be open in a window before the start of the season that we will communicate when we know what date that is.

Q. What happens if my team doesn't have a coach listed when they are announced?

As per our coaching information above we do rely on volunteers and parents. We are a large club so don't always have coaches listed straight away. Ensure that we are working our hardest to organise a solution but we will be calling on parents and caregivers to assist us.

Q. How do I stay up to date with all relevant information?

Our [Harewood Junior Facebook](#) page is the most up to date channel of communication where we post all information regarding team announcements, cancellations and updates. Once you have registered we also share all information via email. Our [website](#) is another communication channel however our Facebook is updated more regularly. Once teams are announced your manager will set up a communication group for your team where they relay any information from the club and post details about training & game times.

Q. If I'm on a waitlist how will I know if a place is available?

We will contact you via email if a place becomes available in a team. If you do not hear from us before the season starts, unfortunately we are full. More often than not we are able to find a place for everyone.

Q. When are the season fees due?

Once teams are announced you will be sent a PlayHQ link which will include details regarding payment. We do offer payment plans for families too which will be covered in more detail then. They do not need to be paid straight away.

Q. If I'm new to hockey will I be out of place?

We place people in teams with similar abilities for example a group of players who are new will be placed in a team together and entered in a lower grade to ensure they have a meaningful experience.

If you have a question that hasn't been covered in this information please contact us via Facebook or email - harewoodhelp@gmail.com. Please note enquires may be delayed as we approach a busy time for our large club.