

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF ENGLAND HOCKEY

Recent clubs survey on the Single System recommendation regarding juniors playing in open adult leagues

11 May 2007

The England Hockey Board considered a report on the recent clubs survey on the Single System recommendation regarding juniors playing in open adult leagues at its meeting on 8 May.

The Board would like to record their thanks to all clubs who took the trouble to return the survey. The information was collated and presented to the Board at their meeting. This impact study provided excellent qualitative and quantitative data which was used to influence the Board's decisions regarding the issue of young people playing in adult competition. A statement regarding these decisions will be posted to the England Hockey website on 31 May 2007.

Thanks again to all clubs who replied – you have played an important role in influencing key decisions!

Statement ends

Notes

- a. The clubs survey on the Single System recommendation regarding juniors playing in open adult leagues was undertaken as an action from the Board decisions on hockey's Single System work taken in July 2006. The survey was sent to clubs week commencing 12 March and the deadline for returns was 11 April.
- b. Ahead of the release of the Board statement on 31 May, the decisions taken to date on this issue are reiterated below:

The following is to apply from the 2007-8 hockey season onwards:

1. U13s will not be allowed to play in open adult competitions. U13s defined as being under 13 years of age on 1 January 2008

For absolute clarity, this restriction is **not** intended to apply to the practice of mixing junior and adult players in formalised matches where these are specifically organised to ensure that the primary purpose is the development of the junior players. Such matches are often referred to as beavers / badgers / vixens / fathoms, and no affiliation fee is currently payable to England Hockey for these teams. However, due consideration should be given, on an individual basis, to the inclusion of junior players in such matches to ensure that it is appropriate to do so. Factors considered might include physical and psychological maturity, age, playing ability and social skills.

2. In the Slazenger England Hockey League (EHL) the rule introduced in 2006-7 will continue i.e. a player must have reached the age of 15 to be eligible to be registered to play in the EHL