



2018 Junior Hockey Pre-Season Information

The 2018 hockey season begins with **registration opening on Thursday February 8th** and **trials being held in March**. The competition gets underway at the start of Term 2 with training from Monday 30th April.

This newsletter includes information about:

- Registration
- Subs
- Trials
- Practice days and times
- Coaching, managing and umpiring
- Friends of Somerville
- Uniforms, mouth guards, gear
- Competition dates
- Game venues



Somerville Hockey Club, Proudly sponsored by:



REGISTRATION

Registration will be open from Thursday 8th of February 2017 through a link on the Somerville Hockey Club website (www.somervillehockey.org.nz) via ClubHub.

Returning 2017 Somerville players are guaranteed a place provided their registration is received by Thursday 15th February with payment.

New registered players will be given next priority. **New players should register as soon as possible from the 8th February 2017 but make NO payment.** (NOTE: paying the registration fee will not guarantee a place for new players). Places tend to fill quickly and registration will close when the grades are full. We will be in touch as soon as we can to let players know whether or not we have a place available. We usually have plenty of places for new players in Fun Sticks (years 1 & 2). Last year Mini Sticks (years 3 & 4) and Kiwi Sticks (years 5 & 6) were oversubscribed and an extra Kwik Sticks (years 7 & 8) team was added. It does vary from year to year however.

This season we are hoping to increase player numbers however we remain constrained by the limited number of hockey turfs. In recent years (2012 - 2017) the number of junior players has been capped at approximately 215 in 23 teams.

When registering, please fill in player details and two parents'/guardians' details if possible, particularly where players and guardians have different last names, as this helps administration/coaches.

If you played for Somerville in 2017 and will **not** be returning, please advise us by emailing somervillejuniorhockey@gmail.com as this helps manage registrations.



FEES

The Somerville Committee has set the fee for Junior players at \$265 per player. There is a family discount of \$25 per subscription where 2 or more Youth or Junior players are from the same family (not including Senior adult players). Goal keepers with their own gear are required to pay a \$40 association member fee only.

Somerville Junior fees cover practice equipment, a coaching session during the week, Saturday games (turf fees) most weeks for two school terms, a team photo presented at prize giving and also Somerville playing shirts and shorts for years 1 to 8 players (Funsticks through to Kwik Sticks). The fees also cover levies paid to Auckland

Hockey Association (for administration, coaching support, representative programmes and AHA facilities) as well as Hockey NZ.

TRIALS

Provisional bookings have been made for trials as follows:

- Fun Sticks school year Y1&2 and Mini Sticks school year Y3&4 are expected to be at St Kentigern Boys School on Shore Road, Remuera. There will be a muster for Fun Sticks at **9am on Sunday the 11th March 2018 (TBC)**. Mini Sticks trials will be held on **Sundays 11th and 18th March between 9-11am (TBC)**. There may be an additional trial for some Mini Sticks players on **Sunday 25th March (TBC)**.
- Kiwi Sticks school year Y 5&6 and Kwik Sticks school year Y 7&8 trials are expected to be held at the Auckland Grammar Turf, Normanby Rd, Mt Eden between **1-6pm Sundays 11th, 18th and 25th March 2018 (TBC)**
- Teams are selected based on players' attendance and performance at these sessions (with the exception of Fun Sticks school year Y1&2) so please note on the registration form if players cannot attend any of the identified Sundays. Teams will be finalised and advised by email early to mid April. All 2017 Somerville players who register by 15 February will be placed in a team for 2018.

SAFETY

Players are not allowed to trial, practice or play without a mouth guard and shin pads.

MID-WEEK PRACTICES

Team practices are held on week nights through the season, **starting the first week of Term 2 (from Monday 30th April 2018)**. Most teams have one or two practices before their first competition game. The season dates are not yet available from Auckland Hockey but **the season is likely to start on the first or second Saturday of Term 2. (Saturday 5th or 12th May)**. Some coaches may wish to hold additional pre-season practices. You will be emailed details of your team, practice day and time.

Regular attendance at practices is essential for the progress of your child and their team. Please do not register unless you are able to attend most practices.

The following table shows provisional practice days, times and venues. There may be changes once bookings are confirmed and teams and coaches are finalised.

Team	Day	Begins	Time & Place TBC
Kwik Sticks Y 7&8	Tuesdays or Thursdays	1st/3rd May	6.30-7.30pm, Auck Grammar Turf, Mt Eden (TBC)
Kiwi Sticks Y 5&6	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays	30th April, 1st, 2nd or 3rd May	4-5 or 5-6pm Tuesday, Faculty of Education turf, Epsom or 4.30-5.30 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday St Kents turf, Shore Rd, Remuera (TBC)
Mini Sticks Y 3&4	Mondays	30th April	4.45-5.45 or 5.45-6.45pm, Terry Jarvis Centre, Shore Rd, Remuera or 4.30-5.50 St Kents turf Shore Rd, Remuera (TBC)

Fun Sticks Y 1& 2	Mondays	30th April	4 to 4.45pm, Terry Jarvis Centre, Shore Rd, Remuera (TBC)
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SOMERVILLE PARENT and CLUB COACHES

The Club benefits enormously from the input of parent coaches. If you are interested in being a Team Coach – fantastic! Please volunteer on your child’s registration form.

Each season we have youth and senior-grade players enjoying coaching also who receive some payment generally as offsets against club playing fees. Secondary school students can also receive credits towards Duke of Edinburgh community service.

Coaches are generally responsible for Saturday morning team coaching and the mid-week practices. Coach involvement is invaluable to the Club and there is plenty of support available.

SOMERVILLE WELCOMES NEW COACHING DIRECTOR FOR 2018 - SIMON NORTON

This season the Club is delighted to have Simon Norton assisting the Club as Coaching Director. Simon is an ex Black Stick with a life long association with the Club. Simon has had a huge input into coaching hockey at St Cuthberts over recent years. Simon will be a fantastic resource for training and supporting Somerville’s Junior coaches this season. Coaching resources will be provided to all coaches.



AHA also provide coaching courses. More information to come and check www.akhockey.org.nz webpages, or email info@akhockey.org.nz.

A pre-season coaches' meeting will be held on Sunday 29th April at 7pm, venue TBC.

SOMERVILLE TEAM MANAGERS

Our team managers are the engine room and glue of the Club. Managers distribute information (by email, text, facebook) throughout the season, distribute uniforms, check the draw every week (including on a Friday night in case of late changes) and report weekly match scores. Managers also assist coaches during games (especially with substitutions and recording goals for and against). If you would like to be the Manager of your child's team, please indicate this on the registration form. Your support is greatly appreciated.

UMPIRES

In Fun and Mini Sticks games the Coach is on the turf coaching and umpiring the Saturday game.

It is very helpful to Coaches in the Kiwi Sticks and in the Kwik Sticks if another parent or secondary-school sibling umpires the games if a JUMP umpire is not available. If you are prepared to assist with umpiring please indicate this on the registration form. The club supports training costs for umpires.

Auckland Hockey runs JUMP (Junior Umpires Mentoring Programme) a great training programme to mentor Youth (secondary school age) umpires. Auckland Hockey is very interested in hearing from anyone who would like to get involved. Information is available on the Auckland Hockey website www.akhockey.org.nz or email info@akhockey.org.nz

COACHES, MANAGERS & UMPIRES BRIEFING

We will be holding a briefing session for Coaches, Managers and Umpires on Sunday 29th April at 7pm, venue TBC. At the meeting you'll see other helpful managers and coaches (great when needing player cover), learn more about aspects specific to Junior Hockey, your team's grade, and guidelines developed by Somerville to help teams run as smoothly and enjoyably as possible through the season.

FRIENDS OF SOMERVILLE

We are very interested to hear from parents who may be interested in helping with the odd job to assist the Junior's hockey administration. Please indicate when registering if you are able to assist.

UNIFORMS, MOUTHGUARDS AND GEAR

Team shirts and shorts are provided for Juniors, i.e. Fun Sticks through to Kwik Sticks (school years 1 to 8), and these are handed out by managers at the first practice or at the first game and collected in at the last game of the season.

All players buy their own Somerville socks (with 7 blue and white stripes), available from Just Hockey, Enfield Street, Mt Eden. Somerville Hoodies are also available for purchase from Just Hockey. Players need to purchase their own stick and shin guards and play in trainers with good grip.

Players must also provide their own mouth guards which are available at pharmacies or through dentists. Somerville arranges quality mouthguard fitting by a dentist at a reasonable price early in the season. Details to come.

COMPETITION DATES

2018 competition dates are yet to be confirmed by Auckland Hockey. Last season there were 16 games over Term 2 and 3 with the season running from the first Saturday of Term 2 in May until a

couple of weeks before the end of Term 3 in mid September. There was no play over Queen's birthday weekend (which will be Saturday 2nd June 2018) nor over the July school holidays (which will be Saturday 7th, 14th, 22nd July 2018).

Please schedule skiing/holidays for non-hockey weekends and **do not register** if you cannot commit to being at nearly every practice and game. Each team usually only has 2 'subs' (sometimes 1, occasionally 3 in Kwik Sticks grade) and it is common to have no subs available when winter colds hit schools. Hockey games are almost never cancelled as they are played on artificial turf; most turfs are only flooded temporarily (minutes) and so in heavy rain play may just be delayed for a short time.

COMPETITION VENUES

In recent seasons games for Fun Sticks have nearly always been held centrally at either Auckland Grammar Turf or at Diocesan School for Girls. Other grades will play across Auckland, but with many games at Auckland Grammar turf. Other venues are Lloyd Elsmore Park in Howick, St Cuthberts College, Diocesan School, Avondale College, Mt Roskill Grammar School and Kings Prep School (for Mini and Kiwi Sticks games), Waitakere College, Saint Kentigern School (Shore Road) and Papatoetoe. Nearly all the turfs are water turfs and games are rarely cancelled due to the weather. Venue locations and maps are on the AHA website.



Best wishes for a very enjoyable 2018 season.

Anne MacGill
Junior Club Captain

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