

## **MT13 Ltd Mouth-guard Policy**

Field hockey presents numerous opportunities for injuries due to the fast paced, repetitive actions of the sport and the use of a hard stick and equally hard ball. Ensuring the correct protective equipment is worn can prevent a high proportion of these injuries. England Hockey strongly advises mouth-guards are worn for all training and matches.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their children up to the time when the coach arrives at the pitch. Players should therefore not enter the pitch area before the coach arrives. MT13 Sports Insurers are Sports Cover Europe Ltd, 75/77 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QQ. MT13's insurance cover will not cover any incident that occurs when a coach is not present. We ask that children be supervised at all times prior to the coaches arriving at the pitch. If players are making their way to MT13 Ltd activities from home or school without parental supervision MT13 Ltd must be notified in advance. Parents will still be responsible for their child's safety under these circumstances.

Parents/guardians are responsible for any injury to their child, as well as any accident or injury occurring to other children, where their child is at fault. The parent/guardian is also responsible for any property damage at the venue of the MT13 Ltd activity that occurs through any act by their child.

### **Mouth-guards and other protective equipment**

MT13 consider that there is a significant risk of injury to players from playing hockey and precautions must therefore be taken to minimise the risk of injury should any accident occur. Wearing shin-pads can significantly reduce the extent of any injuries sustained to the lower leg, likewise wearing a mouth-guard can significantly reduce damage and injury to the mouth when a stick or ball hits this area. It is now compulsory for all players (aged 6 to 18) attending MT13 hockey activities to wear shin-pads and mouth-guards during all training sessions (Camps etc).

Mouth-guards should be well fitting, the correct size for the child. A made to measure mouth-guard from either a dentist or a specialist company will provide the best protection. Parents/guardians must also ensure that their child is suitably protected with other protective equipment.

Coaches are not qualified to assess the quality and effectiveness of mouth-guards or other protective equipment, and will therefore only be able to check that mouth-guards/other protective equipment are being worn, and not the standard of the mouth-guard/ other protective equipment nor whether they are the correct size. This remains the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

### **If a child arrives at any MT13 activity without a mouth-guard the child will not be allowed to play.**

It is the responsibility of each parent and child to ensure that they arrive with, and wear, a mouth-guard. As there are so many children playing at MT13 activities, it would be impractical for the coaches to check every single child at every session; therefore you should not rely on any coach reminding your child to wear their mouth-guard. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and the child to ensure that they do not commence any hockey activity without wearing their mouth-guard.

If you **DO NOT** want your child to wear a mouth-guard and would like them to take part in MT13 activity, then MT13 cannot accept any responsibility for injuries that result or are contributed to from not wearing a mouth-guard. If a parent/guardian signs a written disclaimer, stating that their child can play without a mouth-guard, this can be accepted by MT13, and the child may be excused from wearing a mouth-guard, although we do not recommend this. Any completed and signed disclaimer must be returned to MT13 before the child takes part in the MT13 activity.

There is always a risk of injury associated with the game of hockey which is the reason MT13 has adopted this policy. MT13 coaches cannot accept any responsibility for injuries that occur whilst a child is training or competing with or without a mouth-guard (except where caused by our negligence). The parent/guardian and child agree that injuries can, and do, occur in the game of hockey and that they accept this risk when allowing their child to play hockey.

## DISCLAIMER

In signing this disclaimer, I, the parent/guardian confirm the following:

- i. I am the parent/ legal guardian of the child/player listed below who is under the age of 18. If I am not the child's/player's parent or legal guardian, I confirm that I am aged 18 years or over and declare that I have the authority from their parent/legal guardian to sign this disclaimer on their behalf.
- ii. I have been advised in writing by MT13 Ltd that mouth-guards should be worn by all participants in MT13 Ltd activities, along with the reasons for this policy.
- iii. I have read and fully understood the information set out about the purpose and value of wearing a mouth-guard prior to signing this disclaimer.
- iv. I acknowledge the risk of personal injury associated with the game of hockey and to which participants are exposed while taking part in MT13 Ltd activities.
- v. I also acknowledge that risk of injury to the mouth area of participants can be significantly reduced when a mouth-guard is worn.
- vi. I wish the child/player listed below to participate in MT13 Ltd activities and to do so without wearing a mouth-guard.
- vii. I accept full responsibility and liability in the case of an incident where a mouth-guard could have prevented or reduced any injury sustained.

This disclaimer and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales and the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any such dispute or claim.

<b>Child / Player Name (PRINT)</b>	
<b>Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT)</b>	
<b>Signature of Parent/Guardian</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Witnessed by (Print Name)</b>	
<b>Signature of Witness</b>	
<b>Position</b>	