

Junior Development and Selection Policy

J3/4 – J11/12



1. Objectives

Modernians is a family friendly club that believes hockey is for everyone. We have competitive and social teams that cater for boys and girls, men and women from 4 to 84 years old.

This policy explains the process for allocating registered players into appropriate teams to ensure player **enjoyment, safety and development**. Player development can be impacted by the skill level of those that they play with and against, **our ultimate goal is to keep players at all levels engaged in hockey** and we hope that lifelong friendships will be created along the way.

This policy document is intended to provide information and broad direction for players, parents, coaches and volunteers in achieving the objectives of the junior club. These guidelines will be followed wherever possible, subject to extraordinary and individual circumstances. The Junior Committee reserves discretion to provide a final ruling decision on any matter.

2. Age Group Guidelines

Junior Hockey age groups are based on school years and encompass the following grades:

- J 3 / 4
- J 5 / 6
- J 7 / 8
- J 9 / 10
- J 11 / 12

Within each age group, from J 5/6 through J 11/12, there are several Hockey WA competition grades:

- A, A Promo, A Reserve
- B
- C

The club may field several teams (e.g. A, B and C teams), in both boys and girls competitions, in each age group. The numbers of teams fielded in each age group and their assigned grades will vary each year, based on player numbers and Hockey WA grading activities.

Players will be assigned to the most appropriate age group for their school year. Older players are not permitted to play in younger age groups, but younger players are permitted and may be invited to play in an older age group grade, from time to time, based on player numbers, development policy and other considerations.

Players will be placed in the most appropriately graded team for their own skill level and playing ability. Hockey experience, physical maturity and fitness, attitude and effort, friendship groups, personal preferences and other factors are all important considerations and will inform the grading and selection process.

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Generally, players will not be placed in a grade that is more than one year above their school year allowing for stronger players to learn good team leadership skills amongst their correct age group peers, although exceptions to this may occur to ensure sufficient player numbers, subject to compliance with Hockey WA Rules.

3. Registration

The preseason training period runs during the last part of the first term of school each year. The proper winter hockey season begins the week after the April school holidays and runs until finals during the third school term in September. The Modernians grounds and clubrooms are a shared resource, which are used by a number of summer and winter sports in the Town of Vincent area. During preseason activities, the clubroom are still in use by the local cricket club, and players are asked to respect that we are sharing their space during this time.

Club and Hockey WA player registrations typically open in early February each year. It is important that all potential players register before the end of February to provide the club with accurate player numbers to allow nomination of the correct number and grade of junior teams to Hockey WA. Only registered players can be included in nomination and Hockey WA grading calculations.

Players who have not registered are not fully insured against injury while playing, either for training or games. Players must be registered in the Hockey WA database prior to playing any games.

It is requested that registration fees are be paid at the time of registration. For those on payment plans, or where other arrangements are in place, invoices for payment will be issued by the registrar or treasurer. Reminders will be sent for outstanding invoices. All Perth clubs and Hockey WA have arrangements in place regarding players that are not financial at the season's end, which can affect any future that player's registration.

As a guide, teams will aim for a selection squad of between 13 and 15 players for each team. Typically, Modernians currently nominates between 1 and 3 teams for boys and girls in each age group.

If, for any reason, the number of registered players in an age group are insufficient to reliably field a team in the nominated grade, the Junior Committee, in consultation with parents, may:

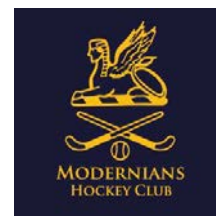
- attempt to recruit additional players
- invite younger players to "play up"
- invite players to double up, within Hockey WA grade limitations, or
- at worst case, withdraw the team from the competition.

In the case of withdrawal, the Committee seek to place the players with another suitable team and age group. If all possibilities are exhausted the option to register with another club may be provided.

Where there are excess numbers of registered players in an age group, the Junior Committee may determine teams to be full and offer alternative options, however, if these are not acceptable, it may be the case that the club is unable to accept additional player registrations.

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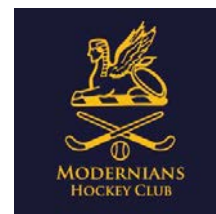
4. Teams, game format and training schedule

a) Non-Competitive (J 3/4 Age Group)

Rules	Modified rules, half field, 9 players, no goalie
Teams	Mixed teams of girls and boys – in equal numbers where possible.
Games	YMCA J 3 / 4 Competition. Saturday mornings at Perry Lakes. Season is 14 weeks in Term 2 and 3, with breaks for school holidays and long weekends. Games are all played on grass.
Club Team Selections	Grouped by schools or with friends where possible.
Hockey WA Team Grading	No specific grading. Competition operates in pools (A, B, C).
Grass Training	Charles Veryard –Thursdays, 4.30pm – 5.30pm. Arrive at 4.15 for warm up.
Turf Training	No turf training.
Playing outside of Age Group	Not generally encouraged. Stronger players in year 4 may indicate interest and be accepted for consideration of J5/6 games, toward the end of the season and only where 5/6 player and space permits.

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b) Transitional Semi-Competitive (J 5/6 Age Group)

Rules	<p>Hockey WA Junior League Rules: http://hockeywa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Junior-League-Rules-250220.pdf.</p> <p>Full field, 11 players, shortened games. Minor rule modifications from senior rules.</p>
Teams	Separate boys and girls teams.
Games	<p>Saturday mornings – game times vary between 8 am and 11 am</p> <p>Playing locations vary each week based on a home and away field system.</p> <p>Home games for the club are played at Charles Veryard Reserve. Away games are played at the opposing clubs nominated home fields.</p> <p>14 rounds breaking for school holidays and public holidays - No finals.</p> <p>Weekly fixture information is found under hockeywa.org.au home page under fixtures and results.</p> <p>A proportion of games are played on turf. The number is dependent on the team grade.</p>
Club Team Selections	<p>Skill levels and playing abilities of the team players will be matched to the relevant team grade.</p> <p>Friendship groups and family wishes in relation to siblings in the same or different teams, will be taken into account where possible</p>
Hockey WA Team Grading	<p>First weekend of the season is 5/6 Grading Carnival - played using shortened round robin matches.</p> <p>Boys and girls teams spend the day at one of several carnival locations (typically one of the larger inner metro clubs), depending on the team grading nominated by the club.</p> <p>Allocated provisional gradings are reviewed several weeks into the season based on performance – although generally unusual, teams can be promoted or demoted if incorrectly graded</p>
Grass Training	<p>Charles Veryard Reserve.</p> <p>Thursdays – arrive 4.15 pm for warm up, then 4.30pm – 5.30pm training.</p> <p>Player social events (e.g. hot dog sizzles) are typically scheduled throughout the season following training at CVR.</p>

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Turf Training

The club home training turf is Warwick Hockey Centre.

Training is Thursdays, 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm, approximately every second or third week, according to a published roster.

The turf is shared by many clubs and teams and this means that start and finish times are exact and enforced.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to start time for warm up and be ready to commence training sharp on the allocated time.

Usually every second week. Dates vary by age, boys and girls, and grade.

Please consult the season training roster for dates:

<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/modernianshc/juniors/jnr-turf-roster/>

Parents and coaches commonly organise lift sharing arrangements to turf sessions.

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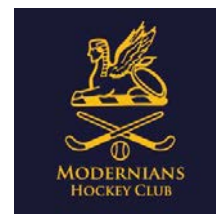


c) Competitive (J 7/8, J 9/10, J 11/12 Age Group)

Rules	<p>Hockey WA Junior League Rules: http://hockeywa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Junior-League-Rules-250220.pdf.</p> <p>Full field, 11 players.</p> <p>Very minor rule modifications from senior rules, for some age grades.</p>
Teams	Separate boys and girls teams.
Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J 7/8 - Saturday mornings, between 9 am and 12 noon • J 9/10 - Sunday mornings, between 8 am and 12 noon • J 11/12 - Friday nights, between 5 pm and 9 pm <p>14 rounds breaking for school holidays and public holidays and up to 2 rounds of finals.</p> <p>Weekly fixture information is found under hockeywa.org.au home page under fixtures and results.</p> <p>A proportion of games are played on turf. The number is dependent on the team age group and grade. Older age groups and higher grades play all (or most) games on turf.</p>
Club Team Selections	See player grading process below.
Hockey WA Team Grading	<p>Hockey WA will determine team gradings for the club in an age group based on aggregate scores of the registered club players.</p> <p>Player scores are derived from the prior two years playing history (including grade and team result).</p> <p>Allocated provisional team gradings are reviewed several weeks into the season based on performance – although generally unusual, teams can be promoted or demoted if incorrectly graded</p>

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Training	<p>On grass at Charles Veryard Reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J 7/8 - Thursdays – arrive 4.15 for warm up, then 4.30pm – 5.30pm training. • J 9/10 - Thursdays – arrive 5.15 for warm up, then 5.30pm – 6.30pm training. • J 11/12 - Thursdays – arrive 5.15 for warm up, then 5.30pm – 6.30pm training. <p>Grass training will make up approximately 50% of the training schedule. Player social events (e.g. hot dog sizzles) are typically scheduled throughout the season following training at CVR.</p>
Turf Training	<p>Approximately 50% of training time is allocated to turf sessions.</p> <p>The club home training turf is Warwick Hockey Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J 7/8 - Thursdays – arrive 4.15 for warm up, then 4.30pm – 5.30pm training. • J 9/10 – Wednesday– arrive 6.15 for warm up, then 6.30pm – 7.30pm training. • J 11/12 – Wednesdays – arrive 6.15 for warm up, then 6.30pm – 7.30pm training. <p>The turf is shared by many clubs and teams and this means start and finish times are exact and enforced.</p> <p>Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to allocated start for warm up and be ready to commence training sharp on the allocated time.</p> <p>Usually every second week. Dates vary by age, boys and girls, and grade.</p> <p>Please consult the season training roster for dates: https://www.revolutionise.com.au/modernianshc/juniors/jnr-turf-roster/</p> <p>Parents and coaches commonly organise lifts sharing arrangements to turf sessions.</p>

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5. Player Grading

The following factors (in no specific order) are taken into account whilst grading players:

- individual skills (hitting, tackling, passing, trapping, leading)
- team skills (reading the game and interaction with teammates)
- attitude and commitment (attending games and attentive at training)
- fitness
- player history and previous coach recommendations
- pre-season training
- players who have previously played together (ideally at least 5 or 6 constants in a player's team from year to year though this is not always possible)
- team numbers – noting that the higher grades (A/A promo) may run with lower numbers to allow players to play up, and in B & C where absentee can be higher, team numbers of 14 or 15 may apply (max 16 as per Hockey WA rules).
- friendship – if friends are selected in different teams but want to remain together, the player in the higher grade may change to the lower grade.
- team balance in relation to positions (older age groups only e.g. J11/12)
- registration – players must be registered to participate in grading

The first several preseason training sessions will be used to provisionally grade players for team allocations. Assessments may include any turf sessions and the YMHC junior carnival.

Preseason sessions will consist of fitness, skills and games, which are age appropriate for the players. Sessions will be observed by age group coaches and may involve assistance of experienced senior club players. Where there are multiple coaches in an age group, the “A” coach will act as “senior” selector, with all coaches acting as the selection group and reaching consensus decisions on player grading.

Players who can't attend preseason sessions will be allocated to a team where numbers permit and the level is appropriate.

Players are expected to attend training each week for their allocated team. For A grade players, training is considered essential for team performance and player development. However, the club appreciates that families and players are busy and may have competing events that prevent attendance at training from time to time. Parents and players should seek to work with the team coach wherever consistent attendance is likely to be a problem.

6. Team Allocations and Games Fixtures

In the starting rounds of the season proper, initial grading selections may be further refined, based on player performance and other selection factors displayed during games. Every effort will be made to ensure that players are assigned to the one regular team that they will play in for the duration of the season. However, exact weekly team selections vary slightly dependent on player numbers, including absences. Coaches and team managers will work with parents and players wherever

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demands may require changes to team allocations.

Teams will be provisionally selected prior to the first round of season games fixtures; however, some players may not receive a final grade at this time and will instead be advised that they were identified as borderline for a higher grade. These players may elect to be additionally considered during the first rounds of fixtures and asked to play more than one game in a weekend to determine suitability for the higher grade. Alternatively, they may choose to play in the lower grade. Coaches and parents are encouraged to discuss this selection process with affected players. This additional period of grading allows for improved player selection, and for movement where team balance and age group grading is not ideal.

On conclusion of the first three rounds of games, grading will be reviewed. Final changes for the season will then be made to settle teams and allow for the appointment of team managers, captains, goalies and to prepare team rosters. Further movement will be minimised and restricted to situations where needed to accommodate player availability.

On completion of grading, players will be allocated into training groups, where coaches can continue to monitor player development, noting that these groups are always fluid. Coaches in an age group may elect to train players from several teams together as a squad from time to time, including during turf training sessions.

Parents and players should note that the opportunity to play in a key position in a lower team can accelerate development, when compared to struggling in the higher team. On balance, coaches will aim to ensure that players are always placed in a team and position where they get “maximum ball time” for their own level of skill and development. Lots of ball time in a lower grade should generally be viewed as far superior to limited ball time in a higher grade.

7. Playing in Higher Grades

Due to player availability it may sometimes be requested that players play in a higher grade or age group. It is important that players on the borderline for selection to a higher team are given the opportunity to play in the higher grade to support their development, and this process will provide them with that opportunity.

For example a B player on the borderline for selection to A Promo, a C player on the borderline for selection to B team, or the younger Age Group A promo player looking for development in the older Age Group B team may be asked to play for the team above them and so on.

Playing up must be in accordance with the Hockey WA Grade Hierarchy chart below and is subject to Hockey WA Rules. Coaches will consult between themselves on player movement, whilst considering the ladder position and the strength of the opposition in each grade that week before doing so. Players (and parents) may indicate interest in “playing up”, if the opportunity occurs, but final selections will rest with the respective team coaches.

Playing up is subject to parent and player agreement.

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Playing 2 games a week (regular and higher grade) is subject to Hockey WA rules that state:

- players may only play 2 junior games in the same weekend on 7 occasions during the season, after this a permit is required
- the team hosting players who are playing up must not host more than 3 players a game and must not have more than 13 players for that game

Players may also be requested to play in a higher-grade team instead of their regular team when various grades are scheduled to play at the same time, i.e. if it is not possible for a player to play both games. If this occurs, players from the older age group must not be displaced as a result of the younger player's inclusion and playing numbers in the younger age group must not be compromised in that player's absence.

GRADE HEIRARCHY

BOYS GRADES			
J 11/12 A			
J 11/12 AP/AR	J 9/10 A		
J 11/12 B	J 9/10 AP/AR	J 7/8 A	
J 11/12 C	J 9/10 B	J 7/8 AP/AR	J 5/6 A
	J 9/10 C	J 7/8 B	J 5/6 AP/AR
		J 7/8 C	J 5/6 B
			J 5/6 C

GIRLS GRADES			
J 11/12 A			
J 11/12 AP/AR	J 9/10 A		
J 11/12 B	J 9/10 AP/AR	J 7/8 A	
J 11/12 C	J 9/10 B	J 7/8 AP/AR	J 5/6 A
	J 9/10 C	J 7/8 B	J 5/6 AP/AR
		J 7/8 C	J 5/6 B
			J 5/6 C

Players from the lower ranked team are eligible to double-up into the higher ranked team. Anything above the regular grade within the same column, to the left of the regular grade within the same row or both of the above is considered to be a higher grade (i.e. J 9/10 A, J 11/12 B, J 11/12 A Reserve and J 11/12 A are all higher than J 9/10 A Reserve).

8. Juniors Playing in Senior Grades

The club has a mission to retain junior players in the game of hockey as a lifelong sport and to develop long-term links with Modernians as senior players. As part of this objective, older player groups, specifically J 11/12 s, may be encouraged to train with senior teams, and to interact and learn different hockey skills and game strategy from senior players, as opportunities permit, and in suitable development settings.

Junior players, registered as junior players, must primarily play in their age-appropriate junior age group teams; however, from time to time, capable players may also be invited to play in a senior game, in a grade appropriate to their age and skill.

Junior players of approximately 14 years of age and older may be invited to play in senior grades as well as junior grades, depending on their physical size, maturity, attitude and hockey ability. In general players from J 11/12 will be considered before players from J 9/10 for any such opportunities.

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Regular senior players, registered to play in the senior competition, have preference for selection and game time preference. Any opportunities provided for juniors to play in seniors are neither regular, nor guaranteed.

Juniors playing with senior teams will be subject to the current club member protection policy.

A junior playing in senior should have a recommendation from the junior coach and require the approval from the coach and/or captain of the respective senior team. The total training and playing load for a junior player will be taken into account when offering additional senior playing opportunities.

Playing in a senior team is subject to both parent and player agreement.

The on field playing time should be appropriate for the junior player and is not expected to be a full game. Junior players will be monitored throughout senior games to ensure that they are coping, physically and mentally, and have any required supports.

Senior teams will limit the numbers for junior players on the pitch in a senior game at any one time.

9. Finals

Club policy is that the regular players in any team that reaches finals, deserve, and have first preference, for playing in all finals games. Additional players, player substitutions and players “playing up” will only be considered for finals where the usual number of players regularly fielded throughout the year is not achievable, such as when regular players are unavailable, and only where the additional players are fully eligible to play a final in that age and grade.

Eligibility to play in finals is governed by Hockey WA junior rules <http://hockeywa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Junior-League-Rules-250220.pdf>. This requires players to play in their regular team for finals.

A player must have played 3 games for the club and may only play in a final in their regular grade. If a player is requested to participate in a higher-grade final:

- a player is required to have played at least the last 3 games of the season (including participating in a bye if applicable) with that team if they wish to play in the finals for that team
- players who have played 7 or more games in Seniors, must have played at least the same in Juniors to qualify for their junior finals game.

A player may not play in more than one junior final on the same weekend, without the approval of Hockey WA.

Coaches and managers will be required to ensure all final players meet eligibility requirements.

For any player that does not meet eligibility criteria, a permit from Hockey WA must be applied for and granted.

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10. Commitments and Expectations

a) Club Commitment

The club is committed to developing its players regardless of the grade in which they play. This is done by providing skill development sessions, opportunities to play in a second games and scratch matches, as well as striving to provide quality coaches.

The club will ensure that players get fair time on the field over the season and will work with Hockey WA to ensure a player's team is placed in a competitive grade.

Any disrespectful behaviour towards other players within the team or towards teams in other grades (especially in respect to grading) will not be tolerated and should be referred by the player or parent to the coach or team manager.

The club strives to ensure community spirit through social events for players, club dinners, family fun days and other activities.

b) Players and Parents / Guardians

Players are expected to train, attend games and behave in a sporting manner at all times.

Parents and/or guardians are asked to positively encourage their child's entire team and to respect coaches, managers and the opposition team. Parents and/or guardians are also needed for junior coach, team manager positions, and other volunteer roles, noting that all junior coaches and team managers will be required to obtain Working With Children Checks (WWCC) from the Department of Human Services via the club.

Players, parents and or Guardians are encouraged to participate in the club socially as well as in volunteer roles such as umpiring, canteen duties/baked goods (for home games) and social events.

J 9/10 players are encouraged to umpire the younger junior players games on Saturdays. Learning umpiring at scratch matches is encouraged and job sharing is ok. Second and third year umpires are encouraged to additionally assist umpiring for J 9/10 and J 11/12 games.

The club endorses the Hockey WA Code of conduct: <http://hockeywa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Codes-of-Behaviour.pdf>. By registering all players agree to adhere to the code of conduct and the Hockey WA junior Rules. In summary, the club requires players, parents, relatives and siblings to:

- Show respect to other players both from Modernians and other clubs / associations
- Show respect to parent volunteers and supervisors
- Show respect to umpires and game officials
- Play good fair hockey
- Behave appropriately at all time

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c) Junior Club Roles

The Junior Committee is a subgroup of the Modernians club. The junior president is an elected club official. Other committee members are parent volunteers that give up their time to support all Modernians players. There are a number of roles required to ensure the effective operation of the junior club each season. These coordinator roles include responsibility for:

- Finances
- Registration
- Player Skills Development
- Coaches
- Managers
- Social functions
- Communications
- Narrogin Carnival
- Uniforms

d) Junior Club Roles

Our club is run by volunteers. They give their time at no cost, to the run the club. The Junior Committee will do what it can to accommodate individual requests and responsively answer any questions, so long as requests are made in an appropriate manner and with respect, noting that requests may only be accommodated if practical to do so. Concerns regarding grading, selection, training, games and related matters should be directed to the relevant coach and team manager in the first instance, followed by the senior age group coach, and then to the coordinator for coaches/managers, as required.

e) Awards and Team Spirit

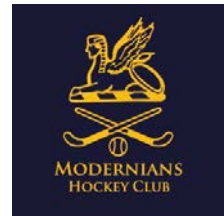
Hockey is a team game.

The club supports consistent encouragement and recognition of all players for personal improvement, attitude, effort and sportsmanship, at training and during games. Weekly coaches' awards are not required by the club and if awarded, are at the discretion of the team coach. Where these do occur, it is recommended that awards seek to recognise and reward a range of positive examples of skill, team spirit, and personal improvement.

Traditionally, at the end of the regular playing season, Modernians conducts an award ceremony for the most valuable player as well as encouragement award for every team in grades J 5/6 to J 11/12. Awards are also given to acknowledge playing milestones such as 50, 75 and 100 games for the club.

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11. General Commitments and Expectations

f) Equipment

Players require their own hockey stick and must also have minimum safety equipment of (properly fitting) shin pads and mouthguards. Parents should note that the club has a strict “no mouthguard – no play policy”. Players should bring their own personal (clearly labelled) water bottle to training and games.

Goal keepers must wear full gear at all times on field during training and in games. The club can provide all the required equipment for junior goalies. As goalie equipment is expensive and requires replacement as players grow, the club discourages parents from purchasing their own goalie equipment. For parents that wish to do so, registration discounts may be available.

The official club uniform (shirt, navy skort/shorts, blue socks) must be worn for all games. For uniform clashes, where an opposing club uniform is similar (e.g. lions), and where Modernians is the away team, an alternative strip will be worn. This will consist of a white shirt, navy shorts/skorts and yellow socks. Players do not need to wear the club uniform at training sessions.

Parents are encouraged to ensure that players have all required uniform and equipment before leaving to travel to training and games.

Modernians recommend and use Hockey International on Main Street in Mount Hawthorn for equipment. As sticks can be expensive and are usually expected to last several seasons (subject to players growing) it is recommended that expert advice is sought when purchasing sticks to ensure they are correctly sized. The club generally does not suggest buying more expensive sticks for younger players (e.g. J 3/ 4 and J 5/6) in modified rules competitions.

Mouthguards that are properly moulded/fitted by a dentist are strongly recommended. Leederville Dental, Mount Hawthorn is a club sponsor and can supply fitted mouthguards at a member's price. For emergency use, pharmacies and sports stores supply mouthguards which can be moulded at home in hot water.

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g) Carnivals

The YMCC Carnival, Perry Lakes is usually held on the last weekend of the April school holidays.

Narrogin Hockey Carnival, Narrogin is usually held on the last weekend of the July school holidays.

The club traditionally participates heavily in both carnivals and encourages players to attend.

Modernians aims to field teams in all age groups as number permits. The events are used to expose players to new positions, different team mates and to promote/accelerate skill development.

h) Playing Tips

The Modernians How to Play Hockey Booklet can be found at: <http://modernianshockey.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/How-To-Play-Hockey-booklet.pdf>

POLICY ADOPTED *March 2020*

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Next review) *2021*