INJURY RESPONSE PLAN

NIHL GAME-DAY INJURY RESPONSE PLAN

Purpose: To ensure all player injuries are managed promptly, appropriately and consistently, with clear responsibilities for rink personnel, coaching staff, team managers, parents and NIHL management.

1. PARENT, CARER OR GUARDIAN PRESENCE

Any parent, carer or guardian of a U18 player across any division should be present at the rink while their child is participating in NIHL games.

- *Parents, carers or guardians should remain contactable throughout the game.*
- *Where a child is injured, the parent, carer or guardian must be notified as soon as reasonably practicable.*
- *Where possible, the parent, carer or guardian should remain with the child during the injury response and any subsequent handover.*
- *If the parent, carer or guardian is absent or unavailable, the team captain, coach or responsible adult must support the child until an appropriate handover occurs.*

2. IMMEDIATE FIRST AID - RINK SUPERVISOR

The rink supervisor is the first point of contact for immediate first aid assistance.

- *Notify the rink supervisor immediately when a player is injured.*
- *The supervisor will assess the situation within their training and provide appropriate first aid using the rink's first aid kits and/or dedicated first aid bay.*
- *The rink's AED and ambulance access facilities are available for emergencies. Ask rink staff if you do not know the location of these.*
- *If the injury is serious or potentially life-threatening, call 000 immediately and follow emergency instructions. Do not delay emergency assistance while completing the remaining steps.*
- *Do not move a player with a suspected neck or spinal injury unless necessary to protect them from immediate danger.*

3. COACHING STAFF & TEAM CAPTAINS

Identified coaching staff and team captains are responsible for assisting with the response and supporting the injured player. Ideally coaching staff and captains have first aid training.

- *Alert the rink supervisor and assist with coordinating the response as required.*
- *Ensure the injured player is removed from play when necessary and is not pressured to return while injured.*
- *Maintain supervision of the remaining players and ensure the game can be managed safely.*
- *Assist with contacting the player's parent, carer or guardian where required.*
- *Follow the directions of the first aider and emergency services as required.*

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4. ONLINE INJURY REPORTING

All injuries and relevant incidents must be documented through the NIHL online injury report form. The person responsible for this should be identified at the time of injury, with us recommending it be either the coaching staff or team captain. the form can be found on the NIHL website > info > injury report.

The person responsible for completing the report should record, where known:

- Player details, date, time, division and game.
- Circumstances and nature of the injury, including any relevant observations.
- First aid provided and the personnel involved.
- Whether play was stopped, emergency services were contacted or further medical assessment was recommended.
- Parent, carer or guardian notification and any known outcome.
- Any follow-up actions or safety concerns requiring review.

Reports must be factual, submitted promptly and handled confidentially. Serious incidents must be escalated directly to NIHL management by calling their business number without waiting for the form to be completed.

5. NIHL MANAGEMENT FOLLOW-UP

NIHL management will review reported injuries and follow up with the injured player and/or their parent, carer or guardian over the following days, as appropriate.
Follow-up may include:

- Checking on the player's welfare and recovery.
- Confirming whether further medical assessment or support was required.

Medical clearance must be obtained where required by the applicable return to play protocol. A player must not return to play when doing so would be unsafe.

IMPORTANT - EMERGENCY OVERRIDE

For any serious, life-threatening or potentially life-threatening injury, call 000 immediately. Do not wait for a parent or guardian, completion of an injury report or NIHL management follow-up. Follow the instructions of emergency services and the qualified first aider.
Key principle: Player welfare comes first. All NIHL personnel must act promptly, seek qualified assistance when required, and ensure injured children remain appropriately supervised.
This plan supplements, and does not replace, the rink's emergency procedures, first aid protocols or applicable medical advice.