



JUNIOR BELFAST GIANTS ICE HOCKEY CLUB COMPLAINTS POLICY

This is the policy that Junior Belfast Giants Ice Hockey Club will follow if your complaint is about someone's conduct or behaviour. This could be because you think that someone has behaved in a way that is unsafe, unprofessional, discriminatory, offensive or intimidating. It could be because someone has broken important rules or policies.

You have the right to complain

We take complaints seriously. You should not be harassed, bullied or put at a disadvantage because of making a complaint.

Equality

You should receive a proper response to your complaint, regardless of your age, gender, disability, race, religion, nationality, social status, sexual orientation or political persuasion.

Fairness

We believe that complaints should be dealt with fairly and openly. Unless it would put other people at risk, those affected by a complaint should have a chance to contribute and respond to any investigation.

Safety and welfare take priority

We will always give priority to concerns that affect safety and welfare. Issues affecting children will be treated very seriously.

Confidentiality:

We treat complaints as confidentially as possible. Sometimes we have to discuss complaints with other organisations. If we are worried about a risk to a person or to the public, we might need to pass on our concerns to the right authorities. If necessary, we will get advice from other organisations such as the Police, Social Services.

How to make a complaint

If you have a complaint, it is often best to start by having a conversation with someone at the club. There are some suggestions below about who to speak to. They may be able to help to resolve your problem. You could also make a written complaint. The address for written complaints is at the bottom of this policy. If your complaint needs to be looked into further, you will normally be asked to put your complaint in writing. We accept anonymous complaints, but it is often very difficult to investigate these properly. It is easier for us to handle your complaint if you provide as much detail as possible.



Who to contact to make a complaint

Complaints will usually be handled by senior staff or officials. However, there are a number of people that you can speak to who will help you to make a complaint. Useful contact details have been included at the bottom of this policy.

Club officials

You can speak to any of our club officials. They may be able to discuss your complaint in detail. If they are not able to help you they will advise you of the next course of action to take.

Coaches

Any of the coaches working at the club can also tell you how to make a complaint. He or she might direct you to a club official.

Child Protection Officer

If you are a child, or if you are worried about the safety or welfare of a child, you can speak to the club Child Protection Officer. Or anyone else involved at the club that you trust.

What will we do to investigate?

When reasonably practical we will give an initial response to your complaint within five working days. If the matter is urgent, we will respond more quickly. We will investigate your complaint fairly. This means that we will discuss the complaint with all of the relevant people. We will try to gather any information that may be relevant to handling your complaint. Sometimes we will ask to show copies of information from the investigation to other people to allow them to respond. This is because we believe in fairness and openness. We will not share information if we think that this will endanger someone's safety or welfare. Sometimes we will refer serious or complex matters to another organisation. We reserve the right to seek advice from appropriate organisations such as the Police, Social Services.

How will I know what is happening?

You will be given the details of a person who will be your point of contact at the club. That person will make sure that you understand the process, and will help to answer any questions or concerns that you have. You will be given regular updates on the progress of your complaint. If there are delays in handling your complaint for any reason, we will keep you informed. If your complaint leads to formal disciplinary action against someone, we will usually inform you about the outcome. We will not tell you the outcome if that person is a child, or if we believe that telling you would create a risk to other people. In this situation, we will still try to tell you about how you are affected by the action that we have taken.



What are the possible outcomes or results of my complaint?

In many cases, we are able to resolve problems informally. This might include:

- A change in arrangements for particular activities
- An explanation or apology
- An agreement to communicate or act differently in future

If an informal resolution is not suitable, then a small committee of senior officials will look at the information about the case. We will try to make sure that this committee does not contain anyone directly involved with your complaint. They might decide to take the following action:

- Formal disciplinary action under the Rules of the Junior Belfast Giants Ice Hockey Club
- Formal disciplinary action against a member of staff
- Changes in formal contracts or arrangements put in place by the Junior Belfast Giants Ice Hockey Club
- A decision to refer the case to another organisation such as the Police, or Social Services.
- Closure of your complaint without action

Other people you can speak to

Sometimes it can be useful to speak directly to someone outside the club. Here are some examples of when this might help:

- You need urgent advice about someone's safety or welfare
- You don't want to discuss the issue with someone at the club
- Your complaint is very serious
- Your complaint involves other clubs or organisations
- You need specialist advice

The club is able to advise on a range of different complaints and in some cases, will handle the complaint directly.

If you are worried about a child's welfare, you can contact the following people outside the club. The contact details for these people are included below:

- The Child Protection Officer
- Child-line or the NSPCC advice line
- Local Social Services
- Local Police



Useful contacts:

Club officials to speak to:

Name: Paul Robinson

Telephone: 07803031676

Email: paul@juniorbelfastgiants.com

Club Child Protection Officer: Nicola Hodgkinson

Telephone: 07508425461

Email: nicola@juniorbelfastgiants.com

Local Police: 0845 600 8000 ext: 23075

Emergency: 999

Non – emergency: 0845 600 8000

Child-line: 0800 1111

NSPCC advice for adults: 0808 800 5000