



October 12th 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Schools,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you back to hockey for the upcoming season 2022/23. This is officially our first year as an affiliated club within Connacht Hockey and Hockey Ireland. With that in mind I would like to begin by acknowledging your support in helping me to get the club off the ground. Without your commitment we would not be in the position we now find ourselves in and for that I am very grateful. I'm also looking forward to some of you becoming a little more involved this season so thank you for offering your services in any capacity. The hardest part now is establishing a committee so I would ask if any of you are interested in sitting on the committee this year please let me know. I can assure you, you will have to do very little as I oversee almost everything. I am head coach of the Connacht U21s again this year, a secondary school teacher and hockey coach in Seamount College Kinvara and I play my own club hockey in Athlone. As you can imagine it's a busy schedule so any support I can get in the general running of Ballinasloe Lions would be greatly appreciated. Please read all of the relevant information below and don't hesitate to ask should you have any questions.

Location:

This year we will be located at Cappataggle astroturf. Unfortunately Ballinasloe AFC are resurfacing so we have had to look elsewhere. I am delighted to be able to avail of the facilities in Cappataggle and grateful to them for allowing us to use the pitch. This pitch is substantially larger than what we had access to last year as it is a full size pitch so we won't know ourselves as we will be able to host our own blitz this season! With that in mind it does mean we can run all groups at the same time for now and we can reassess this in the coming weeks if the numbers grow substantially. The time going forward will be all age groups from 14:00-15:00 on Saturdays starting this weekend the 15th of October. There is parking on site as well as a playground.

Membership/Costs/Insurance:

The cost of the pitch is 60 euro per hour. We have been allocated a small grant to help cover the cost of the pitch but combined with insurance and other maintenance costs this does mean that we will no longer be able to offer a pay weekly option and members will have to pay membership online. We will run two 10 week blocks. The first running before Christmas and the 2nd after Christmas in January.

Club Fees for a 10 week block are as follows:

One child U18 - 50 euro
Second child U18 - 40 euro
Third child U18- 35 euro

Hockey Ireland membership fee is 10 euro and every player in the club needs to have this as it is their personal insurance. Meaning in the event of certain injuries they have insurance. This is a once off payment and covers players for the full season and not just block 1. We also have public liability insurance to insure the safety of all members and coaches. In terms of how to pay, there will be a two step system available from noon on **FRIDAY OCTOBER 14th** so please hold off on registering until then. Registration will be open for a couple of weeks to allow new members to join and to facilitate parents' costs in general.

Step 1: Register with hockey Ireland on the club website under "Registration" on our website. You will get a hockey Ireland membership number then for example ME12345678

Step 2: Register with Ballinasloe Lions also under "Registration" on our website.

If you need any assistance with the registration process you can contact me on 087-9758071 and I can talk you through it.

Equipment:

As with last year, I will have a selection of sticks but each player will need their own gum shield and shinguards. These are ***essential*** to prevent injury and if players are not wearing them they are not covered by insurance. Coaches can police this to an extent but it is entirely the parents/guardians responsibility to ensure that players are arriving with them. I will be organising t-shirts for the players too in the coming weeks at an additional cost of about 10 euro each depending on the quantity we order and this will be an optional purchase. **We have had a very generous offer to sponsor a set of jerseys too so if you know anyone who would like to sponsor our club please let me know.**

Competitions:

The design of our crest competition will take place from Nov 12th to 19th. During this week we will be asking all of our members as well as the students in their class in primary/secondary school to design our club crest. The winner will receive a visit to their school by an Irish Olympic hockey player, free membership for our second 10 week block to begin in January as well as a new hockey stick and ball to practice their skills at home. The crest should reflect our club name "Ballinasloe Lions Hockey Club".

New players:

We welcome new players to try out hockey for free for their first session and after that we would ask that people complete the membership option available on the website www.ballinasloelionshockeyclub.com

Date: Oct 15th

Location: Cappataggle AstroTurf **Eircode H53 YX88**

Time: 14:00- 15:00 **ALL AGE GROUPS**

Thank you for taking the time to read through all of the above, I know it's a lot of information. If you have any queries please email admin@ballinasloelionshockeyclub.com and I will get back to you ASAP. Players from last year can make contact with me via my mobile number available in the existing whatsapp groups. I look forward to welcoming you all back on Saturday for another great season of hockey.

Kind Regards,
Jennifer Hyde

Club Chairperson