

Thank you for your interest in hockey in the Goulburn Valley.

We would like to welcome you to our hockey community! Hockey in the GV is family-friendly and fun, with a variety of great competitions to offer. The games are played over winter weekends at varying time slots and the venues are in Shepparton, Echuca and Benalla. The current fixture is available to view on our web site at [www.gvhockey.com](http://www.gvhockey.com).au.

We also are very excited to have access to a second turf field in Shepparton which was recently constructed through government funding. This will be our first season with the luxury of two turf fields side by side, which should make for more family-friendly timeslots each weekend.

**A GRADE** The A Grade competition is divided into a men’s and a women’s competition. It is part of the RHL (Regional Hockey League), which involves teams from Shepparton, Echuca & Bendigo and this runs in conjunction with the Goulburn Valley Hockey Association’s A Grade competition. This arrangement allows our teams to be part of a more competitive quality competition.

**LOCAL CLUBS** The clubs based in Shepparton are: Mooroopna, SYC (Shepparton Youth Club) & Strikers. These teams train at the Sports Precinct, Braumann Street, Shepparton (behind the Stadium) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at a time suitable to each club.

Echuca/Moama also have team training at their turf facility in Echuca on Thursdays.

Benalla train mid-week at their hockey facility.

Euroa train mid-week at a local venue which is hired annually.

Each club has set fees and each player must register online through Hockey Victoria, which includes a fee incorporating player insurance and registration with our main sporting body, Hockey Australia.

All clubs are always actively seeking players, so the best way for you to find a team would be to decide what night best suits your schedule for training, and/or you could attend a training session with each club and find which one suits you best.

Here are the contacts for each club:

Mooroopna Narelle Robertson 0400151715

Echuca/Moama Renee Davidson 0409434868

Strikers Becky Linnett 0428314315

SYC Aimee Willmott 0457857429

Benalla Lee Jenkins 0416169767

Euroa Kirsten King 0414272546

**LOCAL CLUBS** The clubs all have women’s and men’s teams which participate in a B Grade or A Grade standard depending on ability. There is also a mixed junior competition with age groups of under 11s, 13s and 15s. We also have kids playing in a pennant under 18 mixed team each alternate Friday night in Melbourne.

**JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT** Over the past few years, GV has been focused on development at the introductory level of hockey for under 9s, and we run a program supported by Hockey Victoria called “Hook in2 Hockey”. We have around 50 kids involved playing most Fridays under lights on the field at 5.30, so if your children were interested in having a go at hockey, they would be very welcome!! It is a great atmosphere with many families enjoying watching the littlies!

**COACHING** Australian Sports Commission programme called “Active After School” is another way we link kids and people to hockey – this is a great opportunity for members to have free training in coaching at local schools. The coaching is a paid position between 3.30-4.30 school nights, and we have kits available for coaches to use.

**UMPIRING & INVOLVEMENT** All clubs welcome and encourage members willing to be involved in umpiring, coaching and the development of junior teams. GV run regular umpiring clinics and assessments.

Please feel very welcome to ring the club contacts listed on the first page of this letter, or email us directly at: [secretary@gvhockey.com.au](mailto:secretary@gvhockey.com.au)