

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

AREA STANDARD ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

Review of 2024-25 Area Adult League Regulations Key changes in the new Area League Regulations

Overall, while there are some structural changes and additions to the 2024-25 version, many core elements of the Regulations remain consistent. The 2024-25 Regulations are more comprehensive, providing clearer guidelines and procedures across various aspects of league management and play, placing a greater emphasis on discipline, safety and proper reporting procedures.

Structure and Organisation

- The 2024-25 Regulations have a more streamlined table of contents, with some sections combined or reorganised.
- The glossary in the new Regulations is more comprehensive and includes additional terms.

Introduction

- The 2024-25 version includes a new "Purpose" statement (1.1) explaining the aim of the Regulations.

3. Entry into the League

- The 2024-25 version adds a specific fine amount (£150) for failure to return perpetual trophies (3.1.8).
- New clause added about teams withdrawn during the season potentially affecting lower teams' promotion eligibility (3.2.5).

4. The Competition

- No major changes in structure or scoring systems.

5. Fixtures

- The 2024-25 Regulations adds a note about considering England Hockey guidance on Faith and Fixtures when rescheduling fixtures (5.1.2).



7. Player Eligibility - Registration

- The 2024-25 Regulations introduce the concept of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for international players in the glossary.

8. Player Eligibility - Fair Selection

Refer to detailed notes below.

9. Deadlines for Match Information

- In 2024-25, there are more specific deadlines for submitting match information:
 - Grade 2-3: Goal scorers, Green, Yellow & Red Cards by 2000 hrs on the day of the match
 - Grade 4-5: Goal scorers, Green, Yellow & Red Cards by 2000 hrs on the day after the match
- For comparison, the 2023-24 Regulations had a single deadline for all Grades (2000 hrs on the day after the match).

10. Dress Code

- The 2024-25 Regulations add a requirement for clubs to have different colours for Home and Away games.

11. Umpires

- The 2024-25 Regulations provide more detail on umpire appointment procedures and responsibilities.
- It also introduces a requirement for clubs to confirm venue, start time and match information to Area Appointed umpires at least 3 days before the fixture.

12. Discipline

- The 2024-25 Regulations expand significantly on conduct violations and club responsibilities regarding discipline.
- It also introduces more detailed procedures for dealing with yellow and red cards.

13. Postponement and Abandonment

- The 2024-25 Regulations provide more comprehensive guidelines for postponement and abandonment procedures.

16. Appeal Procedure

- The 2024-25 Regulations extend the deadline for submitting an Appeal Notice from 3 days to 5 days after notification of the decision.
- The 2024-25 version adds a requirement for a £100 deposit for requesting a Further Appeal, which was not present in the 2023-24 version.



8. Player Eligibility – Fair Selection

Key changes to Fair Selection in the 2024-25 Regulations:

Structure and Organisation

- The 2024-25 Regulations have reorganised and expanded the Fair Selection section (Section 8), making it more detailed and comprehensive.
- The new Regulations provide clearer definitions and explanations of concepts like “doubling up” and “dropping” players.

8.1 Scope and Objectives

- The 2024-25 Regulations explicitly state that only the current season is relevant for player eligibility, which wasn't mentioned in the previous version.
- The new Regulations emphasise equal opportunities as part of the Fair Selection objective.

8.2 Movement of Players

- Both versions maintain similar rules for player movement between teams, but the 2024-25 Regulations provide more explicit guidance on selecting players for lower-ranked teams.
- The new Regulations add a specific clause (8.2.2.2) prohibiting clubs from "dropping" players to strengthen lower-ranked teams for important matches.

8.2.4 Matchweeks with No Fixtures for Higher-Ranked Teams

- The 2024-25 Regulations introduce more detailed rules for situations when higher-ranked teams have no fixtures (8.2.4).
- It explicitly states that Regulation 8.2.3 doesn't apply in such situations and that a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) is required for selecting players from higher-ranked teams.

8.2.5 Multiple Fixtures in a Matchweek

- The 2024-25 Regulations add a new section (8.2.5) addressing situations where a team has more than one fixture in a Matchweek, which wasn't covered in the previous version.

8.3 Doubling Up

- The 2024-25 Regulations provide a more detailed and structured explanation of the doubling up concept and its conditions.
- The new version explicitly states that doubling up is only permitted at Grades 4 and 5, which was stated less clearly in the previous version.



8.4 Goalkeeper Rules

- The 2024-25 Regulations introduce more specific rules for goalkeepers doubling up (8.4.2 and 8.4.3), including exceptions for emergencies.

8.5 Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)

- The 2024-25 Regulations provides more detail on the application of the SXP and introduces the possibility of a weekly deadline for SXP requests (8.5.4).

Overall, the 2024-25 Fair Selection Regulations provide more detailed guidance, address more specific scenarios and aim to close potential loopholes in the fair selection process. It maintains the core principles of the previous version while offering clearer explanations and additional rules to ensure fair competition.

DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS – with effect from 1 September 2024

- Replaces Red Card & Matchday Misconduct Regulations and the Disrepute Offence Regulations with a single document.
- Greater clarity and consistency in the disciplinary processes
 - Useful definitions section.
- Creation of two clear disciplinary pathways:
 - red cards
 - no changes “in game”
 - matchday misconduct offence (MMO) replaced with post-match red card for a “straight” red card offence committed within 30 minutes of end of match
 - misconduct complaints
 - replace disrepute offences