

# MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUES

## Update August 2026



**MIDLANDS  
HOCKEY**



[midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions](https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions)

I hope you are getting ready for the start of the season, only a month to go. Please see below for important dates.

We have a number of new Divisional Secretaries this season. Please help them by making sure they are included in the appropriate communications. Also, there are changes to some of last years' assignments, do not assume it is the same Divisional Secretary, they should be in touch with you once Team Contacts are updated on GMS.

Here's hoping you all have a successful season, and you don't have to bring your Divisional Secretaries too many problems.

**Nick Haynes**

Chair of Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee

[adultleagueschair@midlands.hockey](mailto:adultleagueschair@midlands.hockey)

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### All Clubs Preseason Meeting

**Date: Thursday, 3 September 2026, 19:30**

The All-Clubs Preseason Meeting will be held online on Thursday 3 September 2026 at 19:30. As per the Regulations attendance at the online **All Clubs Meeting is mandatory**. Fines will be issued to Clubs that do not have at least one representative present at the meeting. Meeting invites will be sent to all clubs during August, to the Liaison Officer emails provided by Clubs, please look out for it and confirm attendance ASAP.

### League Dates 2026/27

- **League start** – Saturday 19 September 2026
  - **No break week in October** – League fixtures are scheduled for Saturday 24 October 2026
- Last fixtures before the winter break – Saturday 5 December 2026
- **New year start** – Saturday 9 January 2027
- Break week – Saturday 13 February 2027
- **Last fixture** – Saturday 20 March 2027

### Adult Indoor

We will be running Indoor at Aldersley in December. With both Tier 1 (12 December) and Tier 2 (13 December) competitions. More details will be sent to clubs soon.

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### Dates to Remember

| Event/deadline                                        | Date                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| All Clubs Meeting, online at 19:30                    | Thursday 3 September 2026             |
| Deadline for rearranging fixtures, where permitted    | Tuesday 1 September 2026              |
| Pre-Christmas GMS fixture detail submission deadline  | Tuesday 8 September 2026              |
| Start of the Season                                   | Saturday 19 September 2026            |
| Post-Christmas GMS fixture detail submission deadline | Tuesday 1 December 2026               |
| Last fixtures before winter break                     | Saturday 5 December 2026              |
| Midlands Indoor                                       | Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 December 2026 |
| League starts back                                    | Saturday 9 January 2027               |
| League break week                                     | Saturday 13 February 2027             |
| Last fixtures of the Season                           | Saturday 20 March 2027                |

## FIXTURES

### Fixture Reminders

All fixtures are on the GMS and Midlands website:

- Fixture **Venue** and **Time** (both 'From Time' and 'To Time') should be input on the GMS by **8 September**.
- Start Times **earlier or later** than the times specified in the Regulations require both Away team acceptance and Divisional Secretary approval.
- The deadline for rearranging fixtures, where permitted (see guidance), is **1 September** (not including EH Championships fixtures on Saturday 24 October).

### EH Championships Fixtures

Teams that have entered the EH Championships and have a Competition fixture on **Saturday 24 October** will be permitted to rearrange the League fixture.

Contact your ALDS **ASAP** to rearrange. The League fixture may not be rearranged if the team entered has been drawn a Bye fixture on Saturday 24 October.

- To be rearranged (date, time and venue) within 10 days of notification of the fixture by EH and played on a date no later than 36 days from the original fixture, using a League Reserve date if possible. Confirm with Divisional Secretary before contacting your opposition.

### Forfeit Management

Last season we had **over 200 fixtures forfeit**; this is obviously an excessive number. This coming season we will be monitoring closer and will be challenging a team's continued entry in the Leagues if the number of regulation walkovers are breached.



### Forfeit, Cancelled, or Postponed Fixtures

A reminder that if a Team is considering forfeiting, cancelling, or postponing, a fixture, the **Divisional Secretary (ALDS)** **MUST be notified** at the time of the decision; the ALDS will offer guidance on the actions needed. Failure to notify the ALDS at the time of the decision (before the fixture) is subject to a penalty fine (Reg. 14.3).

#### IF A FIXTURE IS POSTPONED:

- Contact the Divisional Secretary first, then ensure the opposition and any appointed umpires are informed.
- Agreement of the rearrangement must be made within 10 days.

An updated list of the ALDS will be published on the Adult League website pages before the start of the new season.

## ADULT LEAGUE UPDATES

### Regulations & Guidance

Regulations, League contacts, and guidance documents, can be found on the Midlands website.

- [Regulations & Supporting Documents webpage](#)

### Regulations Update

The 2026-27 Regulations contain several revisions, which are covered in the following short summary:

- **Player eligibility** sees a notable addition: Non-UK Passport Holders section (Regulation 7.5), who must comply with the Visa Eligibility Grid referenced in Appendix 2 under 'EH Participation in Hockey for non-UK Passport Holders'. This is a UK Government (HMRC) requirement. The old No Objection Certificate (NOC) regime has been removed entirely and replaced by this framework — the NOC definition has also been deleted from the Glossary.
- **Dual Registration** is expanded and tightened. Players must nominate a Primary Club and a Secondary Club, with the Primary Club retaining selection priority. Dual Registration is now not permitted in a team's final 4 matches, a transfer is required to change Primary Club, and ALMC approval does not persist beyond the end of the season. (See further guidance below).
- **Regulation 8 Player Eligibility – Team Selection** has several changes:
  - The Doubling Up definition has shifted from 'same match day' to 'same Matchweek' — broadening the window over which eligibility is assessed.
  - 8.3 Movement Of Players has been revised – e.g., 8.3.4 'When a Higher-Ranked Team has no Fixture or Does Not Play its Scheduled Fixture', plus a clarification that prior-season data may be used in Week 1.
  - 8.4 Doubling Up has been tightened, with a few modifications. For example, the doubling up squad cap is reduced from 13 to 12 players. Note the checklist for circumstances that permit doubling up.
  - Regulation 8.4.1 revised: When considering eligibility of a player to double up the player is considered to have been selected to play for the higher team and is doubling up to play for the lower team.
  - 8.5 Player Eligibility For Doubling Up includes a revised table (8.5.4 Doubling Up Summary)
- **Regulation 9:** match-sheet confirmation now explicitly covers goals and cards (not just the score), and hospital-treatment injuries must be reported by the match-sheet deadline.
- **12.2 Yellow/Red Cards** introduces a new team-level Yellow Card penalty regime (Regulation 12.2.1(b)).



- **Regulation 14 (Failure to Honour)** is restructured with a grade-by-grade penalty matrix, including a cascade penalty for clubs whose lower teams also forfeit.
- Half-time is fixed at 5 minutes across Grades 2-5, and the playing quarters format becomes the default for Premier Divisions unless the home team advises otherwise (i.e., the notification direction has been inverted compared with 2025-26).
- **Appeal deadlines tightened:** Promotion/relegation appeal window reduced from 7 to 5 days (4.5.10(b)); Further-Appeal Request window reduced from 14 to 5 days (Appendix 6, 6.1.2).

### Outstanding Fees

Unfortunately, there are still Fine payments outstanding from last season. If these are not settled by the start of the season, then as per Regulation 3.1.4, NO team in the Club will receive any points from their games until paid. This is also true for any outstanding Midlands Invoices. Warnings will be issued.

### Team Admin GMS Reminders Leaflet

Midlands Hockey has updated the Team Admin GMS Reminder leaflets for use pitch side. The leaflets include deadline reminders for Team Sheets, Scores and Match Sheets (Timelines), as well as guidance for Development Teams. Please ensure copies of the leaflets are given to the relevant Captains, Team Contacts, and Club Admins, for them to keep in their kit bags and refer to as required.

Printed copies of the leaflets will be sent to all Clubs. Please complete the form below with the correct address details for your Club. The leaflets will be posted to Clubs for the start for the season.

- [Club postal address 2026/27 – Fill in form](#)

## PLAYER & UMPIRE REGISTRATION

### Player Registration & Transfers

Please ensure all players are registered before the start of the season, as **completion of Team/Match Sheets for ALL League fixtures is compulsory**. As per the Regulations, fines will be issued for non-compliance.

### Dual Registration

Dual Registration has changed this year.

- **7.2.4 Dual Registration:** At Grade 3 and below, players living partially away from home (e.g., university students or individuals working away from home for significant periods) may register for more than one Club and play for either Club, but only one Club per Matchweek.
  - This is permitted only if the two Clubs are in different Area Leagues, and the principles of Team Selection are followed to reflect playing standard. It is not permitted in a team's final 4 matches of the season.
  - Requires the approval of ALMC before they can play, once Dual Registered. **This approval will not last beyond the end of the season.**
  - Dual-registered players must complete a transfer to change their Primary Club.

**There are two instances where players can be Dual Registered:**



1. Playing for other than their Primary Club, in a different Competition in the same Area. E.g. Adult League and Masters or a Cup Competition. For this type of Dual Registration there are no Grade limitations.
2. Playing for other than their Primary Club in another Area. E.g. at University (even if it's not a University Club) or working away from home. There are Grade limitations, see below.
  - To be able to play in Adult League in two Areas, they **must not play in Grade 1 or Grade 2** teams, they must be playing in Grade 3 teams or below. Once they play in any Grade 1 or 2 Adult League Fixture in either Area, they are no longer eligible for Dual Registration for that season.

### Dual Registration approval:

As League approval for Dual Registration does not overlap seasons, please inform the League of any Dual Registered players expected to play in 2026/27. **If they play without this approval, it would be a breach of Regulation 7, with resulting penalties.** Please send in the following information for Dual Registration approval:

- Player: -
- Club: -
- Probable Team(s): -
- Grade if known: -
- Dual Club: -
- Probable Team(s): -
- Grade if known: -
- Season being requested: -

### Umpire Registration

All **umpires must register with EH Officiating** (Regulation 11.4). It's free and makes it easier for Team admins to select umpires when submitting Team Sheets. Registration is straightforward and easy to do.

To register on the GMS as an umpire simply:

- Go to the GMS login page: [gms.englishockey.co.uk](https://gms.englishockey.co.uk)
- Click the link 'To register for GMS click **HERE**'.
- Choose the role option '**Officiating**'; EHO Bronze Membership is **free**. Ensure to use the same email address that is used for your player account (very important!), and the Umpire role will be linked to your account.

### Submitting Umpires on the Team Sheet:

Once registered an Umpire will be listed in the 'Umpire' panels (drop down menus) at the bottom of the Team Sheet when the 'Filter By Panel:' (at the top) is set to 'Choose'.

Note: If an Umpire is added via the 'Filter By Panel:' drop down menu (at the top) they will not stay saved through subsequent edits and saves of the Team Sheet. Only registered Umpires added via the 'Umpire' panels will remain listed through all edits and saves of the Team Sheet.



## COMMUNICATION

### League Contacts for 2026/27

For all Division and Fixture related queries please contact the relevant Divisional Secretary in the first instance. A list of all League Officials can be found at the Midlands website and is being updated for the start of the new season.

Although we would love to be able to recognise everyone's names and email addresses, to help the League and to speed up responses, please include the following in all emails:

- Name, Role, Club (if club level email)
- Name, Role, Team, Division (if team level email)
- Name, Role, Team, Division, Date, Teams/Match details (if email is related to a specific match)

### Club Contacts for 2026/27

Clubs informed the League of the **Liaison Officer** email addresses in the 2026/27 Teams submissions. These are the emails addresses that will be used for general League communications, normally from Nick Haynes, do please pass these messages down to at least your Team Captains.

Remember to **update your Club details on the EH Portal** if any of your Club Officials have changed, e.g. Chair, Treasurer, Secretary.

- [clubportal.englishockey.co.uk](https://clubportal.englishockey.co.uk)

### Team Contacts for 2026/27

For the start of the new season please ensure **all Club Admin and Team Contact details** are updated and viewable on GMS (email and phone number), and that the Team Contact(s) is the correct person to be contacted on the morning of a Fixture in case of problems. Team Contacts may need to check their GMS profile contact details to ensure they are not 'Hidden' (details below).

It is important that **ALL teams have at least one Team Contact with a phone number on view**, please check and update all teams before the start of the new season. Club Admins have GMS access to update the Team Contacts for their Club.

#### How to display your contact details on GMS:

- Log onto the GMS: [gms.englishockey.co.uk](https://gms.englishockey.co.uk)
- Click on your name, top left, and select 'My profile'.
- In the 'Contacts – View' window click the pencil and paper icon to edit your profile.
- Under your email address untick the 'Hide all' checkbox, then scroll down to tick 'Hide address' to hide your other contact details, this will leave just your email address on view.
- Scroll down to add your phone number (home, work, or mobile) and tick the relevant hide/show checkboxes, then choose the correct number to display in the 'Preferred phone' menu, probably 'Mobile', then scroll down and press 'Save'.
  - **The last step above is the most important to ensure the correct phone number is on view.**
- This should then leave your email address and phone number on view to opposition team contacts, Divisional Secretaries, and League admin.

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Please ensure Team Contacts (Captains) have contacted their Divisional Secretary at the start of the season.

## ADULT LEAGUES INFORMATION

### Adult Leagues Online

Adult Leagues information can be found in many places online. The Adult Leagues webpages on the Midlands Hockey website include information, guidance, regulations, contact details, as well as League honours and top scorers. We can also be found on Instagram and Facebook.

- Website: [Midlands Hockey Adult Leagues & Competitions](https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions)
- Information and guidance: [Adult Leagues Regulations & Supporting Documents](#)
- Follow us on **Instagram** [Midlands Hockey Adult Leagues Instagram](#)
- Join our group on **Facebook** [Midlands Hockey Adult Leagues Facebook Group](#)