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1 MANAGEMENT

1.1 Principles

- 1.1 The England Hockey Championships (EHC) are administered by the England Hockey Competitions Department (EHCD) and cover the following championships (see Appendix 1 for details)

Adult Tiered Championships (ATC)
Masters Tiered Championships (MTC)
Mixed Tier Championships (XTC).

- 1.1.1 England Hockey (EH) Policies, as seen in Appendix 2, will apply to all matches within the AMWTC.
- 1.1.2 Each club or county, by its entry into and participation in EHC along with each player, through their team registration, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by these Regulations, EH policies and any amendments that may be ratified by EH from time-to-time. Each club and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of EHCD in relation to these Regulations and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose. If any matter arises which is not specifically covered under these regulations but which has a significant impact on the administration or outcome of a competition, the EHCD in consultation with the NGP (See Appendix 9) shall have jurisdiction to make a decision on the issue and impose any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.
- 1.1.3 Any club administrator or team administrator requiring clarification on Competition regulations should consult directly with the EHCD.

2 COMPETITIONS

2.1 Organisation

- 2.1.1 The EHCD will organise EHC as knockout competitions using standard formats.
- 2.1.2 The EHCD, who will immediately thereafter inform participating teams via email, shall make the draw for all Rounds of the competitions.
- i. In all EHC teams will be allocated geographically into regions. All draws will be made within geographical regions, up to the Semi-final stages which will be drawn nationally.
 - ii. The first named team in each match shall be designated the home team unless a neutral venue is to be used as may be directed by the EHCD.
- 2.1.3 Competition finals.
- i. EH will organise the Finals of the EHC including date, venue and time.
 - ii. EH will issue separate joining details for matchday administration for the Finals of the EHC which may vary from these regulations.
 - iii. EH shall appoint a Tournament Director or the Finals of the EHC. The duties, responsibilities and powers of the Tournament Director shall be shared in advance along with any other briefing notes as required for the Finals.

2.2 Match Rules

- 2.2.1 The Rules of Hockey shall be those as in effect at the start of each season, except as any variations contained within these Regulations and in accordance with Appendix 3. The Rules shall include any: variations, supplementary guidance, interpretations, instructions, etc. as may be published by the EHCD from time to time.

2.3 Umpires

- 2.3.1 The responsibility for appointing competent umpires to each match falls to home teams to request from their Area Officiating Committee. If they are unable to appoint each team shall provide its own umpire for each match. NPUA will appoint umpires to all finals.
- 2.3.2 All umpires must be registered members of the England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club. An unregistered umpire can complete their registration up to 24 hours after the relevant fixture has been completed.
- 2.3.3 The below outlines the requirements for umpires at each Tier of competition:

	ATC Tier 2	ATC T3 T4, MTC, XTC
Desirable level of accreditation	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Assessed
Acceptable level of accreditation	-	Level 1 Unassessed

- 2.3.4 If an umpire is appointed but does not meet the acceptable level of accreditation, the game may only be played with the agreement of both teams. If the teams cannot reach an agreement 2.3.5 will apply.

- 2.3.5 Where teams are responsible for appointing their own umpires and one team is unable to do so, and the teams cannot reach an agreement on appointing the second umpire, the team unable to appoint will be deemed to have forfeited the game. If both teams are unable to appoint an umpire, lots will be drawn by EHCD to determine who forfeits the match.
- 2.3.6 Where a Young Umpire (Under 18) is appointed, the appointing club must ensure a qualified Adult Umpire is present throughout the duration of the match either on pitch or on the side-line to provide support to the young umpire.
- 2.3.7 The EHCD will not adjudicate on decisions made by officials on the Rules of Hockey, during matches. Likewise, officials will not adjudicate on Competition regulations other than as required to make match day decisions.

2.4 Scoring System

- 2.4.1 The winner of the match shall progress to the next round.
- 2.4.2 In the event of a match being drawn in normal time, a shoot-out competition will be played in accordance with Appendix 4. The winner of the subsequent shoot-out competition shall progress to the next round.
- 2.4.3 A team that plays and loses in Round 1 or Round 2 of any Tier 1 Championships shall be eligible for a place in a parallel consolation competition. After any Championships reach Round 2, a team that has not forfeited a fixture and loses the first match they play in the competition, may be eligible for a place in the relevant consolation competition, at the discretion of EHCD.
- 2.4.4 A team that plays and loses in Round 1 of the parallel consolation competition in MTC or XTC shall be eligible for place in a further consolation competition (see Appendix 1)

2.5 Failure to honour a fixture (this includes not completing the fixture unless the umpires agree to abandon the game because of the problems with pitch, the weather, danger to players or a medical emergency)

- 2.5.1 A team which fails or is unable to honour a fixture:
- i. must notify its opposition and EHCD immediately,
 - ii. will be subject to financial penalty, see Appendix 7.
 - iii. additionally, the EHCD shall, at their discretion, have the right to ensure that a team which fails to honour a fixture reimburses the opposing team, officials, EHCD, etc. for any expenses incurred in relation to the fixture.
- 2.5.2 The offending team shall be deemed to have lost the tie and will forfeit their entry fee. They may be eligible to participate in a consolation competition (see Appendix 1) at the discretion of EHCD. The opposing team shall progress to the next round.
- 2.5.3 The opposing team shall progress to the next round.
- 2.5.4 At the discretion of EHCD a team beaten by the offending team in the previous round will have the opportunity to take their place in the draw on the date of the next round.

3 TEAM ENTRIES

3.1 Entry Dates

- 3.1.1 A club must enter its teams into any EHC by the designated dates set by the EHCD.

3.2 Eligibility

- 3.2.1 EHC are open to all clubs that have completed their membership to EH save for the MTC Over 65s Championships which are open to teams from an affiliated County, (A County may be two or more merged Counties where approved by EHCD).
- 3.2.2 For their teams to be eligible to participate in EHC clubs and teams must have completed and paid, by the due date, its membership to EH. In addition, it must have paid, by the due date, the following:
- i. competition entry fee
 - ii. any monies outstanding to EH

In the event of any monies due being outstanding 14 days or more after a clubs first match in any AMWTC, the EHCD shall be entitled to remove any team(s) for which no payment has been received.

- 3.2.3 All teams must enter any ATC at the relevant Tier for their Grade of Saturday league competition (see Appendix 1).

3.3 Club & Team Administration

- 3.3.1 Each participating club must appoint a Club Administrator and each participating team must have a named Team Administrator, both of whom must be available to competition officials and other teams at all times by the usual channels of communication.
- 3.3.2 An individual may be a Club Administrator for their club and/or Team Administrator for more than one team.
- 3.3.3 To ensure continuity, any changes to a Club administrator or Team administrator, or their details, must be updated in GMS immediately.

4 PLAYERS

4.1 Players must play in the relevant competition as determined by England Hockey Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy.

4.2 Eligibility

See Appendix 5

4.3 Team Selection – Adult Championships

4.3.1 A club's teams for its matches on any date must be selected in accordance with the AC Team Selection Policy, as seen in Appendix 6.

4.3.2 The GMS provides for the management of a club's teams selection in line with the principles, however, the EHCD reserve the right to;

- i. determine at any time if a club is in breach of the principles, or,
- ii. if the requirements as shown in the summary should be overridden in specific scenarios to ensure the principles can be met.

4.4 Dress

4.4.1 Standard kit regulations are as below and should be the aspiration at all Tiers. It is accepted however that at some Tiers these may not be achievable.

4.4.2 The two teams must wear shirts and knee length socks that distinguish them from each other and the umpires, in accordance with publicised team colours.

4.4.3 Field players shall wear shorts, skirts or skorts in accordance with team colours shown on the team sheet (NB: players from the same team do not have to wear the same type of item as other players in their team)

4.4.4 If teams' shirts' and/or socks' colours clash then the away team must wear alternative colours

4.4.5 Additional Clothing - Any additional clothing (e.g., cycle shorts, leggings or long-sleeved under-shirts) should be of the same colour as the corresponding item of clothing shown on the team-sheet but if not, it must not, in the opinion of the umpires, clash with the opposition's corresponding item of clothing (shirt and socks).

4.4.6 Goalkeepers must wear shirts that distinguish them from both teams' field players and the umpires and must wear protective equipment as specified in the current Rules of Hockey.

4.4.7 Players must wear shirts individually numbered on the back with the number allocated on the team-sheet. All numbers shall be no less than 8" (20cm) in height and shall contrast with the colour of the shirt.

4.4.8 Turbans, Hijabs (or other agreed head coverings) should be plain or match the shirt in line with club colours on the team sheet. For all head coverings, they must not

- be attached to the playing shirt
- have any protruding items from the surface
- have any metal fastenings or pins
- cause a danger to the player, or other players
- have the potential to be inadvertently pulled or unravelled

5 FIXTURE MANAGEMENT & MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Dates

5.1.1 EHCD will issue fixtures with their scheduled dates. (Provisional dates published in Priority & Centralised Calendar).

5.1.2 All matches in EHC must be played on the scheduled date unless both teams agree a revised date at least 7 days before the match is due to be played and the approval of the EHCD has been obtained or EHCD require a date to be changed to avoid a clash with higher priority activity in which case EHCD will set the date.

5.1.3 If any match is rescheduled the priority for players will be the originally scheduled activity on that date.

5.2 Venue & start times

5.2.1 Each team shall provide, using the GMS, the proposed time and venue for each of its home matches no less than 7 days in advance of the match. Home teams should also confirm details with the away team by this time. However, deadline dates can be varied at the discretion of the EHCD.

5.2.2 Match start times shall be between the following times:

Time – Sep & Oct, Mar & Apr	Time – Nov-Feb	Under floodlights
1130 – 1500 hrs	1130 – 1430 hrs	Saturday 1630 hrs at the latest Sunday 1500 hrs at the latest

5.2.3 Matches may be played earlier or later than the times shown if both teams, any Umpire Panel appointing to the match and EHCD agree.

5.2.4 Consideration should be given to opposition travel when scheduling fixtures and EHCD has the right to direct that a home team changes its proposed fixture times.

- 5.2.5 If a team venue has suitable floodlights the start time may be later (as shown in table).
- 5.2.6 Offshore fixtures offer unique competitive opportunities and EH welcomes their participation in the Championships. Offshore island teams may host fixtures when drawn at home subject to the visiting team's agreement to the proposed travel arrangements. Offshore teams must meet all additional travel, parking and accommodation costs. If agreement is not reached, the fixture shall be played on the mainland. Teams should cooperate to find reasonable travel solutions and honour the home fixture of the island team where possible.

5.3 Starting the Match

- 5.3.1 In the event of delays to start times, participating teams should aim to agree to delay for as long as reasonably possible taking into account the time available for the match and any subsequent matches. Team Captains may agree to play a shortened match.
- 5.3.2 If the delay is caused by late arrival of players, where a team has a minimum of 7 players available to start the match, and the match would no longer be able to fit within the allocated time slot, then the match should start.

5.4 Pitches & facilities

- 5.4.1 All EHC matches must be played on artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey. EHCD reserve the right to not allow a specific pitch to be used for Championship matches if it deems it unsuitable.
- 5.4.2 Clubs must undertake a risk assessment for venues they use, this is usually an insurance requirement, and all clubs must be insured. Advice on risk assessments as part of the Planning Safe Hockey guide can be found here: <https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>.
- 5.4.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that pitch facilities, including floodlights, watering systems, markings, goals and goal nets are satisfactory and that all other requirements in this Regulation are met prior to a match. Immediately prior to the commencement of a match, or once a match has started, the decision on whether it should be postponed or abandoned is determined by the umpires in consultation with the team captains. Safety of players shall be a key factor in any decision making.
- 5.4.4 If the pitch is deemed unsuitable by the umpires, they may, with the agreement of Team Captains direct that the match be postponed. EHCD reserves the right to determine the suitability of facilities in line with the Planning Safe Hockey guidance.
- 5.4.5 Home teams must provide a designated bench area on the side of the pitch (preferably away from any spectator area) either side of the centre line and extending no further than the 23 metre lines. Each team shall be allocated a section of the area, i.e. from centre line to one of the 23 metre lines. Substitutes and officials on the team-sheet must remain in the vicinity of their section of the designated bench area (unless warming up/down) and no other persons are allowed in the designated bench area.
- 5.4.6 All pitch bookings must be of duration to enable teams to have sufficient familiarisation and warm up time and allow for a shoot-out competition to be completed in the event that the scores are level at the end of full time.
- 5.4.7 Home teams must provide a sufficient quantity of good quality hockey balls that must be of the same type and colour and suitable for the surface on which the match is to be played.
- 5.4.8 Home teams must ensure a supply of ice at pitch side for use by both teams and the means for cleaning any blood spillage.

5.5 Changing Facilities

- 5.5.1 Home teams must provide a toilet at venue and changing rooms which may be off site and must always ensure they have no advantage over away teams in terms of room access and times

5.6 Hospitality

- 5.6.1 Home teams to make post-match hospitality available to visiting teams and umpires.
- 5.6.2 Away team must confirm if they do not wish to receive any offered hospitality by 2000 hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match. Away team is liable for any costs incurred if they notify they do not require hospitality after this time or if it is not taken on the day

6 TEAMS, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

6.1 Teams

- 6.1.1 A team shall be entitled to nominate up to 16 players in its squad for each match and a maximum of three team officials who are permitted to be in the bench area and a qualified medical doctor if available. The role of any official is to be included within the match sheet.

6.2 Match sheets

- 6.2.1 Players and any team officials must be uploaded onto the match sheet on the GMS no less than 1 hour before a match is played.
- 6.2.2 By uploading a player onto the match sheet, the club confirms that each player listed is eligible to play and will be deemed to have played in that match.

6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 The home team must confirm the score on the GMS no later than 20:00 hrs on the day of match.
- 6.3.2 Both teams must confirm full details of goals, scorers and injuries no later than 20:00 hrs on the day after the match.

7 POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

7.1 Priority

- 7.1.1 All matches in all competitions must be played on the scheduled date, or approved agreed revised date, unless a postponement or abandonment is caused by adverse weather or travel conditions. Other exceptional circumstances that cause a postponement or abandonment may be considered by EHCD.
- 7.1.2 If any match is rescheduled as a result of postponement or abandonment, the designated slip date must be used unless both teams agree a revised date at least 7 days before the slip date and the approval of the EHCD has been obtained or EHCD require a date to be changed to avoid a clash with higher priority activity in which case EHCD will set the date. When a slip date is used the priority for players will be the originally scheduled activity on that date unless determined otherwise by EHCD.

7.2 Bad Weather or Travel

7.2.1 **General:**

- i. Immediately prior to the commencement of a match, or once a game has started, the decision on whether it should be postponed or abandoned is determined by the umpires in consultation with the team managers. Safety of players shall be a key factor in any decision making.
- ii. In the event of a match having to be abandoned, EHCD will decide on the action to be taken after receiving a report from the Umpires and teams. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture, dependent on the circumstances at the time of abandonment.
- iii. In the event of a postponement and/or replay of an abandoned match, a new match date must be agreed by both teams and EHCD within 3 days of the original match date. If teams cannot agree EHCD will determine the outcome which may, but not exclusively, include, setting the date, confirming if the match should be awarded to one of the teams, determining that the result is recorded as a draw.
- iv. In the event of the home team wishing to postpone a match due to adverse conditions, the away team shall, at its own cost, have the right to inspect the ground prior to a decision regarding postponement being reached.

7.2.2 **Pitch:**

The home team should use the following procedures:

- i. The home team administrator should ascertain from the visiting team, and any appointed umpires/officials, the latest time of notification of cancellation, i.e. when they intend to depart for the pitch venue. If an overnight stay prior to the game is expected, this time should be adjusted accordingly. If it is clear that the pitch will be unfit due to weather earlier than the above time, the visiting team, and any appointed umpires/officials should be informed immediately.
- ii. It is the responsibility of the home team to inspect the pitch prior to the above-mentioned departure time. The administrator and/or a member of the club or team's leadership should do this and a realistic view must be taken at this stage. They should check with Met Office (www.metoffice.gov.uk) to confirm weather conditions for the next 24/48 hours. All teams should use the Met Office as a standardised reference for weather conditions. If the pitch is unfit and is likely to remain so, the game should be postponed, and the following action taken:
- iii. notify the visiting team, and appointed umpires/officials.
- iv. notify EHCD.
- v. If the teams and umpires/officials have arrived, Regulation 7.2.1 shall apply.
- vi. If a team fails to follow the above procedures and, when all parties arrive, it is clear that the pitch was, and patently has been, unfit prior to the times outlined above, the teams will be asked to submit a report for the consideration of EHCD who may take action as it deems appropriate.

7.2.3 **Travel:**

The away team should use the following procedures:

- i. The away team administrator should check with Met Office (www.metoffice.gov.uk) and Highways England to confirm weather and travel conditions and guidance for the next 24/48 hours. All teams should use the Met Office and Highways England as a standardised reference for weather/travel conditions.

- If guidance is that you should not travel, and the guidance is that this will not change prior to intended departure the game should be postponed, and the following action taken
- a. notify the opposing team, and any appointed umpires/officials.
 - b. notify EHCD.

NOTE: Whilst it is accepted that no system of match postponement can be perfect, teams are requested to try and ensure that games are postponed in sufficient time for teams and officials to be saved the time and expense of wasted journeys.

8 TROPHIES

- 8.1.1 Any club that wins a perpetual trophy must arrange for it to be returned at the club's cost to the EHCD by 1st February, unless otherwise agreed by EHCD. The EHCD will advise the club if the trophy is to be engraved or not engraved in advance of this. The cost of any additional engraving or a replacement if a trophy is misplaced by a club will be invoiced to the relevant club.

9 BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

9.1 General

- 9.1.1 The provisions contained in these Regulations are without prejudice to anything contained in the EH Code of Conduct, but any club or team or individual found to be in breach of these Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as may be determined by the EHCD, in addition to any penalty imposed by any EH Disciplinary Body.
- 9.1.2 For breaches of any or all of these Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Conduct, the EHCD shall, apply the standard tariff of penalties set out in Appendix 7 save that, in exceptional circumstances, or when there is no standard tariff provided, the EHCD may acting in consultation with the NGP impose any penalty, including, but not limited to, awarding a match to the opposition, fines and suspension of players, and may require teams to play matches away from their home venue. These may be applied within the current and/or subsequent season
- 9.1.3 When imposing any penalty, the EHCD shall have regard to any recommendation that may have been made by any relevant Disciplinary Body under the provisions of any regulation included in the EH Code of Conduct.
- 9.1.4 The standard tariff of penalties for breach of regulations can be seen in Appendix 7.
- 9.1.5 Any club or team that believes that there has been a breach of the regulations in a match, must report the alleged breach to EHCD no later than 3 days after the date of the match in which the alleged breach has taken place. The report must include all relevant details and proof of the breach. Reports received outside of this time limit will not be considered by EHCD.

9.2 APPEALS

9.2.1 Making an Appeal

- 9.2.2 There shall be no right of Appeal against the decision of an umpire or appointed Match Official.
- 9.2.3 Clubs and teams have the right to appeal against a decision of the EHCD as set out in this Regulation other than a decision not to accept a report that fails to comply with the requirements of Regulation 9.1.5 above.

The parties to any Appeal will be the Club or teams that lodge the appeal (Appellant) and EH (Respondent).

9.2.4 An Appeal can only be sought against a decision of the EHCD on one or more of the following grounds:

- (a) the decision of is based on an error of fact or could not have reasonably been reached by the EHCD when faced with the evidence before it;
- (b) there was serious injustice because of a procedural or other irregularity in the decision-making proceeds
- (c) significant and relevant new evidence has come to light which was not available before the EHCD decision was made and could not have reasonably been obtained earlier but, had it been available, may have caused the EHCD to reach a materially different decision; or
- (d) any sanction imposed is manifestly unreasonable in the light of the EHCD decision.

9.2.5 Scope of an appeal

- 9.2.5.1 An Appeal shall be by way of a review only and not by way of a rehearing.
- 9.2.5.2 The Appeal Panel will decide whether the original decision or sanction imposed by the EHCD can be reviewed (without rehearing all the evidence).

9.2.5.3 The Appeal Panel shall give the parties the right to be heard whether orally or in writing and, if orally, to be represented. Where the Appellant is a Club, it may have one or two (2) of its officer's present or one officer and a representative at an Oral hearing. Where the Appellant is a team, it may have one team member and a representative present at an Oral hearing.

9.3 Appeal Forms

9.3.1 To commence an Appeal, the Appellant must complete an Appeal Form (in the form set out in Appendix 8) and send it to the EHCD, by e-mail, within three (3) days of the date on which the decision against which an appeal is lodged was issued to the Appellant. The Appeal Form must:

9.3.1.1 identify the decision and sanction appealed against, and the grounds for the Appeal as set out in Regulation 9.2.4;

9.3.1.2 state whether the Appeal is in respect of the whole of a decision or only the sanction imposed;

9.3.3.3 state whether an oral Hearing is requested and, if so, why an oral hearing is both proportionate and necessary; and

9.3.3.4 include the Appellant's address or e-mail address for service of any documents;

9.3.3.5 be accompanied by a payment of £100 (Appeal Fee):

9.3.3.6 If the Appeal Form does not comply with all the requirements set out in Regulation 9.3.1 (including time limitations and payment of the appropriate Appeal Fee), that Appeal Form shall be null and void and shall not form the basis of a valid Appeal. Any Appeal Fee paid shall be returned in full.

9.3.3.7 Any other club that may be directly affected by an Appeal shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be notified of the Appeal and subsequently the outcome of the Appeal.

9.3.3.8 Upon conclusion of the Appeal, the Appeal Panel may, at its sole discretion, direct that all or part of the relevant Appeal Fee is refunded.

9.3.3.9 The grounds of an Appeal shall not be amended after submission of an Appeal Form except as agreed by the Chair of the Appeal Panel.

9.3.3.10 Make-up of the Appeal Panel

9.3.3.11 The relevant Appeal Panel shall be the England Hockey Appeal Panel (EHAP) and shall be convened (in consultation with the Chair) and administered by the England Hockey Disciplinary Lead (EHDL).

9.4 Appeal Notices

9.4.1 Within three (3) days or as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of an Appeal Form, the EHDL as secretary to the EHAP shall send to the parties, and the Chair of the relevant Appeal Panel a copy of the Appeal Form and any accompanying evidence. The EHDL shall also set out:

(a) the individuals, specifically identifying the Chair, who will constitute the relevant Appeal Panel; and

(b) an outline of the grounds for the Appeal.

9.5 Appeal Procedure

9.5.1 Within seven (7) days or as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of an Appeal Notice, the Chair of the EHAP shall consider whether the Appeal Notice properly identifies a basis with a reasonable prospect of success for contending that one or more of the grounds for an Appeal set out in Regulation 9.2.4 are present and, if so, whether the Appeal should be heard by way of an oral Hearing or determined by way of a paper Hearing, and shall notify the parties of their decision in writing. In determining whether the Appeal should be heard by way of an oral Hearing, the Chair of the relevant Appeal Panel shall take into account:

(a) the nature of the decision subject to appeal;

(b) the severity of the sanction imposed by EHCD;

(c) whether the Appellant has requested an oral Hearing in the Appeal Form (which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall not be determinative); and

(d) whether, in all the circumstances, an oral Hearing is proportionate and/or will assist in the fair, just and timely determination of the Appeal.

9.5.2 If the Chair of the EHAP determines that the Appeal has no reasonable prospect of success, or has been made frivolously, vexatiously or maliciously, or fails to meet the requirements required to bring an Appeal under these Regulations, they may

direct that the Appeal should be dismissed without further consideration. The decision of the Chair of the EHAP shall be final in this instance.

- 9.5.3 In the event that the Chair decides that the Appeal should be heard by way of an oral Hearing, they shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal and the matter will proceed in line with Appendix 8

9.5.4 Power to stay, suspend or vary a Decision or Sanction pending Appeal

The Chair of the EHAP may stay, suspend or vary any decision or sanction pending determination of the Appeal, at their discretion. Any order to stay, suspend or vary any decision or sanction pending determination of the Appeal shall be notified to all relevant parties in writing as soon as practicable.

9.6 Appeals with no oral Hearing

- 9.6.1 Where the Appeal is to be heard by way of a paper Hearing (i.e. on the basis of the written evidence only), as soon as reasonably practical after the receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the EHAP shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal, which may include

- (a) the provision of supplemental submissions by the Appellant and Replies to submissions by the Respondent
- (b) notifying any other club that may be directly affected by the appeal of the Appeal and subsequently the outcome of the Appeal.
- (c) inviting or permitting any club that may be affected by the Appeal to submit written evidence and/or submissions in support of or against the appeal

- 9.6.2 If, on receipt of the Appeal Submissions and Reply Submissions, the EHAP decides that the Appeal should be dealt with by way of an oral Hearing (for example if it becomes apparent that the findings made on the basis of the evidence are disputed and an oral Hearing is likely to assist the determination of the Appeal), the EHAP may in its discretion direct that the Appeal should be heard by way of an oral Hearing and the procedure set out in Appendix 8 shall apply.

9.7 Procedure following an Appeal Decision

- 9.7.1 The written Decision of the EHAP including reasons, shall be completed by the Appeal Panel Chair of the EHAP within seven (7) days of making its decision or as soon as reasonably practicable and sent to the EHDL.
- 9.7.2 The EHDL shall notify the parties to the Appeal of the EHAP decision and any club referred to Reg 9.3.3.7 no later than 48 hours after receiving the decision and will notify the reasons no later than 48 hours after receiving them.
- 9.7.3 EH is entitled to publish the decision of the EHAP in such a manner as it considers appropriate after the EHDL has notified the parties. Parties to an Appeal Hearing are deemed to have consented to such publication.
- 9.7.4 The decision of the EHAP is final.

APPENDIX 1 – COMPETITIONS TITLES AND FORMATS

1. The Adult Tiered Championships (ATC) comprise of three tiers for both Open/Men and Women. Teams' eligibility is based on the Grade in which they play Saturday league hockey.

Category	Main Competition Title	Consolation Competition Title	Eligible teams
Adult (Tier 2)	Trophy		A team competing in Grade 2 of Saturday leagues.
		Plate	A team that plays and loses their first game in Round 1 or Round 2 of the Trophy
Adult (Tier 3)	Vase		A team competing in Grade 3 of Saturday leagues.
		Shield	A team that plays and loses their first game in Round 1 or Round 2 of the Vase
Adult (Tier 4)	Bowl		A team competing in Grades 4 & 5 of Saturday leagues.
		Salver	A team that plays and loses their first game in Round 1 or Round 2 of the Bowl

2. The Masters Tiered Championships (MTC) comprise of three tiers for both Open/Men and Women at each of the following age groups – Over 35s, Over 45s, Over 55s, Over 65s.

Category	Main Competition Title	Consolation Competition Title	Eligible teams
Masters (Tier 1)	Cup	-	O35s-O35s - Any affiliated club. O65s – Any affiliated county (or merged counties)
Masters (Tier 2)	-	Trophy	A team that plays and loses in Round 1 or Round 2 of the Cup
Masters (Tier 3)	-	Vase	A team that plays and loses in Round 1 of the Trophy

3. The Mixed Tiered Championships (XTC) comprise of three tiers

Category	Main Competition Title	Consolation Competition Title	Eligible teams
Mixed (Tier 1)	Cup	-	Any affiliated club.
Mixed (Tier 2)	-	Trophy	A team that plays and loses in Round 1 or Round 2 of the Cup
Mixed (Tier 3)	-	Vase	A team that plays and loses in Round 1 of the Trophy

4. Saturday league – this covers the England Hockey League as administered by EHCD and the 8 Area Adult Leagues as administered by their respective Area Company and any dedicated Masters league, including South Masters League, London Masters League and any other leagues as determined by EHCD.

APPENDIX 2 – ENGLAND HOCKEY POLICIES

All England Hockey policies shall apply to matches in the Adult Men's & Women's Tiered Championships. These may be revised and or supplemented from time to time by England Hockey but include;

- FIH Rules of Hockey (with any variations as determined by EH, see Appendix 3)
- EH Code of Conduct
- EH Disciplinary Regulations
- EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey
- EH Privacy Policy
- EH Equality Policy
- EH Guidance on Faith & Fixtures
- EH Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy
- UK Anti-Doping Rules
- EH Anti-Corruption Policy
- EH League Sponsorship Policy
- EH Safe Hockey
- GB Hockey Governing Body Endorsement criteria for International Sportspersons

Most can be found on the Regulations and Policies Documents page of the EH website:

<https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/governance/rules-and-regulations/regulations-and-policies>

APPENDIX 3 – VARIATIONS TO FIH RULES OF HOCKEY

The Rules of Hockey 2026 including all experimental rules shall apply with the exception of Rules 1.9, 5.1, 13.3 and 14 which shall be varied as follows:

Rule 1.9

Flag-posts between 1.20 and 1.50 metres in height are placed at each corner of the field. (these are not required).

Rule 5.1

A match consists of four quarters of 17 minutes 30 seconds, with an interval of 2 minutes between quarter 1 and 2 and between quarter 3 and 4, and a half-time interval of 5 minutes between quarter 2 and 3. **Rule 8.2**

Time is not to be stopped after a goal is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire)

Rule 13.3

Time is **not** stopped after a penalty corner is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire). Note that this may affect the return to the pitch of a suspended player.

Rule 14

- a. A temporarily suspended player cannot resume play during a penalty corner, only when it has been completed or another penalty corner is awarded.
- b. If a temporarily suspended player is a goalkeeper the Umpires stop the time at the next stoppage of play to enable that player to resume play.

APPENDIX 4 – SHOOT-OUT COMPETITION

In a shoot-out competition, five players from each team take a one-on-one shoot-out alternately against a defender from the other team as set out in this Regulation. The shoot-out competition comprises all series of shoot-outs required to determine a result.

The following sets out both the playing Rules and the procedures to be followed.

- 1- If the shoot-out competition takes place after the end of a Match, the first shoot-out should take place as soon as possible after the end of the Match but no later than five (5) minutes after the end of regulation playing time.
- 2- The respective Team Managers provide five players to take and one player to defend the shoot outs from those on the Match Report except as excluded below. A player nominated to defend the shoot-outs can also be nominated to take a shoot-out. No substitutions / replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition other than as specified below.
- 3- A player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the Match which leads to the shoot-out competition, cannot take part in that shoot-out competition. A player who has been warned (green card) or temporarily suspended (yellow card) may take part in the shoot-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match.
- 4- The Match Manager will specify the method of timing shoot-outs taking account of the facilities available and the need to control time accurately.
- 5- The Match Manager will specify the goal to be used.
- 6- A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot out.
- 7- All persons listed on a team's Long List other than any player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition are permitted to enter the field of play outside the 23m area used for the shoot-out but must be at least 10 metres from the spot where the ball is placed at the start of the shoot-out.
- 8- The goalkeeper / defending player of the team taking a shoot-out shall wait on the backline outside the circle.

9- A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.

10 - Players taking a shoot-out and also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents are allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put back on their protective equipment.

11- Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper / defending player of the other team making a total of 10 shoot-outs.

12- Taking a shoot-out:

a- the goalkeeper / defending player starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts;

b-the ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;

c- an attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;

d- an official at the technical table starts the clock either

- when the Umpire blows the whistle to start time, or
- when the Umpire has indicated that the players are ready and an automatic whistle sound is made over the venue PA system when the clock is started (if the venue includes this technical set up)

e-the attacker and the goalkeeper / defending player may then move in any direction;

f- the shoot-out is completed when:

i 8 seconds has elapsed since the starting signal;

ii a goal is scored;

iii the attacker commits an offence;

iv the goalkeeper / defending player commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle in which case the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper/defending player;

v the goalkeeper / defending player commits an intentional offence inside or outside the circle, in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;

vi the ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper/ defending player intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.

13 If a technical error occurs during the shootout (eg the 8 second clock does not start or work correctly, the PA system does not work correctly) then the shootout must be retaken regardless of the outcome of the original shootout

14 If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above, it can be taken and defended by any eligible player on the Match Report subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 17 and 18 of this Appendix.

15 The team scoring the most goals (or ahead by more goals than the other team has untaken shoot outs available) is the winner.

16 A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot- out competition.

17 If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:

a that player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper / defending player, cannot be replaced;

b the replacement for a suspended goalkeeper / defending player can only come from the five players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition:

i- the replacement goalkeeper / defending player is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper/defending player they are replacing was wearing;

ii - for taking their own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.

c any shoot-out due to be taken by a suspended player is forfeited; any goals scored by this player before being suspended count as a goal.

18 If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper / defending player is incapacitated:

a that goalkeeper / defending player may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular Match, except as excluded in this Appendix or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition;

b the replacement goalkeeper:

i is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper / defending player was wearing;

ii if this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.

19 If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded above or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition.

20 Once replaced, an incapacitated player can take no further part in the shoot-out competition.

21 If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs:

a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix;

b the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;

c the team whose player took the first shoot-out in a series defends the first shoot-out of the next series;

d when one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot outs, that team is the winner.

22 If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, additional series of shoot-outs are taken with the same players subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix:

a- the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;

b - the team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.

APPENDIX 5 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Adult Championships

To be entitled to play in the AC for a club a player must be registered with that club to play Saturday league hockey and, since time of their first match during any one season, not have played for another club in a league match in England and Wales or another country unless they have transferred clubs. Registration must be using the GMS and must comply with the Regulations as set out below.

Age - For all matches, a player must be aged 13 or above on the day of the match

2. Masters Championships

i. Clubs

To be entitled to play in the MC for a club a player must be registered with that club to play Masters hockey and, since time of their first match during any one season, not have played for another team in the same age group of the Championships. Registration must be using the GMS and must comply with the Regulations as set out below.

A player may not represent a club at an age group other than a club they have played Saturday league hockey (See Appendix 1 for definition) for,

- a. if the latter has entered the MC at the same age group unless the player has transferred in respect of league hockey to another club (who have not entered the relevant MC) and their eligibility approved by EHCD or
- b. if the latter has entered the MC at the same age group unless their regular Saturday league hockey club approve for the player to do so, see d below.
- c. if they have played for any England International Masters team in a match in a World, European or Four Nations Championships event sanctioned by World Masters Hockey in the current or previous season unless they are a "guest" player, see d, below.

d. A team may field a maximum of two players, designated "guest" players in line with b. and c during any one season. players must be advised to EHCD in advance of participation in any game by the process specified.

A player who has transferred in respect of Saturday league hockey to the club participating in the Championships is only eligible in line b. and/or c and d above if approved by EHCD.

Age

For the Over 35s Championships players must reach 35 on or before 31 December 2027

For the Over 45s Championships players must reach 45 on or before 31 December 2027

For the Over 55s Championships players must reach 55 on or before 31 December 2027

ii. Counties

To be entitled to play in the MTC for a county a player and since time of their first match during any one season, must not have played for another team in the same age group of the Championships. Registration must be using the GMS and must comply with the Regulations as set out below.

Players must play Saturday league hockey (See Appendix 1 for definition) for a club affiliated to the relevant county. Players who have not played Saturday league hockey for any club may play for a county if their main and permanent residence is within that county. "Main and permanent residence" means the address at which the player ordinarily lives for the majority of the year and which is recorded for official purposes (e.g. on the electoral roll, for tax or utility billing). Ownership of, or residence in, a second home or holiday property within a county does not qualify for eligibility. Such players must be advised to EHCD in advance of participation in any game by the process specified. EHCB reserve the right to request such evidence as required.

Age

For the Over 65s Championships players must reach 65 on or before 31 December 2027

3. Mixed Championships

To be entitled to play in the XC for a club a player must be registered with that club to play mixed hockey. A player can only play for one team in the XC in any one season

At any time during a match a team shall consist of no more than 5 outfield players whose birth sex is recorded as male.

Age - For all matches, a player must be aged 15 or above on the day of the match

4. All Championships

i. To play in a Semi-Final or Final a player must be eligible in line with all regulations and have played

- a. for that team in a previous round during the same season, or
- b. for a team from the relevant club in a Saturday league game (NB. for ATC Appendix 6, Pt 7 still applies) and not have transferred from that club,
- or c, have approval from EHCD that the player may play.

ii. Any Single Service side (RAF, Army or Royal Navy) may only field players who have a service liability for the relevant single service. These players may have played in a Saturday league hockey match for another club during the same season.

APPENDIX 6 – ENGLAND HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS ADULT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS - TEAM SELECTION

The GMS provides for the management of a club's teams selection in line with the principles, however, the EHCD reserve the right to;

A club's teams for its matches on any date must be selected in accordance with this Policy.

Levels

The Adult Championships are aligned to a number of levels. The application of regulations and Fair Selection will be different at different Tiers to ensure that the expectations are commensurate to the standard of play.

Team Selection Principles

1. For clubs to have reasonable flexibility in managing player selection.
2. For teams in a competition to be selected in hierarchical order and comprise of players who reflect their level of ability within their clubs, based on availability on any one day.
3. To ensure that all clubs feel competition is 'fair' and that large or small clubs are not disadvantaged by the application of regulations.

Fair Selection Summary

1. Players shall not represent more than one club in any one season in any of the AC.
2. Players who have played for another club in a Saturday league match during the same season shall only be eligible if they have transferred clubs on the GMS and are eligible to play for the new club in a Saturday league match.
3. Players who have played for another club during the same season in any other country affiliated to FIH shall only be eligible if they have genuinely changed clubs during this period and severed all links with their previous club.
4. Players who have played for a club in any AC and then subsequently play for a different club in a Saturday league match are deemed to have changed clubs. Such a player may not subsequently play for their previous club in the AC
5. No player may play in more than one level of Adult Championships match in a weekend.
6. Players representing a team in Round 1 of the Adult Championships must have represented the same team or a lower team in a Saturday league match within the same season.
7. Players representing a team in Round 2 or Plate Round 1 and any subsequent rounds of the Adult Championships must have played a minimum of 50% of their Saturday league matches in the season to date for that team, or a lower-ranked team, unless with an approved SXP.

Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)

SXPs may be permitted to meet the fair selection principles. SXPs are issued by EHCD at their discretion in accordance with a nationally agreed framework and process. There will be a process to request a SXP in advance.

The following are examples of where, in genuine cases, a SXP could be applied;

1. Player returning from injury.
2. Player who has not played for a number of weeks.
3. Emergency issue.

This is not an exhaustive list and each application will be considered on its individual facts and circumstances.

APPENDIX 7 - STANDARD TARIFF OF PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF REGULATIONS

1. The provisions contained in the Regulations are without prejudice to anything contained in the EH Code of Ethics, but any club or team or individual found to be in breach of these Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by any EH Disciplinary Body.

2. For breaches of any or all of Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Ethics, the EHCD shall, at its absolute discretion, have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, the deduction of points, fines and suspension of players, and has power to make teams play matches away from their home venue. These may be applied within the current and/or subsequent season.

3. When imposing any penalty, the EHCD shall have regard to any recommendation that may have been made by any relevant Disciplinary Body under the provisions of any Regulation included in the EH Code of Ethics.

4. Breaches

4.1 Stages - Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 below refer to an individual breach and the process giving the opportunity to rectify this. A second breach of the same Regulation may result in this being treated as Stage 2.

4.2 Repeat Breaches – 1st Occurrence, 2nd Occurrence, 3rd Occurrence below refer to the same Regulation being breached on one or more occasions. Penalties may be doubled for repeat breaches.

5. Fines

5.1 There are recommended amounts for fines, Tariff 1 (T1) - £25, Tariff 2 (T2) - £50, Tariff 3 (T3) - £100.

5.2 Note waiving of a fine is at the discretion of EHCD.

5.3 Where a fine is applied it will be doubled for repeat offences.

5.4 Payment of fines is within 28 days unless alternative date is set by ECHD.

REGULATION	SUB-SECTION	BREACH			FINE
		STAGE 1 or 1 st OCCURENCE	STAGE 2 or 2 nd OCCURENCE	STAGE 3 or 3 rd OCCURENCE	
2. Competition	2.3 Appointment of umpires. Home team failure to advise opposition that they should appoint an umpire	Fine	Fine	Match recorded as a walkover loss.	
2. Competition	2.5 Failure to Honour a fixture	Fine – ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS Cup - R1-£25, R2-£35, R3-£75, QF-£75, SF-£150 Trophy, Vase, Bowl - R1-£25, R2-£25, R3-£50, R4-£50, QF-£50, SF-£100 Plate, Shield, 4 Salver - R1-£25, R2-£50, R3-£50, QF-£50, SF-£100 MASTERS & MIXED CHAMPIONSHIPS Cup - R1-£25, R2-£25, R3-£50, R4-£50, QF-£50, SF-£100 Trophy - R1-£25, R2-£50, R3-£50, QF-£50, SF-£100 Vase - R1-£50, R2-£50, QF-£50, SF-£100 Where a numbered round is also the Quarter or Semi-Final, the fine for the QF or SF will be applied. EHCD may, at their discretion, waive a fine.			
3. Entry into the Competition	3.2.2 Completed by the due date its membership of England Hockey and other payments.	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline.	If new deadline not met. Warning that it must be completed prior to next match.	Teams withdrawn from relevant competitions. Fine.	T1
4. Player Selection	4.1, 4.2 Fielding an ineligible player 4.3 Fielding a player not complying with principles of fair selection.	Match recorded as a walkover loss.			
4.3 Dress	Uniform kit, additional clothing and numbers.	Warning.	Warning.	Fine.	T1
5. Fixture Management	5.2.1 Provide time and venue for	Fine.	Fine.	Fine.	T1

	each of its home matches by deadline - subject to any variation discretion of the EHCD.				
5. Matchday Administration	5.3 Provision of Pitch & facilities and changing facilities in line with Regulation and no effort to mitigate.	Warning.	Fine.		T1
5. Matchday Administration	5.6 Hospitality 5.6.1 Home teams to make post-match hospitality available to visiting teams and officials.	Fine.	Fine.		
6. Team, Match Sheets & Results	6.2.1 Team late in uploading all players and any team officials participating in a match onto the match sheet on the GMS by specified time.	Warning.	Warning.	Warning & fine for persistent non-compliance.	T1
	6.2.2 Fielding an ineligible player in a match.	Match recorded as a walkover loss.			
	6.3.1 Team late to confirm score on the GMS by specified time. or 6.3.2 Team late to confirm details of goals, cards and injuries on the GMS by specified time.	Warning.	Warning.	Warning & fine for persistent non-compliance.	T1
	Falsifying information on match sheet.	Match recorded as a walkover loss. Fine.			T1
7. Postponement or Abandonment	7. Failure to comply with regulation.	Match recorded as a walkover loss for deliberate/ negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses.			T1 plus opposition expenses.
8. Trophies	8.1.1 Failure to return and not engraved (if specified).	Fine plus any additional costs incurred if returned late.	Additional fine if lost or not returned in time for presentation.		T1 plus additional costs.
Any regulations not covered above	Significant or persistent violation.	Penalty as determined by EHCD.			

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APPENDIX 8 – APPEALS -ORAL HEARING

1. Unless otherwise expressly stated, these guidelines shall apply to Appeal Hearings.

Preparation for an oral hearing.

2. The Chair may issue directions relating to the procedural aspects in the period leading up to the Hearing in order to ensure proper and fair conduct of the Hearing. The EHDL shall notify the Panel members of any such directions. These may include but shall not be limited to procedure and timetable.
3. Notice of the Hearing must be sent by the EHDL to the Hearing Parties via a Hearing Notice at least twenty-eight (28) days before the date of the Hearing or sooner with the agreement of the parties, together with all supporting materials and (if applicable) copies of Witness statements. The Hearing Notice shall also name the individuals, specifically identifying the Chair, who will constitute the relevant Panel.
4. Unless the Chair instructs otherwise, at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the Hearing, each Hearing Party must provide the EHDL, via e-mail, details of all Witnesses they wish to call, together with copies of their written statements completed in accordance with paragraph 4 above and any other documentary evidence they propose to rely on at the Hearing.
5. It shall be the duty of the Hearing Parties to notify and arrange for the attendance of any Witnesses they may wish to call. The number of Witnesses allowed to give evidence will be at the discretion of the Chair, however they should be adequate enough to establish or defend a case without resulting in unreasonable duplication or time wasting.
7. Both Hearing Parties shall advise the EHDL, at least fourteen (14) days before the Hearing, if they will be using the services of anyone (legal, technical or otherwise) to present their case or advise them at the hearing. If either party has previously appointed a Representative, they are still required to advise if this individual will present their case for them at the hearing. The name and status of any Representative must be provided to the EHDL at the time of notification. The person who represents either Hearing Party may not also be a Witness.
8. The EHDL shall, at least seven (7) days before the Hearing, notify each of the Hearing Parties to the proceedings of the names of the other Hearing Party's Witnesses and the name and status of any Representative and anyone other than the Hearing Party who will be presenting a Hearing Parties' case or acting as an adviser.

Request for an adjournment of an oral hearing.

9. The Chair has discretion to adjourn the Hearing for a maximum of fourteen (14) days if at any time they think the interests of justice require it (e.g. to secure the attendance of a key Witness or to allow for additional evidence to be presented).
10. The Hearing Parties may request in writing an adjournment of the Hearing within seven (7) days of the date of the Hearing Notice. A detailed statement of the reasons for the request must be provided. The request must be sent to the EHDL. The EHAP Chair will consider the request and make a Decision that they, in their absolute discretion, shall consider fair and reasonable (although if any adjournment is ordered this should, normally, not exceed fourteen (14) days).
11. In making any order to adjourn, the Chair shall bear in mind not only the interests of the party seeking the adjournment but also the interests of any other parties including Witnesses, and the administrative implications.
12. The Chair will determine the date, time and place of any adjourned Hearing. The EHDL shall write to the Hearing Parties informing them of the adjournment and advising of the adjourned Hearing date and requesting a written acknowledgement via e-mail.
13. If the Appellant does not attend, or is not represented at any adjourned Hearing, the Panel will consider the case in their absence. The Chair has the discretion to order a further Hearing date if there are compelling reasons for non-attendance by either party.

Conduct of an oral hearing.

14. The procedure for the Hearing shall be flexible and informal, and shall be at the discretion of the Chair, who may make such decisions as necessary to ensure the orderly and effective conduct of the Hearing and provide for any reasonable adjustments to allow the Hearing Parties and Witnesses to take part properly, subject to the overriding requirement of fairness. The Chair will outline the basic procedure of the Hearing at the start of the Hearing.
15. The Panel may proceed to hear the case in the absence of any of the parties and Witnesses if due notice has been provided.
16. The Hearing Parties may rely on written representations made prior to the Hearing and/or appearance in person. Documents will be deemed to be authentic unless advance notice has been served requiring for them to be proved at the Hearing.
17. Hearings will take place remotely using Teams or some other suitable IT platform unless otherwise directed. All remotely convened hearings shall be recorded for EH's records. It should be clearly understood that travel or other expenses or fees will not be paid to either Hearing Party, their Representatives

or Witnesses involved in the Hearing. This does not preclude the Panel from imposing Costs orders on either Hearing Party in respect of administrative costs.

18. The Hearing shall take place in private, with the Decision and any Sanction being treated as confidential by all parties until ten (10) days after that notification to allow the Hearing Parties to seek leave to submit an Appeal if they are eligible so to do.

19. The Panel shall decide any issue by a simple majority and no member of the Panel may abstain from voting.

20. The EHDL may record the EHAP proceedings. The proceedings may be audio or video recorded; the EHAP Chair will inform those involved in the Appeal Hearing about the recording at the start of the proceedings.

21. If the Panel feels it is necessary, bearing in mind all the circumstances surrounding the Hearing, the Panel may request EH to appoint an Independent Person (e.g. a respected senior official, lawyer or accountant) to act as adviser to the Panel. The cost of this may be taken into consideration in any award of Costs or be borne by EH.

APPENDIX 9 – APPEAL NOTICE

APPEAL NOTICE

To be sent to EHCD pursuant to Regulation 9.2

Appellant (name of Club and or team)	
Competition (if relevant)	
Name of Person submitting Appeal Notice	
Position with Club	
Email	
Phone Number	
Decision being Appealed	
Date of Notification of Decision	
Short reason for Appeal	

The club/team confirms that;

1. It wishes to Appeal the decision above and is doing so within 3 days of the date of notification of decision.
2. It agrees to pay the appeal fee of £100 within 7 days of the date of notification of decision.
3. It agrees to submit the full details of its appeal within 7 days of the date of notification of decision.
4. It understands it will forfeit the right to Appeal if it does not comply with 2. or 3.
5. It may withdraw its appeal prior to submission of the full details and the appeal fee will be returned.

Signed	
Print Name	
Position with Club	
Date	

APPENDIX 10 – NATIONAL GAME PANEL

Introduction

1. **Purpose.** The National Game Panel (NGP) is a committee of the Board of England Hockey (EH Board) with delegated authority to deal with the administration and operation of the national game.
2. **Scope.** The national game is defined as the England Hockey Leagues (both men and women) and the national domestic competitions directly organised and delivered by England Hockey. It also includes elements of officiating and national policy that will need to be considered in conjunction with the Areas Standing Committee such as rules or standard regulations changes.
3. **Effective from.** The NGP is effective from September 2023 and will assume the responsibilities as set in these Terms of Reference.

Aims and Responsibilities

4. **Aims.** The aims of the NGP are to bring together all those bodies responsible for delivering the national game to ensure that the rules and regulations of England Hockey (EH) are implemented and updated regularly, to provide insight and advice in order to address operational issues affecting the national game and to facilitate consistent implementation of EH Board strategic direction in operational delivery.
5. **Responsibilities.** Subject to Regulations made from time to time by the EH Board and any other reasonable requests by the EH Board, the responsibilities of the NGP include:
 - a. meet as required to consider those matters concerning the operational delivery and administration of the national game as directed by the members or by EH, reporting in writing the outcomes of such meetings to the EH Board, to the members through open and transparent reporting,
 - b. act as the body responsible for considering proposals for regulatory and policy amendments by member bodies and EH staff. Make recommendations to EH for the developing of rules and regulations that support the consistent delivery of the national game for approval by EH and communicate and implement any agreed changes.
 - c. support England Hockey Competitions Department (EHCD) in determining rulings relating to the national game.
 - d. engage with the Area Standing Committee (ASC) on those matters and considerations affecting the entirety of the domestic game,
 - e. promote, champion, and encourage Equality, Diversity and Inclusion across the sport.
 - f. other such activities as the EH Board may from time to time decide within the remit of the NGP.

Membership

6. **Membership.** The Membership of the NGP will be as follows:
 - a. The Chair of the Technical Appointing Panel ('TAP') or agreed alternate.
 - b. The Chair of the National Programme Umpiring Association ('NPUA') or agreed alternate.
 - c. A representative of the England Hockey Competitions Department ('EHCD');
 - d. Four Club Representatives from clubs who play in the England Hockey League ('EHL'), England Hockey Championships, England Hockey Masters' and/or Junior Championships.
 - e. EH Disciplinary Lead or agreed alternate.
 - f. A permanently appointed secretary from within EH staff.
7. The Executive Team of EH shall appoint a Chair for the NGP.
8. Four Club Representatives from those clubs performing within the EHL will be appointed by the EH Board annually at the end of the season following two existing Club Representatives stepping down via an application process as directed by the Chair of the NGP.

Meetings

9. **Frequency.** The NGP will meet twice a year, either virtually or in person as and when required.
10. **Agenda.** The agenda will be circulated to all members by the Secretary (as appointed by EH) following consultation from members on Agenda items circulated five days in advance.
11. **Minutes.** A synopsis of the minutes, noted by the Secretary, will be published on the EH website under the NGP once approved by the Chair as soon as reasonably practicable.
12. **Actions arising from minutes of any associated Committees or Functional Working Groups.** During the meeting, the NGP will consider the minutes of any associated committees or functional working groups and address any actions arising.

Revisions

The NGP can review and amend these Terms of Reference subject to the approval of the EH Board as and when is necessary and appropriate to do so.