

AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2024-2025

The Area Adult League Regulations 2024-2025 (Appendix A of the Area Regulations) come into effect for each Area Company when approved by the Area Standing Committee under regulation 1.8 of the Area Regulations.

Note: Separate regulations will be issued by England Hockey for the National League currently known as the England Hockey League which England Hockey administers.

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GLOSSARY

In these Regulations:

AAP: The Area Appeal Panel appointed pursuant to the Area Articles of Association and the Area Regulations.

ADA: The relevant Area Disciplinary Administrator.

ADP: The relevant Area Disciplinary Panel.

AL: The Area League. Divisions of the overall league pyramid administered by an Area.

ALC: The Area League Chair.

ALDS: Area League Divisional Secretary.

ALM: The Area League Manager who oversees the administration of all Divisions within an Area.

ALMC: The Area League Management Committee.

ALWG: The Area Leagues Working Group, with representatives from each Area League.

AMC: The Area Management Committee.

AOC: The relevant Area Officiating Committee (includes the Welsh Hockey Umpires Association unless otherwise stated).

Appellant: The party (usually a club) making an appeal against an ALMC decision.

Area Appointed Umpire: The Umpire or Official appointed to a match by the Area Officiating Committee.

Area: Unless the context requires otherwise, the Area Company that has adopted these Regulations and is one of the eight Area Companies (the Areas) that cooperate with the other seven Areas and England Hockey (EH) in the governance of hockey.

ASC: The Areas Standing Committee, where the 8 Area Companies meet nationally.

BUCS: British Universities & Colleges Sport.

Club: A member club that is participating in the League.

Club Appointed Umpire: The Umpire or Official appointed by a Club to a match, whether affiliated to that Club or temporarily on loan from another Club.

Development Teams: Teams that are given player selection flexibility to gain league experience, develop new, young, or returning players' abilities or confidence and encourage the participation of new teams.

Doubling Up: When a player participates in two Adult League fixtures for their Club on the same match day (including Area League and EHL fixtures), one of which is for their Regular Team.

Due Date: The date by which payment or response, as indicated in relevant communications or invoices, should be made.

EH: England Hockey, the National Governing Body for hockey in England.

EH Appeal Panel: The England Hockey Appeal Panel.

EHCD: The EH Competitions Department.

EH Disciplinary Regulations: The regulations that deal with on and off field misconduct in the game.

EH Disciplinary Body: Any group convened to hear and adjudicate on relevant matters under their jurisdiction (includes ADP, NDP, EH Disciplinary Panel, EH Appeal Panel).

FIH: The International Hockey Federation.

GMS: The online Game Management System designated for use by EH.

Grade: A number of Steps within a league pyramid that are banded together with the same requirements for participant eligibility, competition, and matchday administration. Note: Across parallel leagues, teams at the same Step in different Leagues can be at different Grades depending on the size of those Leagues.

League: The relevant Area League.

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Leagues: The collective term for the 8 Area Leagues and the National League.

Liaison Officer: The main contact at a club for the ALMC.

League Reserve Date (aka slip date): A date used for the playing of rearranged fixtures.

Matchweek: Covers matches taking place from Thursday to Wednesday, where every team plays once, if at all.

Match Official: Individual appointed to the role either by the Area or provided by a club, whose duties and responsibilities are detailed in Appendix 7 of these Regulations

NDP: The National Disciplinary Panel.

NL: The National League. Divisions of the overall league pyramid administered centrally by EHCD, also known as the England Hockey League.

NOC: No Objection Certificate, internationally recognised by the FIH, designed to support players playing abroad. When a player chooses to play league hockey outside of their home nation the player's home national hockey association issues the NOC to confirm that they consent to the player's participation.

PPM: Points Per Match, used to determine promotion or relegation issues. If teams have played an unequal number of matches, the average PPM will be used along with averages for other methods of determining positions (see Regulation 4).

Principles: Principles of Fair Selection.

Regular Team: The team in which a player is usually selected, as determined by their playing appearances' record.

Season: The period of time each year when Leagues matches are played, which for the purpose of these Regulations is 1st September to 30th April.

Step: The allocation of Divisions in a League pyramid structure. The highest Division is Step 1, the next highest is Step 2, etc. Multiple parallel Divisions can exist at any Step.

Team: Used to differentiate between a Club's different teams, either Men's or Women's.

Team Contact: The individual from a team within a club responsible for liaising with their ALDS and using the GMS.

These Regulations: The Area Adult League Regulations, with references to specific Regulations within these as required.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Purpose:** These regulations provide a structured, fair and consistent framework for the governance of England's hockey leagues. Adhering to these regulations ensures the integrity, standardisation and orderly conduct of competitions across all levels of play, promoting a fair and equitable competitive environment for all participants.
- 1.2 The league structure in England is organised into two primary groups:
- **National League:** Administered centrally by England Hockey and currently known as the "England Hockey League".
 - **Area Leagues:** Eight regional leagues, each administered by their respective Area Company.
- 1.3 **Titles and Sponsorship:** The official titles of the Leagues and Divisions are detailed in Appendix 1. All communications must refer to the Leagues and Divisions using these titles, including names of any Area or National sponsors.
- 1.4 **Compliance with Policies:** All England Hockey policies, rules and regulations, listed in Appendix 2, will apply to all matches within the Leagues.
- 1.5 **Standard Rules:** League matches will observe the Rules of Hockey as issued by the FIH.
- **Exceptions:** Any experimental rule changes approved by EH for use in competitions shall be observed. Specific exceptions to the Rules of Hockey, as relevant to League competitions, are detailed in Appendix 3.
- 1.6 **Grade-Specific Regulations:** The regulations governing Area adult hockey leagues are tailored to align with specific Grades. This alignment ensures that the application of these Regulations varies appropriately across different Grades, reflecting the standards and expectations at each level of play.

2 MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The Chair of the Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee will be elected at the Area AGM. Unless provided for in Regulations issued by the Board the Chair of the Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee shall be chair of the ALMC. The ALMC will form part of, or be a sub-committee of, the Area Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee.
- 2.2 As a Committee of the Area Company the Area Adult League will come under the full control of the Area Board of Directors. The League may hold other meetings for clubs as agreed with the Area Directors. The League budget and League entry fees will be set at the Area AGM by the membership and League accounts overseen by the Area Finance Director.
- 2.3 The ALMC will be appointed by the Area Directors proposed by the ALC to the Area Directors. The Area Directors will expect the ALMC to be diverse in composition and open to attracting new volunteers. Any club representative roles on the ALMC will be elected by the Area AGM.
- 2.4 The ALMC will usually comprise of, but not be limited to, the following roles:
- **Area League Manager** - To oversee the work of the Divisional secretaries, work closely with the Adult Leagues & Competitions Chair and liaise with the Officiating Area Administrator and Appointment lead.
 - **GMS Manager** - To manage the official information on the Game Management System (GMS) for the Adult Leagues & Competitions and support clubs using the GMS.
 - **PR Officer** - To promote the Area Adult Leagues & Competitions to the clubs and proactively raise the profile and share best practice of the League and all competitions.
 - **Club Representatives** - To represent the clubs at Area Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee, to give feedback on behalf of the clubs about what is working well and what could be improved for your clubs (these are optional roles)
 - **Area League Divisional Secretaries** - To manage Divisions proactively, be first point of the contact for teams in their responsible Divisions and check and challenge the clubs match information on the GMS.

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- o **Officiating Representative** – To provide link between Area Officiating Committee and Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee to ensure appropriate standards of performance in Area Appointed Officials is delivered and providing Officiating input where requested
- 2.5 The Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee shall allocate within its members such designated roles as it thinks fit to deliver the functions of the Committee and shall give such titles to the roles as necessary, having regard to any guidelines that may be issued from time to time in Regulations issued by the Board.
- 2.6 The Area Adult Leagues shall be managed in accordance with the Area Adult League Regulations issued from time to time by England Hockey. The Directors shall issue such Regulations as thought fit, or otherwise required by England Hockey, to ensure that the Area Adult Leagues are administered in a manner consistent with the Area Adult League Regulations and the ALMC applies such Regulations in such a way as is consistent with the application of the Regulations in equivalent Adult Leagues of other Area Companies.
- 2.7 League decisions may be reviewed by the Area Directors and any significant League issues should be reported to the Area Directors and the Area Management Committee. Appeals against League decisions should be made in accordance with the procedure set out in Regulation 16.
- 2.8 The ALMC will not adjudicate on decisions made by umpires and any appointed match officials in matches. Umpires will not adjudicate on League Regulations.
- 2.9 Any Team Contact requiring clarification on League Regulations should consult directly with the relevant ALM or ALDS.
- 2.10 Areas will be responsible for determining which Divisions within their League pyramid are at which Grade using the table below as guidance. The relevant requirements for participant eligibility, competition and matchday administration will be a determining factor in this. The ALWG will undertake an annual moderation process to endeavour to ensure that Grades are consistently applied across the Leagues.

Grade	Divisions Included In Each Grade
1	England Hockey Leagues (Premier Division, Division 1 North & South, 4 Conferences)
2	Area Premier Divisions and Any Divisions at the next Step
3	Area mid-level Divisions – Approximately the highest 50% of all Divisions below Grade 2 and above Grade 5.
4	Area lower divisions – Approximately the lowest 50% of all Divisions below Grade 2 and above Grade 5.
5	i. Area lowest divisions – The Division(s) at the lowest Step in any Area League pyramid (i.e., where there is no further Division which promotes teams to it); and ii. Any other Divisions, in addition to above, as designated by the ALMC

- 2.11 The ALWG will undertake an annual review of League Regulations at the end of each season and publish a new version by 31st July.

3 ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

3.1 Clubs

- 3.1.1 Each Area League is open to teams from clubs who are members of the Area, or from a neighbouring Area if agreed by the AMC and the ASC.

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- 3.1.2 Each club, by its entry into and participation in the League, and each player by registering to participate in the League, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by these Regulations, The EH Disciplinary Regulations, 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 the relevant ALMC or the ALWG in relation to these Regulations or any matter not covered in these Regulations and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.
- 3.1.3 A new club, or a club formed as a result of a merger between existing clubs, must advise the relevant ALM by 1st May.
- 3.1.4 For their teams to be eligible to participate in the League clubs must, by the Due Date, have:
- 3.1.4.1 Completed their membership to England Hockey (and where relevant Hockey Wales), including any payments.
 - 3.1.4.2 Paid League entry fees.
 - 3.1.4.3 Paid any fines or monies outstanding to England Hockey, Area and/or Sub-Area.
- 3.1.5 Each participating club must appoint a Liaison Officer for each gender of team participating in the League. (An individual may cover both roles). The Liaison Officer should be available to the ALMC, and other teams as required by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Liaison Officer must be advised to the ALM, via or for use in the GMS and by the date specified. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via, or for use in, the GMS.
- 3.1.6 By agreeing to be a Liaison Officer and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Liaison Officer consents to receiving information from the ALM and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the ALM and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.
- 3.1.7 Each participating club is expected to have a representative from their club at any meeting called by the ALMC. These will ordinarily be online but may be physical meetings. In addition, each club shall respond to requests for information by the ALM, ALDS or AOC by the Due Date.
- 3.1.8 Any club that wins a perpetual trophy must arrange for it to be returned at the club's cost to the ALMC by 1st February, unless otherwise agreed by the ALMC. Failure to do this will result in a fine of £150, ALMC 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.
- 3.2 **Team Entry**
- 3.2.1 A club must enter its teams into a League by the designated date set by the ALMC.
- 3.2.2 A club wishing to field a new team in or move an existing team into a neighbouring Area League for a subsequent season must advise both Areas of this by 1st March of the current season. The proposed new Area League will confirm acceptance or otherwise of a new team by 1st May.
- 3.2.3 A club wishing to enter new teams or withdraw teams from a League, in its home Area, must do so by 1st May. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the ALMC.
- 3.2.4 Teams from a new club formed as a result of a merger will be allocated the League positions of the previous clubs starting with the highest ranked downwards. If the merger results in fewer teams than spaces the ALMC, in consultation with the club, shall agree which positions will be filled by which teams.

- 3.2.5 If a club withdraws a team during the season, the team withdrawn must be its lowest ranked in the League unless otherwise agreed by the ALMC. The team will remain in the League table with all matches void and will occupy the lowest place. Teams withdrawn during the season would usually be placed in the bottom Division if allowed to re-join the League in the following season. If a higher team, any lower team(s) may not be eligible for promotion at the end of the season, at the discretion of the ALMC.
- 3.2.6 If a club wishes to withdraw a team between seasons, that team would normally be its lowest playing in the League; however, if the club wishes to withdraw a higher team the ALMC may agree if the change can be accommodated without significant adverse effects on other clubs, and if the request is made before 1st May.
- 3.2.7 A club may request that a team that would otherwise be promoted remains in the same Division (or at the same Step) the following season by 1st May. The ALMC reserves the right to accept or decline this and if the former to determine how the place will be filled.
- 3.2.8 Clubs may request that a team or teams be placed in a higher or lower Division than their existing or starting one. New teams will usually be placed in the lowest Division. Such a request must be made before 1st May. The ALMC reserves the right to determine if a new placing can be accommodated and at which Step without significant adverse effects on other clubs.
- 3.2.9 Clubs may request a team to be designated a development team, to be accepted at the discretion of the ALMC.
- 3.3 Team Administration
- 3.3.1 Each participating team must appoint a Team Contact who should be available to the ALMC, and other teams as required by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Team Contact and the e-mail address and telephone number(s) of a second contact must be advised to the ALM, via or for use in the GMS and by the date specified. An individual may be Team Contact for more than one team. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via or for use in the GMS.
- 3.3.2 By agreeing to be a Team Contact or second contact for a participating team, and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Team Contact and any other point of contact consents to receiving information from the ALM, ALDS and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the ALM, and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.

4 THE COMPETITION

4.1 Structure

- 4.1.1 Each Area League will be structured as determined by the AMC. Each Area League must have a Premier Division and then a pyramid structure beneath this. Wherever possible a ratio of lower Divisions feeding into one higher Division should be no more than 2:1. In exceptional circumstances this may vary (e.g., 3 Divisions into 1) with the agreement of the ALWG.
- 4.1.2 Any changes to an Area League pyramid will be agreed by the relevant AMC and at an Area AGM if deemed necessary by the AMC.
- 4.1.3 Divisions in Area Leagues will usually be made up of 12 teams. This may be varied by the ALMC, for example due to the geographic spread of teams at a specific Step or Steps, or where a team withdraws and is not replaced.
- 4.1.4 The formation of any parallel Divisions below the Area League Premier Division shall be decided annually by the ALMC. These are 'geographically balanced' Divisions and are Divisions at the same Step within a League that feed into a higher Step and where the teams are placed in the Divisions on the basis of geography.

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- 4.1.5 The ALMC shall decide which Divisions are at which Grade in line with Regulation 2.10.
- 4.1.6 Any significant changes to Area League pyramids or the Grades of Divisions will be reviewed and agreed annually at the ALWG.
- ### 4.2 Scoring Systems
- 4.2.1 Teams shall be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss.
- 4.2.2 In the event of teams being equal on points at the end of the season, places within a Division shall be determined by each of the following factors, in the order shown:
- 4.2.2.1 Highest goal difference;
 - 4.2.2.2 Highest number of goals scored;
 - 4.2.2.3 Highest number of matches won;
 - 4.2.2.4 Aggregate result of the matches between the teams concerned (and, if also equal, away goals taking precedence over home goals);
 - 4.2.2.5 If teams are still equal, they will share the position except when it determines a promotion, relegation, or play-off, in which case a further match between the teams involved will be arranged with match arrangements organised by the ALMC.
- ### 4.3 Walkovers
- 4.3.1 A team that fails to honour more than the number of matches during the season as detailed below maybe withdrawn from the League and all previous results will be void. The ALMC will consider the circumstances before implementing the sanction.
- o Grade 2 – 1
 - o Grade 3 – 3
 - o Grade 4 – 4
 - o Grade 5 – 4 but at discretion of the ALMC
- ### 4.4 Teams from the same club and Divisions
- 4.4.1 The maximum number of teams from the same club who may play in the same Division at any Grade is as follows:
- o Grade 2 – 2
 - o Grade 3 – 2
 - o Grade 4 – 3 unless exceptional circumstances as agreed by the ALMC
 - o Grade 5 – unlimited
- ### 4.5 Promotion & Relegation
- 4.5.1 Standard promotion and relegation are as shown but may be varied by Areas in line with Regulation 4.5.1.1 below.

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Scenario	Promotion & Relegation Criteria
1 higher Division (A) 1 lower Division (B)	Bottom two teams in A relegated Top two teams in B promoted
1 higher Division (A) 2 lower Divisions (B1 B2) (similar ratio for 2 higher/4 lower and 4 higher/8 lower)	Bottom two teams in A relegated Top team in both B1 and B2 promoted
1 higher Division (A) 3 lower Divisions (B1 B2 B3)	Bottom three teams in A relegated Top team in B1 B2 B3 promoted
2 higher Division (A1 A2) 3 lower Divisions (B1 B2 B3) (similar ratio for 4 higher/6 lower)	Bottom two teams in both A1 and A2 relegated Top team in each of B1, B2 and B3 promoted along with the 2nd placed team from B1, B2, B3 with the best playing record determined by PPM and then as per 4.1 above

4.5.1.1 Within Grade 2-5 Areas have the discretion to vary promotion and relegation as below. All participating teams to be notified prior to start of season of decision to vary.

Scenario	Promotion & Relegation Criteria
1 higher Division (A) 2 lower Divisions (B1 B2) (similar ratio for 2 higher/4 lower and 4 higher/8 lower)	Bottom three teams in A relegated Top team in both B1 and B2 promoted along with the 2nd placed team from B1 and B2 with the best playing record determined by PPM and then as per 4.1 above
2 higher Division (A1 A2) 3 lower Divisions (B1 B2 B3) (similar ratio for 4 higher/6 lower)	Bottom three teams in both A1 and A2 relegated Top two teams in each of B1, B2 and B3 promoted. OR Bottom team in both A1 and A2 relegated along with the 2nd bottom team from A1, A2 with the worst playing record determined by PPM Top team in each of B1, B2 and B3 promoted

4.5.2 Where two or more teams from the same Area are relegated from the NL to AL, an additional team(s) will be relegated from the Area Premier Division to the next Step. This will be the lowest placed team(s) in a Division who otherwise would not be automatically relegated.

4.5.3 Where no team is relegated from NL to AL an additional team will be rerieved relegation from the Area Premier Division to the next Step. This will be the highest placed team in a Division who otherwise would be automatically relegated.

4.5.4 The processes shown in 4.5.2 and 4.5.3 will be used at any subsequent Steps. If this is at a Step with parallel Divisions any additional relegations required will be determined by the respective PPM of teams who occupy the relevant position(s) in the Divisions. Areas may use this process where relegation is to a lower Step that is geographically divided.

4.5.5 To avoid the impact of additional relegations the ALMC may, at its discretion, determine to increase the size of a Division(s) for the following season and revise promotion and relegation arrangements for the subsequent season to rebalance the Divisions.

4.5.6 If the relegation of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a division (see Regulation 4.4), the team with the lowest ranking from the club in the lower Division will be relegated irrespective of finishing position.

4.5.7 If the promotion of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a Division, the promotion will not go ahead.

- 4.5.8 Any additional places will be filled in the following order:
- 4.5.8.1 The ALMC, at their discretion, placing a team in a Division outside of usual promotion/relegation to reflect their playing standard (see Regulation 3.2.8);
 - 4.5.8.2 A team(s) who would otherwise be additionally relegated from the relevant Division due to the impact of additional relegation, in line with Regulation 4.5.2;
 - 4.5.8.3 The highest placed team in the relevant Division who would otherwise have been relegated;
 - 4.5.8.4 The next highest placed team, below the team that cannot be promoted, in the relevant Division;
 - 4.5.8.5 At the discretion of the ALMC.

5 FIXTURES

5.1 Fixture Scheduling

- 5.1.1 The ALMC will issue fixtures with their scheduled dates
- 5.1.2 Both Clubs may agree to move a fixture to within 5 days (Sunday to Thursday) after or any time before the scheduled date. This is subject to the approval of the ALMC. Clubs are to note the guidance issued by England Hockey on Faith and Fixtures when considering requests for rescheduling a fixture.
- 5.1.3 Matches taking place from Thursday to Wednesday are considered as being in the same Matchweek.
- 5.1.4 At Grade 3 and below clubs may request to reschedule fixtures that involve University Clubs playing outside of university term times. Such requests must be received by the ALMC by 8th September and are subject to ALMC approval. The ALMC will determine when rescheduled fixtures shall be played but must be agreed to comply with Regulation 5.2.1.

5.2 Fixture Management

- 5.2.1 Each team shall provide, using the GMS and by the date requested, the proposed time and venue for each of its home matches as below. This is subject to any variation for a later deadline at the discretion of the ALMC.
 - o Grade 2-5 – All fixtures for matches pre-Christmas by 8th September. All fixtures for matches post-Christmas by 1st December. The ALMC may allow for shorter notice periods in Grade 3, 4 and 5 at their discretion with the agreement of clubs.
- 5.2.2 ANY change to this information must be notified to the ALM or ALDS as directed and to the Team Contact of the opposing team, as soon as GMS is changed, but a minimum number of days prior to the match:
 - o Grade 2-5 – 10 days prior
- 5.2.3 Any changes within these number of days is by exception only and must be notified to the ALM or ALDS and agreed by both teams and umpires. In this event any changes must be communicated to opponents and match officials AND confirmed back by email or message no later than 2000 hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match.
- 5.2.4 The League reserves the right to decline any change if it represents a significant or unnecessary variation from previously notified details and the opposition do not agree.

6 MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Pitches & Facilities

- 6.1.1 All League matches must be played on artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey. The ALMC, in consultation with England Hockey, reserve the right to not allow a specific pitch to be used for League matches if it deems it unsuitable.

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- 6.1.2 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.englishockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>
- 6.1.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that pitch facilities, including markings, goals and goal nets are satisfactory and that all other requirements in this Regulation are met prior to a match.
- 6.1.4 If the pitch is deemed unsuitable by the umpires, they may, with the agreement of Team Captains, direct that the match be postponed. The ALMC reserves the right to determine the suitability of facilities in line with the Planning Safe Hockey guidance.
- 6.1.5 Home League 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, for the use of players and team officials only. 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. At Grade 4 & 5 this may be varied with discretion for other persons to be within, or participants to leave the area if agreed by opposition and umpires.
- o Grade 2 – Chairs or benches for both teams and umpires (Subject to dispensation from the ALMC in exceptional circumstances)
 - o Grade 3 – Designated bench area
 - o Grade 4 – Designated bench area
 - o Grade 5 – Designated bench area

6.2 Pitch Bookings

- 6.2.1 Pitch bookings must be of a minimum duration:
Grade 2 and below – 1 hour 30 minutes
- 6.2.2 For any match teams may agree to a shorter window than that shown as long as this does not impact the match being completed.

6.3 Start times and floodlights

- 6.3.1 Match start times shall be between the following times:

Grade	Earliest Start	Latest Start	Latest Start Under Lights
1	11:30	15:00	16:30
2	11:30	15:00	16:30
3	10:00	15:00	17:30
4	10:00	15:00	17:30
5	10:00	15:00	17:30

- 6.3.2 Matches may be played earlier or later than the times shown if both teams, the ALDS, and any Area Appointing Umpire to the match, agree.
- 6.3.3 Consideration should be given to opposition travel when scheduling fixtures and the ALDS has the right to request that a home team changes its proposed fixture times.
- 6.3.4 If a team venue has suitable floodlights the start time may be later (as shown above under “Latest Start Under Lights”).
See: <https://www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>

6.4 Starting the Match

- 6.4.1 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

6.4.2 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.

6.5 Changing Facilities

6.5.1 Home teams must provide the following. Home teams must always ensure they have no advantage over away teams in terms of room access and times.

- o Grade 2 – Shared for teams and for Area Appointed Umpires at pitch venue*
- o Grade 3 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off-site
- o Grade 4 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off-site
- o Grade 5 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off-site

(*Subject to dispensation from ALMC in exceptional circumstances)

6.6 Hospitality

6.6.1 Clubs should seek the ALMC approval if they will not be providing Hospitality, with justification. If approved, and a Home team will not be providing hospitality, they should inform all of their opposition teams before their first game. Away teams may reciprocate or not.

6.6.2 Requirement for home teams:

Grade 2-5 – Post-match hospitality to be made available to visiting teams and Area Appointed Umpires.

6.6.3 Away team and umpires 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 that they do not require hospitality after this time or if it is not taken on the day.

7 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - REGISTRATION

7.1 General Eligibility

7.1.1 **Club Registration:** To be eligible to play in the League, a player must be registered with their Club in the GMS to play Area Adult League hockey.

7.1.1.1 **New Players:** Players who have not played for another club in a League match in England must create a new GMS record and affiliate with their new club.

7.1.1.2 **Existing Players:** Players with a previous League hockey record must use their existing GMS record, unless:

- (i) Before playing in their first fixture the ALMC permits a different registration to be used by the player.
- (ii) The player turns 18 and creates a new GMS record, merging their old junior record (registered to a parent/guardian) with GMS Support. Any player creating a new record must first apply for membership of the Club they last played outdoor league hockey for before transferring to a new Club.

7.1.2 **Participation in Other Competitions:** After playing their first match in any one season, a player must not play for another Club in competitions outside of England and Wales.

7.1.3 **Multiple Registrations:** Players may be registered with multiple Clubs for different competitions (e.g., Area League, EH Indoor, Age Competitions) and must comply with all relevant eligibility regulations for each different competition.

7.2 Age Requirements

7.2.1 **Development Team Matches:** For Grade 5 Development Team matches only, where agreed by the ALMC, players aged 12 or above may participate with parental/guardian consent, provided the Club ensures the player's physical development and confidence are suited for safe participation.

7.2.2 **General Matches:** For all other matches, players must be aged 13 or above on the day of the match.

7.3 Gender

7.3.1 **Gender Competitions:** Players shall play in the relevant competition as determined by England Hockey policies.

7.4 Players Living Partially Away From Home

7.4.1 **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 League Areas and the principles of Fair Selection are followed to reflect player ability.

7.5 No Objection Certificate (NOC)

7.5.1 **International Players:** Players who have played senior or junior (U21) international hockey in the past three seasons, whose Home National Association is not EH, Scottish Hockey or Welsh Hockey, must hold a current No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from their Home National Association to be eligible to participate in League hockey.

- Evidence of the NOC must be provided to the relevant ALMC.

7.6 Registration Deadlines

7.6.1 **Weekly Deadlines:** A player's registration must be completed prior to the match before they are eligible to play.

7.6.2 **Final Registration Date:**

- A new player (players who have not played for another club in a League match) must register by 1st February.
- Players may apply to the ALMC for late registration. The ALMC has discretion to approve or deny late registrations.

7.7 Transfers Between Clubs

7.7.1 **Transfer Requests:** To transfer from one Club to another a player must use GMS to make the transfer request.

- Both the Clubs involved in the transfer must approve the request online.
- If either Clubs does not approve the request, the ALMC should be approached for decision if not approved 10 days after the request is raised.
- A Club may refuse a request if there is a valid reason (financial or otherwise) to do so. (e.g. return of kit, equipment, electronic info, access to info).
- The ALMC may arbitrate if refusal is unreasonable.

7.7.2 **Transfer Deadline:** A player may transfer between Clubs participating in the Leagues only once during the period from the start of the season to 1st February.

- Players may apply to the ALMC for late or additional transfers. The ALMC has discretion to approve or deny such transfers.

7.8 Unassigned Players Moving Between Countries

7.8.1 **Moving Outside GMS:** Players moving to a Club outside of GMS (i.e., outside England and Wales) must request to become unassigned via GMS.

- The existing Club must approve the move.
- An unassigned player can play in another country.
- An unassigned player returning to England and Wales must have both their previous and new Club approve the move via GMS.

8 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - FAIR SELECTION

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 **Objective:** The goal of Fair Selection is to establish a comprehensive framework for player eligibility and fair team selection and equal opportunities.
- 8.1.2 **Scope:** These Fair Selection regulations apply to players in Adult Leagues only and excludes Masters and Junior Hockey. Only the current season is relevant for player eligibility.
- 8.1.3 **Club Responsibility:** Clubs have flexibility to select players hierarchically by availability but must not select players below their regular team to strengthen lower ranked teams. This requirement to select in hierarchical order still applied when a Club has multiple teams in same Division.
- 8.1.4 **Authority:** The ALMC can determine at any time whether or not a Club is in breach of the Aims of Fair Selection.
- 8.1.5 **Data Platform:** GMS serves as a data source to aid the ALMC in evaluating compliance with Fair Selection.

8.2 Movement Of Players

- 8.2.1 **Selection for Higher-Ranked Teams:** Players can be selected for a higher-ranked other than their Regular team without restriction.
- 8.2.2 **Selection for Lower-Ranked Teams:**
- 8.2.2.1 Restrictions apply to selecting players for lower-ranked teams other than their Regular Team to prevent strengthening those teams.
- 8.2.2.2 Clubs must not “drop” players to strengthen a lower-ranked team for a critical or important match by providing them with players who normally complete at a higher level.
- 8.2.2.3 In this context, to “drop” a player refers to the act of temporarily transferring or reassigning a player from a higher-ranked team to a lower-ranked team, typically for a specific match.
- 8.2.3 **Eligibility Summary:** Table below summarises weekly player eligibility guidelines.

Grade	Movement of a player	
	Up	Down
1	Unrestricted	Maximum 1 team
2		
3		Maximum 2 teams
4		
5		

- 8.2.4 **Matchweek when a Higher-Ranked Team has no Fixture:** In Matchweeks when a team has a League fixture but higher-ranked teams in their Club do not:
- 8.2.4.1 The team can only select players who have played at least 50% of their matches for that or a lower-ranked team.
- 8.2.4.2 Regulation 8.2.3 does not apply in such Matchweeks. A Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) must be granted in advance for a player to be selected from a higher-ranked team that does not have a fixture scheduled – refer to Regulation 8.5.

- 8.2.5 **Matchweeks when a Team has more than one Fixture:** In a Matchweek where a team has more than one fixture i.e. a team has both a League fixture and a rearranged fixture, e.g. on Saturday and Sunday for example:
- 8.2.5.1 For the rearranged match the team can only selected players who have played at least 50% of their matches for that or a lower-ranked team.
- 8.2.5.2 Regulation 8.2.3 does not apply in such a Matchweek. A Selection Exemption Pass must be approved in advance for a player to be selected from higher-ranked team.
- 8.2.6 **Final Four matches:**
- 8.2.6.1 During a team's last four League matches all players must have played a minimum of 50% of their matches for that team, or a lower-ranked team, unless with an approved SXP.
- 8.2.6.2 SXP is required for any exception – refer to Regulation 8.5.
- 8.3 **Doubling Up**
- 8.3.1 **Definition:** Doubling up refers to a player participating in two Adult League fixtures within the same Matchweek (including EHL & Area League fixtures), one of which is for their Regular team. This includes when one fixture is scheduled on Saturday and another on the Sunday, for example, which might be due to the rearrangement of a postponed or abandoned game.
- 8.3.2 **Conditions For Doubling Up:**
- o Permitted at Grades 4 and 5 only to ensure that matches take place.
 - o Permitted only as a last resort to cover player shortage.
 - o Generally allowed for lowest or second-lowest ranked teams only and no more than two teams apart in the Club's hierarchy of teams.
 - o Maximum of 12 players for the lower-ranked team for whom players are doubling up.
 - o Maximum of three players can double up, including goalkeeper.
 - o Excludes designated Development Teams.
- 8.4 **Player Eligibility For Doubling Up**
- 8.4.1 **Outfield Players:**
- 8.4.1.1 No doubling up permitted by players from higher-ranked teams that played for a higher-ranked team on the previous match day.
- 8.4.1.2 No Club-wide restriction on the total number of players doubling up, provided that one match is for each player's Regular team.
- 8.4.2 **Goalkeepers (GK):**
- 8.4.2.1 GK doubling up as a GK is limited to lower teams within two ranks of their Regular Team.
- 8.4.2.2 A GK, who's regular team is Grade 3, can double up for a Grade 4 or 5 team with ALMC approval, i.e. approved SXP is required.
- 8.4.2.3 May play once as GK, i.e. for the whole game in full GK kit, and once as an outfield player on the same match day.
- 8.4.3 **Specific GK Rules:**
- 8.4.3.1 If the GK is doubling up as a GK in the lower-ranked team: No overall player limit for the lower team unless other outfield players also double up.
- 8.4.3.2 If the GK is doubling up as an outfield player in the lower-ranked team, that team cannot have more than 12 players selected for the match, refer to Regulation 8.3.2.
- 8.4.3.3 In exceptional circumstances, such as a late injury to the GK selected, a GK can double up as a GK for a higher within two ranks of their Regular Team **without a pre-approved SXP**. However, it is expected that Clubs will have the appropriate number of GKs to fulfil their fixtures without the need for GKs to double up.

8.4.4 **Doubling Up Summary:** The eligibility of players doubling up is summarised in the table below for illustrative purposes.

Grade of Player's Regular Team's Fixture	Grade of Player's Other Fixture				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
2	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless SXP approved*
3	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal* Refer to 8.4.2	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal* Refer to 8.4.2
4	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal. Refer to 8.4.2	Maximum 3 players per team	Maximum 3 players per team
5	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal. Refer to 8.4.2	Maximum 3 players per team	Maximum 3 players per team

* in exceptional circumstances

8.4.4.1 The general conditions, without an SXP, for fixtures played at each Grade are:

- o Grade 1 – no doubling up permitted.
- o Grade 2 – no doubling up permitted.
- o Grade 3 – no doubling up permitted except GK playing in goal
- o Grade 4 – doubling up permitted, maximum of 3 players
- o Grade 5 – doubling up permitted, maximum of 3 players

8.4.4.2 If a Club believes that a particular doubling up scenario is justified, a Selection Exemption Pass can be requested in advance. Refer to Regulation 8.2 above to ensure that any such request is reasonable and conforms with the stated conditions.

8.5 Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)

8.5.1 Clubs may request an SXP for player exemption, which, if approved by the ALMC, will exempt that player for a designated period. Such requests require a clear and detailed explanation of the circumstances.

8.5.2 SXP requests are limited to genuine circumstances, such as those provided as examples in Appendix 4.

8.5.3 The ALMC reviews and approves SXPs based on fairness and necessity.

8.5.4 The ALMC may set a weekly deadline before which SXP requests must be received from Clubs to be considered. Such a deadline will be communicated to Clubs by the ALMC before the start of the season.

9 TEAMS, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

9.1 Match Sheets

All match sheets and results will be managed using the GMS.

9.2 Players

A player whose name appears on the match sheet showing those players eligible to play in a match will be deemed to have played in that match.

9.3 Team Officials

All Grades - Each team may have 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.

9.4 Deadline For Submission Of Information

9.4.1 All players with correct shirt numbers and any team officials participating in a match must be uploaded onto the team sheet before the match. The ALMC/ALDS has discretion to apply flexibility for this at Grades 4 & 5.

9.4.2 Both captains & both umpires must be able to view both team sheets before the match starts.

9.4.3 The home team and away team must both confirm the score (or if the match is Postponed or Abandoned inform ALDS, for GMS to be updated) as soon as possible but no later than as below:

- Grade 2-5 – 2000 hrs on the day of the match

9.4.4 Both teams must confirm full details of goals, cards, with estimated times if exact times not recorded during the game.

- Grade 2-3 - 2000 hrs on the day of the match – Goal scorers, Green, Yellow & Red Cards

- Grade 4-5 - 2000 hrs on the day after the match – Goal scorers, Green, Yellow & Red Cards

9.4.5 Injuries should be reported after review of EH Injury reporting guidelines:

<https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/governance/safeguarding/injury-reporting>

10 DRESS

10.1 Standard kit regulations should be the aspiration at all Grades. It is accepted however that at some Grades these may not be achievable, and variance is accepted in line with Regulation 15.

10.2 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.

10.2.1 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)

10.2.2 If there is a colour clash between teams' shirts and/or socks, the away team must wear an alternative colour that distinguishes them from their opponents.

10.3 Clubs must have different colours for Home and Away games. Therefore, away team should carry a change of kit in the event of a clash.

10.4 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)

10.5 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.

- 10.6 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.
- 10.7 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:
- o be attached to the playing shirt
 - o have any protruding items from the surface
 - o have any metal fastenings or pins
 - o cause a danger to the player, or other players
 - o have the potential to be inadvertently pulled or unravelled

11 UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

- 11.1 The responsibility of appointing competent umpires to matches falls to the Area Officiating Committee, Welsh Hockey Umpires Association or Club as appropriate.
- 11.1.1 If a fixture has Area Appointed umpires, the Club must confirm venue, start time and any other match related information, at least 3 days before the Fixture.
- 11.1.2 Where Clubs are responsible for appointing to a match, the home club must appoint both umpires, except in the cases below:
- 11.1.2.1 Where a Club believes it will not be able to provide two umpires, it MUST contact its opposition to inform them of the fact and ask them to provide one umpire at each meeting between the teams. This must be done at least 14 days before the FIRST fixture between the teams;
- 11.1.2.2 The away club has contacted the home club to say it intends to appoint an umpire for the match. This umpire must be confirmed as being qualified to the Level of Accreditation required by table 11.4. This must be done at least 5 days before the match. The home club is not allowed to decline. The away team is then responsible for appointing an umpire, unless and until both teams agree otherwise.
- 11.2 Both umpires must be recorded on the GMS team sheet, Areas may require clubs to appoint a Match Official to matches at Grade 2, or the appointing bodies above may appoint a Match Official. The duties and responsibilities in relation to these Regulations are shown in Appendix 7.
- 11.3 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, using this link: <https://secure.whotheumpire.com/signup.php/>
- 11.4 The table below outlines the requirements for umpires at each Grade of competition. If an umpire has no formal accreditation a definition of competence for Grade 5 matches can be found in Regulation 11.10.

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	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Level of accreditation required	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed
Acceptable minimum accreditation (where agreed by the ALMC)	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed	Level 1 Unassessed	No formal accreditation required
Who conducts appointments	NPUA	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Clubs	Clubs
Can umpires be switched at half time?	No	No	No	No (unless agreed by the ALMC & the opposition captain)	Yes

- 11.5 If at any match an appointed umpire is unable to officiate, whether through non-availability, non-appearance of an independently appointed Umpire or injured during a match, every effort must be made by both clubs to provide an umpire accredited to the above acceptable level of accreditation as minimum for the relevant grade of competition.
- 11.6 Clubs must endeavour to use a club umpire before the use of players involved in the match, but in the absence of one or both club umpires, the club that has not provided an umpire in accordance with its obligations shall withdraw one player from their side and that player shall act as umpire. If there are not two club umpires available to officiate, then the match may only be played as a League match if both Team Captains so agree.
- 11.7 If – under Regulations 11.5 or 11.6 - an umpire is found (either club umpire or player) but is not accredited to the required standard, if both captains agree the match can still be played as a league match
- NOTE: Wherever reasonably possible the emphasis should be on reaching agreement and playing the match.**
- 11.8 In the event that no suitable umpire is found, or captains do not agree:
- 11.8.1 If the original umpire was appointed by the Area Officiating Committee or if an umpire injured during the match – then the match must be postponed and replayed in line with League Regulations. No penalty awarded in this circumstance.
- 11.8.2 If an umpire is found but is not accredited to the required level and both captains do not agree, then the League fixture must be postponed and played in line with League Regulations.
- 11.8.3 In all circumstances, even when an agreed umpire is found, where the original umpire should have been supplied by one or other of the teams then the appropriate penalty may be applied to the team who failed to supply an umpire of the appropriate level.
- 11.9 There can be no appeal or complaint against any decision (or non-decision) of an umpire on the field of play during a match.

- 11.10 To be deemed a competent umpire for Grade 5 competition, the umpire will need to demonstrate (through their performance) the following competencies:
- Understanding of the rules having completed The Online Rules Test
 - The ability to keep the match safe
 - To make decisions fairly, with a sense of justice and integrity
 - To umpire the match with their colleague cooperatively, for the benefit of the players.
 - To allow the match to flow for the benefit of the player experience.
- 11.11 Any issues regarding umpire conduct by either Area Appointed Umpire or Club Appointed Umpire shall be dealt with by the appointing body or via the EH Disciplinary Regulations as appropriate, and not the ALMC.
- 11.12 All clubs MUST complete an Umpire's report for Area Appointed Umpires by 2000 hrs the Wednesday after the match.

12 DISCIPLINE

12.1 Conduct

12.1.1 **Scope:**

12.1.1.1 This Regulation shall apply to all participants, including players, team officials and spectators, in all levels of competitions.

12.1.1.2 This regulation extends to behaviour toward League officials.

12.1.2 **Conduct Violations:**

Serious disorderly, abusive, offensive, or improper behaviour may include, but is not limited to, physical or verbal altercations, discriminatory language or actions, threatening or intimidating behaviour, and actions that bring the game into disrepute.

12.1.3 **Club Responsibilities:**

12.1.3.1 Clubs are responsible for regulating the behaviour of their players, officials, members and spectators, in compliance with the EH Code of Conduct.

12.1.3.2 By participating in the League, clubs confirm they have established a comprehensive internal disciplinary procedure. This procedure must address:

- Serious disorderly, abusive, offensive or improper behaviour by any individual associated with the club;
- Behaviour before, during and after any League match;
- Conduct in person or on social media.

12.1.3.3 Clubs must document and communicate their internal procedures to ensure consistency and transparency.

12.1.3.4 Clubs are encouraged to implement educational or preventive measures to promote good conduct, sportsmanship and respect among their participants and spectators.

12.2 Yellow/Red Cards

12.2.1 **Player Responsibilities and Club Accountability:**

12.2.1.1 Players will face incremental match suspensions for yellow cards accrued during the season in League matches. Yellow cards must be recorded in GMS to ensure accuracy.

12.2.1.2 Clubs are responsible for applying suspensions.

12.2.2 Suspension Thresholds:

12.2.2.1 Players shall be subject to match suspensions for yellow cards accumulated throughout the season in League matches. The following suspensions apply to individuals:

- Four yellow cards in a season = 1 match suspension;
- Two additional yellow cards in the same season (i.e., six in total) = 1 further match suspension;
- Each additional yellow card thereafter in the same season = 1 further match suspension.

12.2.3 Application of Suspensions:

12.2.3.1 The Club of any player due to receive a suspension must contact the relevant ALDS immediately.

12.2.3.2 Clubs must ensure timely communication with the ALMC regarding any suspensions.

12.2.3.3 The suspension is to be applied for all League games, starting from the date of the next match of the player's Regular Team, unless determined otherwise by the ALMC.

12.2.3.4 If that match is postponed, the ALDS will confirm the suspension date.

12.2.4 Red Cards:

12.2.4.1 If a player receives a red card, any yellow card(s) issued to the same player in the same match must still be recorded in GMS.

12.2.4.2 If the red card

(i) consisted of two separate, but the same, minor offences (as defined under the EH Disciplinary Regulations) for which a yellow card was awarded for the first offence, and

(ii) has no further period of suspension under the EH Disciplinary Regulations, it shall be counted as both a second yellow card and a red card, for the purposes of accumulation and suspension, all of which should be recorded as above.

12.2.5 Bench Yellow Cards:

12.2.5.1 If a player or team official from the bench receives a yellow card, a player must be removed from play for the duration of the suspension, and it must be the captain if they are on the field at the time.

12.2.5.2 For the purposes of card accumulation and suspensions the yellow card is recorded against the player or team official who received it, not the player who served the suspension.

12.2.6 Bench Red Cards:

12.2.6.1 If a player or team official from the bench receives a red card, the team must withdraw a player from the field for the remainder of the match.

12.2.6.2 The withdrawn player may continue to be substituted on and off the pitch during the suspension, but the team must play with one fewer player.

12.2.6.3 For the purposes of card accumulation and suspensions the red card is recorded against the player who received it, not the player serving the suspension.

12.2.7 Carryover of Suspensions: Suspensions for yellow cards under this regulation do not carry over from one season to the next.

12.2.8 Ineligible Players: Failure to suspend a player under this regulation will be treated as playing an ineligible player.

13 POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

13.1 Priority

Matches may only be postponed for pitch conditions, weather, travel issues, or if a team is playing a higher priority fixture.

13.2 General Postponement and Abandonment Rules

13.2.1 Decision Making Authority:

- Immediately before or during a match, an accredited assessed umpire has the authority to decide on postponement or abandonment due to safety concerns.
- If unassessed umpires are officiating, team captains will make the decision; if one captain deems the pitch unsafe, the match must be postponed.
- The ALMC can apply sanctions if an inappropriate decision is made.
- The safety of players must be the key factor in the decision being made to postpone or abandon the match.

13.2.2 Reporting to ALDS:

- The relevant ALDS should be informed of the postponement or abandonment so that they can update GMS.

13.2.3 Post-Abandonment Procedure:

- In the event of a match having to be abandoned the ALDS will decide the appropriate action after receiving reports from umpires and teams. This may include rescheduling the fixture.

13.3 Rearrangement Procedures

13.3.1 Setting A New Date:

13.3.1.1 A new date for postponed or abandoned matches must be agreed within 7 days, using a League Reserve date if possible

13.3.1.2 Matches must be replayed within:

- Grade 2: 15 days
- Grades 3-5: 29 days

13.3.2 Agreement and Discretion:

13.3.2.1 Both teams and the ALMC must agree to a postponement, unless due to weather.

13.3.2.2 If teams disagree the ALMC will decide

13.3.2.3 If teams cannot agree on a date, the ALMC will set a reasonable date. Failure to play on this date is treated as a failure to honour the fixture.

13.4 Procedure for Weather and Travel Issues

13.4.1 Home Team Responsibility: The home team must

- Confirm the latest acceptable notification time for cancellation with the visiting team.
- Inspect the pitch before the visiting team's departure time, using a realistic view and the Met Office as a reference.
- Notify the visiting team, umpires, match officials and ALDS immediately if the pitch is unfit.

13.4.2 **Away Team Inspection:** The away team has the right to inspect the ground at their own cost before a postponement decision is reached.

13.4.3 **On-the-Day Decision:** Once the teams and umpires have arrived, Regulation 13.2 applies.

13.4.4 Reporting and Consequences:

- If the procedures are not followed and the pitch is found unfit upon arrival, umpires and teams must submit a report for ALMC review.
- Matches should be rearranged in accordance with Regulations 13.3.1 and 13.3.2.

- 13.4.5 **Travel Issues:** The away team must
- o Check the Met Office, Highways England and/or Highways Wales for travel conditions 24-48 hours in advance.
 - o Postpone the match if travel is not advised, notifying the home team and ALDS.
- 13.4.6 **Timely Notifications:** Matches should be postponed in sufficient time to avoid unnecessary travel expenses.

14 FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE OR FORFEITURE OF A MATCH

- 14.1 If a team fails to honour a fixture, or forfeits a match, it shall be penalised, under this Regulation, using the penalties in Appendix 5 and Regulation 4.3. This is subject to any remission or further penalty, for example points deduction, revision of score or fine, requirement that the fixture be played, that the ALMC may impose in line with Breach of Regulations & Penalties.
- 14.1.1 A team that fails to play due to shortage of players is deemed to have failed to honour the fixture and penalties applied, subject to review by the ALMC.
- 14.1.2 Failure to Honour a fixture 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, a team cannot walk off the pitch.

15 BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

- 15.1 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 detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by any EH Disciplinary Body.
- 15.2 For breaches of any or all of these Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Conduct, the ALMC shall apply the standard tariff of penalties set out in Appendix 5 save that, in exceptional circumstances or when there is no standard tariff provided for, the ALMC may impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, the deduction of points, 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.
- 15.3 When imposing any penalty, the ALMC 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.

16 APPEAL PROCEDURE

- 16.1 There can be no appeal against the decision of an umpire or appointed Match Official.
- 16.2 Clubs and teams have the right to appeal against a decision of the ALMC as set out in this Regulation.
- 16.2.1 The Appeal to the AAP must be commenced by an Appeal Notice (Appendix 6) marked for the attention of the AAP sent to and received by the ALMC not later than 5 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against. The full Appeal, including copies of all documents and the written statements of any witnesses upon which the Appellant intends to rely in the Appeal, must be sent to and received by the Appeal Panel not later than 14 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against.
- 16.2.2 The Appeal Notice should be sent by email to the ALMC. A deposit of £100 must be sent within 7 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against. This will be returned, all or in part, if the Appeal is successful. As soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the AAP shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal.

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- 16.2.3 The Chair of the AAP may, upon the application in writing made by or on behalf of the Appellant, stay, suspend, or vary any penalty that is the subject of an Appeal pending determination of the Appeal, and, in exceptional circumstances, may extend the time for appealing upon such terms, if any, as the Chair may think fit. The decision of the Chair shall be final.
- 16.2.4 Save where the Chair of the AAP directs otherwise, all Appeals will be dealt with in writing by email unless the Appellant requests an oral hearing, in which case the Chair of the AAP may direct an oral hearing.
- 16.2.5 The parties to the Appeal are the Appellant and the ALMC, to be represented by a member of the ALMC appointed for the purpose by the ALMC.
- 16.2.6 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.
- 16.2.7 As soon as reasonably practical after the receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the AAP shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal, which may include inviting or permitting any club that may be affected by the Appeal to submit written evidence and/or submissions in support or against the Appellant.
- 16.3 Every Appeal will be limited to a review of the decision of the ALMC unless the AAP considers that in the circumstances of the individual Appeal it would be in the interests of justice to treat the Appeal as a re-hearing of the matter (whether or not an oral hearing has been directed, and whether or not there is additional evidence available to the AAP than was before the ALMC).
- 16.4 The AAP will allow an Appeal where the decision of the ALMC was (a) wrong; or (b) unjust because of a serious procedural or other irregularity in the procedure followed by the ALMC in reaching the decision.
- 16.5 If an Appeal is not allowed in full, the AAP may impose any sanction that the ALMC could have imposed.
- 16.6 Where there has been an oral hearing of an Appeal the decision of the AAP may include a direction that the Appellant shall pay all or part of the costs of the Appeal to be summarily assessed by the AAP.
- 16.6.1 The decision of the Appeal shall be notified in writing to the parties to the Appeal within 48 hours of the decision. Succinct reasons for the decision shall be sent to the parties to the Appeal and the EHCD within 7 days of the decision. The Chair of the AAP may extend the timetable in this paragraph.
- 16.7 Save as provided for under Regulation 16.8, the decision of the AAP shall be final.
- 16.8 Following a decision of the AAP, either the Appellant or the EHCD may request permission for a Further Appeal to be heard by the EH Appeal Panel. The EHCD may request a Further Appeal notwithstanding that the AAP may have dismissed the particular Appeal in whole or in part.
- 16.8.1 Permission for a Further Appeal shall only be granted if, in the view of the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel, there was a serious procedural or other irregularity in the procedure followed by the ALMC and/or the AAP in reaching the decision; and/or
- 16.8.2 A request for permission for a Further Appeal must be made within 14 days of the reasons for the decision of the AAP being sent pursuant to Regulation 16.6.1. Payment of a deposit of £100 to EH from any Appellant is required within the same period. This will be returned, all or in part, if the Appeal is successful.
- 16.8.3 A request for permission for a Further Appeal must be in writing in a document headed "Further Appeal Request" sent to the EHCD marked for the attention of and to be forwarded to the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel (or if the Further Appeal is by the EHCD sent direct to the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel) and copied to the ALMC and the AAP. Within 7 days of receipt of the Request, the AAP shall send a hard copy Bundle of, and also as an attachment to an email, copies of all documents that were before the AAP to the EHCD marked for the attention of and to be forwarded to the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel.

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- 16.8.4 The Further Appeal Request should include a summary of the facts and matters relied upon to satisfy the requirements for permission for a Further Appeal as set out in Regulation 16.8.1. If permission is granted the Further Appeal Request shall become the Appeal Notice for the purposes of the Further Appeal.
- 16.8.5 As soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of the Further Appeal Request and the accompanying copy documents, the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel shall consider the Request.
- 16.8.6 The decision of the Chair shall be notified in writing to the EHCD, the AAP, the ALMC and the Appellant that initially appealed the ALMC decision. If the decision is to permit the Further Appeal the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel is not required to give reasons, but if the decision is to refuse permission, such notification shall include succinct reasons for the decision.
- 16.8.7 The decision of the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel shall be final.
- 16.9 If permission for a Further Appeal is granted, such Appeal shall be an oral hearing, which will be held by video conferencing means, save for a specific request from the appellant and/or panel for an 'in person' Hearing as soon as reasonably practical the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel shall issue directions for the further conduct of the Appeal.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - LEAGUE TITLES & DIVISIONS

See <https://www.englishockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events> for details.

APPENDIX 2 - ENGLAND HOCKEY POLICIES / RULES / REGULATIONS

All England Hockey policies, rules and regulations shall apply to matches in the League. 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 and as shown in Appendix 3)
- England Hockey Code of Conduct
- England Hockey Disciplinary Regulations
- England Hockey Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey
- England Hockey Privacy Policy
- England Hockey Equality Policy
- England Hockey Guidance on Faith and Fixtures
- England Hockey Transgender Policy
- UK Anti-Doping Rules
- England Hockey Anti-Corruption Policy
- England Hockey League Sponsorship Policy
- England Hockey Safe Hockey Policy

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

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

APPENDIX 3 – VARIANCES TO FIH RULES OF HOCKEY

The Rules of Hockey 2022 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

All Area Adult League Matches

A match consists of two halves of **35 minutes** with a half-time interval of 5-10 minutes (to be agreed before the match starts).

Rule 13.3

Time is not stopped after a penalty corner is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire).

If a suspended player's period of suspension ends during the taking of a penalty corner the player cannot return until the penalty corner, or any subsequent penalty corner in the same sequence, has been completed.

Rule 14

Personal Penalties - Suspensions

- 1 Umpires shall have the authority to suspend any player or official from the team bench for indiscipline, whether temporarily (green or yellow card) or permanently (red card). This will require the relevant team to withdraw a player from the pitch for the duration of the suspension.
- 2 If a field player receives a green or yellow card, the Umpires stop the match (but not necessarily the time) to issue the card. If time has been stopped, the Umpires re-start it immediately after issuing the card.
- 3 If a goalkeeper receives a green card, the Umpires stop time and re-start it immediately after that player has left the field of play.
- 4 The offending player leaves the field immediately. If they interfere with play on their way to the designated suspension area the Umpire may further penalise the player in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.
- 5 The timing of the temporary suspension starts when the player or official is seated in the designated area.
- 6 The suspended player or official may not participate in the match (whether by engaging in coaching or supporting or otherwise) during the period of their suspension.
- 7 The offending player is permitted to resume play when the Umpire who suspended them or appointed Match Official indicates that the period of suspension has been completed unless this occurs during the taking of a penalty corner in which case the player cannot return until the penalty corner has been completed, or any additional penalty corners in the same sequence, has/have been completed.
- 8 If the offending player is a goalkeeper, the Umpires stop the time at the next stoppage of play to enable that player to resume play.
- 9 Where appointed a Match Official may undertake timing duties on behalf of Umpires in line with Appendix 7.

APPENDIX 4 – FAIR SELECTION & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE NOTES

The guidelines outlined in this reference ensure a comprehensive framework for Fair Selection while allowing for necessary exceptions under appropriate circumstances.

Clubs can maintain fairness, competition integrity and equal opportunities in player eligibility and team selection by complying with Fair Selection and considering the examples provided in these notes.

1 AIMS OF FAIR SELECTION

- 1.1 For clubs to have reasonable flexibility in managing player selection.
- 1.2 For a club's League teams to be selected in hierarchical order and be composed of players that reflects their level of ability within their club based on
 - 1.2.1 their availability on any one day; and
 - 1.2.2 not being selected at a lower level than usual to strengthen a lower team.
- 1.3 To endeavour to ensure all Clubs to feel that competition is "fair" and that clubs are not disadvantaged by the application of these Regulations.
- 1.4 For players to be able to play where possible and not be "unselectable" due to the League Regulations.

2 FAIR SELECTION NOTES

2.1 Objective

The Fair Selection framework aims to ensure fairness, competition integrity, and equal opportunities in player eligibility and team selection for all participating clubs. The framework provides clubs with reasonable flexibility while maintaining guidelines to ensure fairness and prevent unfair advantages.

2.2 Player Selection Hierarchy

Clubs should select players for their League teams based on a hierarchical order determined by availability. Players should not be selected at a lower level than their Regular Team to strengthen a lower-ranked team.

2.3 Doubling Up Restrictions

Doubling up, defined as playing in multiple teams on the same matchday, is generally not permitted except in specific cases. Any exception to the doubling up restrictions requires a Selection Exemption Pass, which is granted on a case-by-case basis for situations not covered by the general guidelines. The doubling up restrictions varies by Grade (refer to 3.2 below).

3 SELECTION EXEMPTION NOTES

- 3.1 A Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) can be provided for a specific time period by the ALMC at their discretion to manage specific scenarios. A club can request a retrospective exemption in the case of an emergency. Clubs are encouraged to request SXPs in advance, although they may also be considered retrospectively in cases where injuries occur close to the match start time, such as during warm-up.

- 3.2 The doubling up restrictions vary by Grade. Any doubling up may require an SXP.

Grade 1

- o No doubling up is permitted except in very specific circumstances that will always require an SXP:
 - If both the 1st team (1s) and 2nd team (2s) play in the EHL, and a 1s player is injured immediately before the game a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) is required for a 2s player to play 1s as cover. A 1s player cannot double up for 2s.
 - If a Regular Grade 1 goalkeeper (GK) needs to cover at Grade 2 or 3 due to exceptional GK availability or injury issues an SXP is required.
 - If a Grade 1 GK plays outfield in a lower-ranked team to help with numbers an SXP is required.

Grade 2

- o No doubling up is permitted except for a goalkeeper with an SXP.
- o Grade 2 players may double up only in the following cases:
 - If a Regular Grade 2 GK needs to cover as GK at Grade 1 due to exceptional GK availability or injury issues, an SXP is required from England Hockey.
 - If a Regular Grade 2 GK needs to cover as GK at Grade 2 or 3 due to exceptional GK availability issues or injury issues, an SXP is required.
 - If a Grade 2 GK plays outfield in a lower-ranked team to help with numbers an SXP is required.

Grade 3

- o No doubling up is permitted except for a goalkeeper with an SXP.
- o Grade 3 players cannot double up at Grades 1–3, except in the following situations:
 - If a Regular Grade 3 GK needs to play as GK at Grades 2–5 due to exceptional GK availability issues or injury issues, an SXP is required.
 - If a Regular Grade 3 GK doubles up playing outfield at Grade 4 or 5, no SXP is required.
- o A Grade 3 outfield player cannot double up for any lower-ranked Grade 4 or Grade 5 team.

Grades 4 & 5

- o Doubling up is permitted but limited to a maximum of three players.
- o No specific SXP requirements apply to doubling up at Grade 4 and Grade 5.

3.3 Examples of Possible Exemptions

The following examples illustrate possible circumstances where exemptions may apply beyond the doubling up restrictions outlined in 3.2 above. These scenarios are not exhaustive but serve as guidelines for when a Selection Exemption might be considered by the ALMC.

3.3.1 Player returning from injury after a few weeks

- 3.3.1.1 A regular Grade 2 1st team player wants to return by playing in the Grade 3 3rd team.
- 3.3.1.2 A regular Grade 3 3rd team player wants to return by playing in the Grade 5 5th team.

3.3.2 Player has not played for a number of weeks or has not participated in a minimum of 50% of their team's League matches or the matches of a lower team

- 3.3.2.1 A player played early in the season but did not play again until the last four weeks, and it can be demonstrated that the current level is appropriate for the player.
- 3.3.2.2 A player regularly covered for injuries or unavailability in a higher team.
- 3.3.2.3 A player was "dropped" by a higher team, playing for the 1st team in 11 matches before Christmas and solely in the 2nd team for 5 matches after Christmas at the time of the relevant match.

3.3.3 Doubling up players from a team higher than a club's lowest or second lowest ranked team. This may be required if both lowest-ranked teams are away, match times clash, or subsequent doubling up is not in ascending team order

- 3.3.3.1 A mid-ranked team has significant unavailability, and players doubling up genuinely come from lower-ranked teams.
- 3.3.3.2 A low-ranked team has significant unavailability and requires more than three players to double up to field a team.
- 3.3.3.3 A player doubling up is genuinely from a lower-ranked team with a difference of more than two, such as a regular 6th team player playing for the 3rd team.
- 3.3.3.4 Doubling up players from higher Grades, such as a club with one team at Grade 2 and another team at Grade 5 without any other teams, or if the club has three teams with the highest at Grades 2 or 3 and that team is at home with one of the others.

3.3.4 Team has a rearranged fixture on Sunday having already played on Saturday

- o This example covers the occasion when a team has a rearranged fixture on Sunday having already played on Saturday. This is typically due to postponement of a scheduled fixture due to bad weather.
- o NB: This explanation does NOT apply in the event that the team's fixture was moved from Saturday to Sunday on the same weekend, i.e., in the same Matchweek.

3.3.4.1 Teams playing on the Saturday must select teams that comply with Fair Selection, as usual.

3.3.4.2 Player eligibility for the rearranged Sunday fixture

- o Who can play?
 - Players for whom that team is their Regular Team.
 - Players normally selected for lower teams in the club's hierarchy.
 - The selection of any such players does not constitute doubling up in the same Matchweek.
- o Who cannot play?
 - Players whose Regular Team is a higher team in the club's hierarchy, including those who played for that team on the Saturday, unless they have a Selection Exemption Pass *granted in advance of the Sunday fixture*.

3.3.5 Examples of emergency issues

3.3.5.1 A 1st team goalkeeper gets injured during warm-up, and the 4th team goalkeeper, who played earlier in the day, is available as a replacement.

3.3.5.2 A club has multiple injured or unavailable goalkeepers, and their regular 4th team goalkeeper is selected for the 1st team as cover but intends to return to the 4th team on the next match day.

4 ELECTRONIC MATCH SHEETS

4.1 To enable simpler administration electronic Match Sheets are mandatory at all levels to support simpler administration:

4.1.1 To provide clarity and simplicity, including building logic into the GMS to maximise compliance;

4.1.2 To eliminate subjective administrative intervention wherever possible;

4.1.3 To provide the data to improve systems and Regulations over time.

APPENDIX 5 – STANDARD PENALTIES & TARIFFS OF FINES

- 1 Please refer to Regulation 15 - Breach of Regulations & Penalties.
- 2 Breaches
 - o Stages - Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 below refer to an individual breach and the process giving the opportunity to rectify this.
 - o 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.
- 3 Fines
 - o There are recommended amounts for fines, Tariff 1, T1 - £25, Tariff 2, T2 - £50, Tariff 3, T3 - £100
 - o Note waiving of a fine is at the discretion of the ALMC
 - o Where a fine is applied it will be doubled for repeat offences
 - o Payment of fines is within 28 days unless an alternative date is set by the ALMC.
 - o **If not paid within 28 days, fines may be doubled.**

REGULATION: 3. ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
3.1.4 Completed membership of England Hockey (and, where relevant, Hockey Wales) by the Due Date, including any League Fees and o/s Fines.	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline	If new deadline not met. Warning that it must be completed prior to the next match. Fine	All Club fixtures awarded as Walkovers until completed. Fine	Stage 2 - T1 Stage 3 - T2
3.1.5 Failure to provide Liaison Officer details by the start of the season	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline	Fine		T1
3.1.7 Representation from club at any meeting called by the ALMC	2-5	Fine	N/A	N/A	T1
3.1.7 Response to requests for information by the ALM, ALDS or AOC by the due date	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	Fine	N/A	T1
3.1.7 Response to requests for team entry information	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	Final deadline and Fine	Team(s) not entered	T1
3.2.5 Withdrawal of a team during the season.	2-3	Fine	N/A	N/A	T1
	4-5	Warning regarding re-entry following season			
3.3.1 & 3.3.2 Failure to provide official's details visible in GMS by the start of the season	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	Fine	N/A	T1

REGULATION: 5. FIXTURES

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
5.2 Provision of time and venue for each of its home matches by deadline - subject to any variation discretion of the ALMC	2-5	Reminder that this needs to be completed with a new deadline	If new deadline not met. Fine	N/A	T1
5.2.3 Late or no notification of change of details	2-5	Warning Stage 2 if it leads to match not taking place on specified date	Fine	N/A	T1

REGULATION: 6. MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
6.1 & 6.5 Provision of Pitch & Facilities and Changing facilities in line with Regulation and no effort to mitigate	2-5	Warning	Warning	Fine	T1
6.6 Failure to supply hospitality	2	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1
	3-5		Warning		
6.6 Hospitality requested or confirmed and not taken	2-5	Reimburse opposition.	Reimburse opposition. Fine	Reimburse opposition. Fine	T1

REGULATION: 7. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - REGISTRATION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
7. Fielding an ineligible player in a match.	2-3	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 1 point deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 2 points deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 3 points deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	T1
	4-5	Warning for maladministration. 1 point deducted for each ineligible each player if negligent, e.g. not received SXP approval or transfer approval. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	Fine for maladministration. 1 point deducted for each ineligible player if negligent, e.g. not received SXP approval or transfer approval. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	Fine and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player if negligent, e.g. not received SXP approval or transfer approval. In addition, match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	

REGULATION: 8. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – FAIR SELECTION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
8. Not complying with principles of fair selection. (May be playing without approved SXP)	2-3	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 1 point deduction and one point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 2 point deduction and two points deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 3 point deduction and three points deducted for each ineligible player	T1
	4	Fine and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	Fine and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	Fine and 2 points deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	
	5	Warning 1 point may be deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	Fine and 1 point may be deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	Fine and 2 points may be deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	

REGULATION: 9. TEAM, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
9.4.1 Team late in uploading all players and any team officials participating in a match onto the match sheet on the GMS by specified time.	2-5	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	Fine	Fine and 1 point deduction.	T1
9.4.3 Team late to confirm score on the GMS by specified time.	2-5	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	Fine	Fine and 1 point deduction.	T1
9.4.4 Team late to confirm details of goals, cards, and injuries on the GMS Timeline by specified time.	2-5	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	Fine	Fine and 1 point deduction.	T1
9. Falsifying information on match sheet	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine plus 1 point deduction. ALMC to determine if team to be relegated at end of Season or points deducted at start of next season.	N/A	N/A	T3

REGULATION: 10. DRESS

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
10. Uniform kit, additional clothing, numbers	2	Warning	Fine	Fine, for significant non-compliance	T1
	3-4		Fine for significant non-compliance	Fine, for significant and persistent non-compliance	
	5		Warning		

REGULATION: 11. UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
11. Failure to supply umpire of appropriate level	2	Fine	1 point deduction from match and Fine	1 point deduction from match and Fine. ALMC to determine if match is to be replayed	T1
	3-4	Warning			
	5	N/A	Warning	1 point deduction from match and Fine	
11.1.1 If a Fixture has Area Appointed umpires appointed, the Club must confirm Venue and Start Time and any other match related information, at least 3 days before the Fixture.	2-5	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1
11.1.4 Both Umpires must be record on GMS Team Sheet	2-5	Warning	Fine	Fine and 1 point deduction	T1
11.3 Failure of umpire to register as member of England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club	2-5	Warning	Warning	Fine	T1
11.12 Failing to complete umpire report (Only for Area Appointed Umpires)	2	Fine	Fine	Fine	T1

REGULATION: 12. DISCIPLINE

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
12.2.3 Suspended player missing incorrect match	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. Fine	T1
12.2.4 Fielding an ineligible player in a match due to suspension	2-3	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Team Contact plus 1 point deduction if deliberate. Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Team Contact plus 1 point deduction if deliberate. Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Team Contact plus 2 point deduction if deliberate. Fine	T1
	4-5	Warning for Team Contact, plus 1 point deduction if deliberate.	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Team Contact plus 1 point deduction and Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Team Contact plus 2 point deduction and Fine	

REGULATION: 13. POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
13. Failure to comply with regulation	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	T1
13.2.3.1 Rearrangement not agreed within regulation days	2-5	Warning, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture	Fine, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture	Fine, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture	T1
13.2.3.2 Rearrangement date not within regulation days	2-5	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1

REGULATION: 14. FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE OR FORFEITURE OF A MATCH

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
14. Failure to honour a fixture	2-4	<p>Fine and Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 1 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined by ALMC.</p> <p>Additional Penalty: points deduction for lower teams in these grades, where the forfeiting team's lower teams are also within these grades (and their game is played) then the point(s) deduction applied above may also be applied to that lower team. If the lower team plays then the result will stand but there may be point(s) deduction, whatever the score.</p>	<p>Fine and Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 2 points deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 2 points and 0-5 as determined by ALMC.</p> <p>Additional Penalty: points deduction for lower teams in these grades, where the forfeiting team's lower teams are also within these grades (and their game is played) then the point(s) deduction applied above will also be applied to that lower team. If the lower team plays then the result will stand but there will be point(s) deduction, whatever the score.</p>	<p>Fine and Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 2 points deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 2 points and 0-5 as determined by ALMC.</p> <p>Additional Penalty: points deduction for lower teams in these grades, where the forfeiting team's lower teams are also within these grades (and their game is played) then the point(s) deduction applied above will also be applied to that lower team. If the lower team plays then the result will stand but there will be point(s) deduction, whatever the score.</p>	T1 plus, additional costs to opposition if applicable. i.e. pitch hire and teas costs
	5	<p>Warning Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 1 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined by ALMC. No penalty applied to any lower teams which play (subject to standard Fair Selection & Player Eligibility)</p>	<p>Warning Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 1 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined by ALMC. No penalty applied to any lower teams which play (subject to standard Fair Selection & Player Eligibility)</p>	<p>Warning Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 2 points deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 2 points and 0-5 as determined by ALMC. No penalty applied to any lower teams which play (subject to standard Fair Selection & Player Eligibility)</p>	

APPENDIX 6 – APPEAL NOTICE TEMPLATE

AREA LEAGUE APPEAL NOTICE

To be sent to relevant the ALMC pursuant to Regulation 16

Appellant (name of Club and or team)	
Areas League and Division (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 5 days of the Date of Notification of Decision.
- 2 it will pay the deposit of £100 within 7 days of the Date of Notification of Decision to the Area Bank Account.
- 3 it agrees to submit the full details of its appeal within 14 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 deposit will be returned.

Signed	
Print Name	
Position with Club	
Date	

APPENDIX 7 – DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPOINTED MATCH OFFICIALS

1 The AOC may appoint a Match Official (MO) to league matches with duties and responsibilities as below

2 MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 The MO shall check that players and team officials present correspond with information listed on a Clubs' team sheet and officials are in line with Regulation 9.3. Only those listed may enter the designated bench area.
- 2.2 The MO shall record all goals including scorer and type of goal, and all cards during the match.
- 2.3 The MO shall time the suspension applicable for the issue of any green or yellow cards by the Umpire. The period of suspension shall commence when the player has returned to the designated bench area. For the avoidance of doubt a player or team official who is temporarily suspended from play must sit calmly and quietly throughout the period of suspension and may not be involved in the match in any way. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to work with the MO to ensure that this is done.
- 2.4 The MO shall check that the record of the match as per Regulation 9 is agreed by both teams and umpires on the conclusion of the match.
- 2.5 The MO shall check that the record of the match is correctly submitted to the GMS by teams. Any variance of this shall be raised with the ALDS

3 POWERS OF SUSPENSION

- 3.1 The MO may direct any player or official to be removed from the designated bench area for indiscipline. This will involve the person concerned leaving the playing area, as directed by the MO, for the remainder of the match. Any serious instances involving either an individual or affiliated body MAY be reported as a Misconduct Offence under the EH Disciplinary Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt such action by the MO does not require the team concerned to withdraw a player from the pitch for the remainder of the match.
- 3.2 The MO may draw the attention of the Umpires to any incident of indiscipline by any player or official from the designated bench area. The Umpires may then impose such personal penalty as they think fit. If the Umpires permanently (red card) or temporarily (green or yellow card) suspend a player or official from the team bench, this will require the relevant team to withdraw a player from the pitch for the duration of the suspension.
- 3.3 Any person permanently suspended from the match under Regulations 12.1 or 12.2 may not enter the field of play or designated bench area until completion of the match, which shall include any period of cool down on the field of play after the match.

4 REPORTING

- 4.1 The MO shall report any significant variance to the League Regulations by either team to the ALDS

5 CLUB APPOINTED MATCH OFFICIALS

- 5.1 A Club Appointed MO should undertake the duties as shown in Clauses 2 and 4 above, Clause 3 does not apply.