



SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY

ALMC Club Briefing

PN outcomes, Grade structure, Regulation/GMS updates and penalty application,
Play-offs 2027, Hockey Rules, Umpiring, Questions

Please put name of club and attendee into the Chat so we can check attendance.

Please put all questions in the chat for discussion at the end of the presentation.

Briefing by ALMC

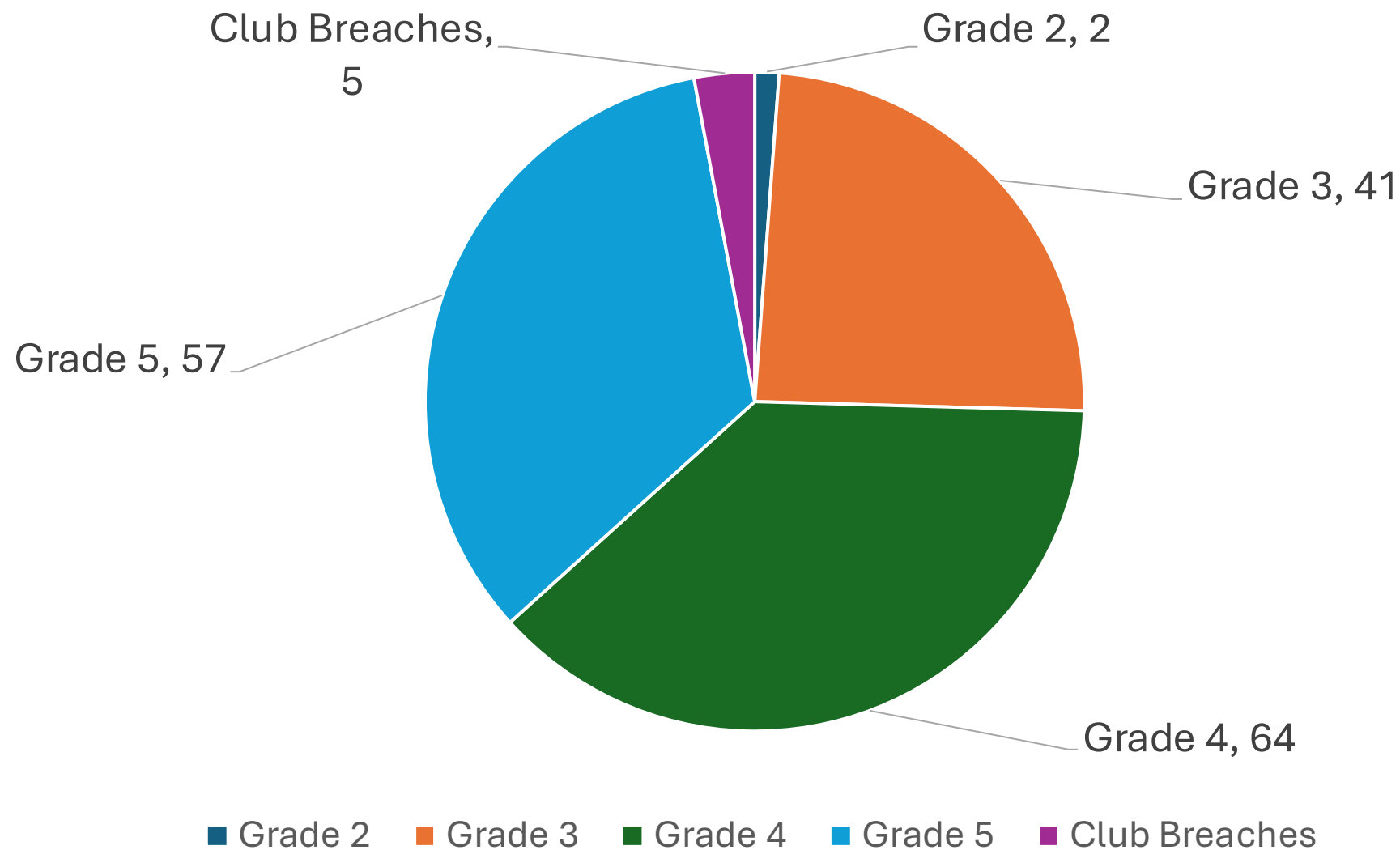
Please remember this is a briefing, not a teach-in, on the highlights of the regulations and rules.

The regulations, following inputs from all clubs and areas, are agreed by the Adult League Working Group, then the Area Steering Committee and finally EH, and there are no area exceptions, merely interpretations.

If you have questions that we do not cover this evening, please contact the relevant DS or SCO as appropriate.

It is not an exhaustive review of the regulations and rules and is to show you how the ALMC intends to interpret some of the regulations this season.

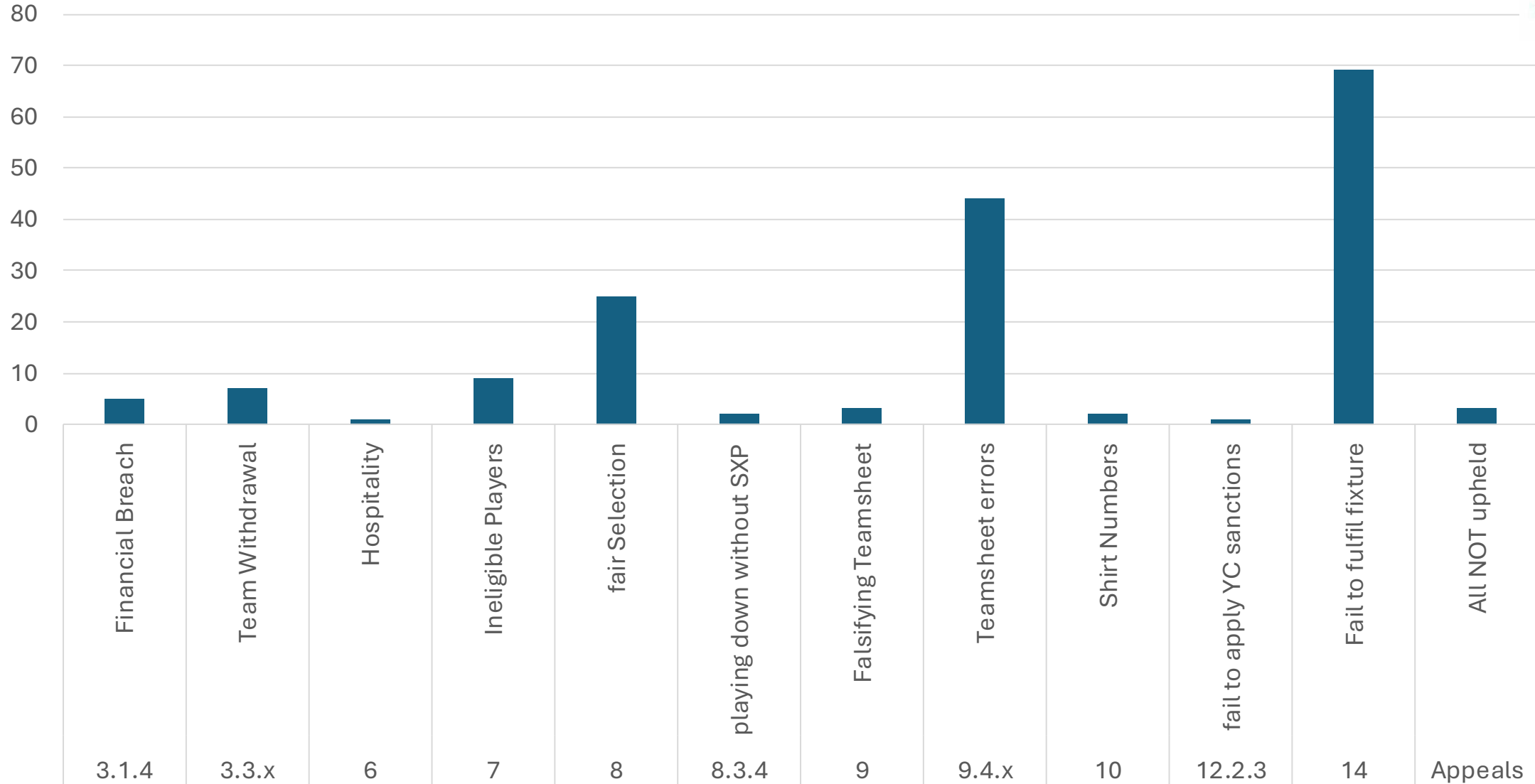
Breaches by Grade 25/26



Breaches by Regulation 25/26



SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY



OMPrem1
Caroline

OMPrem2
Caroline

Grade 2

WPrem1
Caroline

WPrem2
Caroline

OMN1
Mike

OMS1
Ian

WN1
Jo

WS1
Emma

OMN2
Mike

OMS2
Ian

WN2
Jo

WS2
Emma

OMN3
Mike

OMS3
Ian

WN3
Jo

WS3
Emma

OMN4
Mike

OMS4
Ian

OMN5
Mike

OMS5
Ian

Grade 3

OMN6
Mike

OMS6
Ian

OMC1
Adrian

OMT1
William

OMSol1
Ian

Grade 4

WC1
Helen N

WT1
Jo

WSol1
Helen H

WF1
Helen H

OMT2
William

WC2
Helen N

WT2
Jo

WT3
Jo

OMC2
Adrian

OMT3
William

OMSol2
Ian

OMF1
Ian

Grade 5

WC3
Helen N

WT4
Jo

WSol2
Helen H

WF2
Helen H

Grade 2
Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 5

Area Premier Divisions and Any Divisions at the next Step

Area mid-level Divisions. Approximately the highest 50% of all Divisions below Grade 2 and above Grade 5.

Area lower Divisions. Approximately the lowest 50% of all Divisions below Grade 2 and above Grade 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 that promotes teams to it); and
ii. Any other Divisions, in addition to above, as designated by the ALOMC

Fixture Dates for 2026/7 season



SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY

2026	12-Sep	19-Sep	26-Sep	03-Oct	10-Oct	17-Oct	24-Oct	31-Oct	07-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	28-Nov	05-Dec	12-Dec	13-Dec	19-Dec	26-Dec
Oxford Uni							League Reserve										
Soton Uni							League Reserve										
13/14 teams	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	League Reserve	Christmas	Christmas
11/12 teams		1	2	3	4	5	League Reserve	6	7	8	9	10	11	League Reserve	League Reserve	Christmas	Christmas
9/10 teams		1	2	3	4	5	League Reserve	League Reserve	6	7	8	9	10	League Reserve	League Reserve	Christmas	Christmas
2027	02-Jan	09-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	06-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr
Oxford Uni							League Reserve										
Soton Uni							League Reserve										
13/14 teams	League Reserve	15	16	17	18	19	League Reserve	20	21	22	23	24	Easter	25	26		Play Offs
11/12 teams	League Reserve	12	13	14	15	16	League Reserve	17	18	19	20	21	Easter	22	League Reserve		Play Offs
9/10 teams	League Reserve	League Reserve	11	12	13	14	League Reserve	League Reserve	15	16	17	18	Easter	Easter	League Reserve		Play Offs

GMS Updates

- The main new features in GMS will:
 - Email the other team contacts when a team makes a change to time or venue.
 - Email the contacts of both teams when an area manager/DS or umpire manager makes a change to date, time or venue.
 - Record all such changes in “Fixture Notes”. These will be open and visible to anyone who can view the fixture. It will include date and time the change was made, who made it, and the detail of the change.
 - All numerical fields on the MatchSheet must be completed, with a ‘0’ if necessary. (If not correct and found to be hiding cards, the ALMC may treat this as falsification)

Changes to Match Details

5.2.2 Pre-season, until 8 Sep, Clubs/Teams can insert time and venue.

After 8 Sep: All changes to match details may only be made after the opposing team, and the DS, have agreed. If the date needs to be changed, this can only be done by the DS. *(Team admin attempting to change date will appear to do so but have no effect)*

5.2.3 In season, within 21 days of a match, only the DS can approve and enter any proposed change, after agreement with the opposition. (GMS will be locked).

This accords with the 21-day match confirmation requirement

In Summary – if you want to change something, contact your DS for advice.

Hospitality (Regulation 6.6)

- If Hospitality is not offered for the whole season, which **MUST** be notified by 8 September, then the opposition have the right not to offer you reciprocal hospitality.
- If a club responds to the match confirmation that they will be staying for hospitality, by the date requested by the home team, they are expected to do so. (none response may mean no hospitality will be provided!)
- If a team fails to stay, they can be penalised by the ALMC and required to pay reasonable costs to the home team.

New Player Reg/Transfer Process - Reg 7

- New Player Registrations (not transfers) by 31 Jan 27, late applications may be approved by DS.
- Transfer no later than 1 Feb 27. Late Transfer applications through new Form on website. Will not be automatically approved by DS.

Dual Registration Reg 7 - How it works

- Examples:

1. Player from Hampshire club goes to Leeds Uni (AL Club)
2. Player from Newcastle club comes to Oxford Uni (AL Club)
3. Player works in Plymouth and plays locally when there, but home club is in Berkshire (Primacy depends where they play most matches)
4. Player plays Masters for Fareham and AL for Southampton, dual registration does not apply.
5. If other club is NOT in the Adult Leagues nationally, dual registration does not apply, e.g. Portsmouth Uni player (not in AL) plays BUCS on Wednesdays and for a Hampshire club on weekends.

- Notes

1. Primary Club. Secondary Club AL = Adult Leagues
2. Must register for both clubs and select the one that will be primary club – see form on SC Website.
3. Dual Registered players CANNOT play for secondary club in last 4 weeks of the season, or in the play-offs.

Reg 8 – Fair Selection and 50%

- The regulations have been tidied up, but the basic principles remain the same.
- Doubling up at Grades 4/5 only to achieve game and no more than 12 on the teamsheet
- 50% rule (subject to SXP request)
 - Player plays 10 matches, 5 for team A (G2) 5 for Team B (G3) – playing down is permitted
 - Player plays 10 matches 6 for team A (G2) 4 for Team B (G3) – may not play down
 - Player plays 9 matches 4 for team A (G2) 5 for Team B (G3) – playing down is permitted
- Ask your DS!



SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY

Shirt Numbers

- Regulation 9.4.1 states all shirt numbers must be entered prior to match. These **MUST** be the actual numbers worn for the match, and not a random set of numbers.
 - The ALMC would prefer if everyone could wear the same shirt number every match, but we accept there may be club practicalities that prevent this; (e.g., home and away shirt number variance, squad shirts etc.)
- At Grade 4/5 names can be added (not changed) by the DS after the match but cannot change shirt numbers.
 - Beware adding to a team that has SXP permitted players playing down and therefore exceeding 12 player limit (Regulation 8.4.2)

Discipline – Regulation 12

- Clubs are responsible for regulating the behaviour of their players, officials, members and spectators.
- All Yellow/Red cards must be reported on the MatchSheet after the match, putting a “0” in the box if no cards were awarded. An incorrect score or card number may be regarded as falsification.
- A Card Limit Declaration form will be on the Website for you to submit to DS to state intentions for player suspension.
- Clubs/Teams will be sanctioned, if cards are not reported correctly, or correct suspension not applied.
- Accumulated cards for a team will lead to points deductions (Reg 12.2)

Reg 12.2 and Appendix 5 – Team Accumulation

Yellow Cards	Penalty
5	Warning
10	1-point deduction
15	1-point deduction
20	1-point deduction

Regulation 13

- Postponed or Abandoned Match MUST be played on next available reserve date. If teams are already committed on those dates, matches must be played within 36 days of the postponed fixture.
- New date must be agreed with opposition and DS, and confirmed within 10 days, whence DS will make GMS adjustment.
- If agreement not made, ALMC/DS is to stipulate date match to be played.

Complaints

- Teams/Divisional Secretaries have 7 days to raise a complaint/concern.
- Once raised, the DS may continue beyond 7 days to allow time for investigation. The investigation must be timely and thorough.
- **If not commenced within 7 days of a match, further investigation of complaints, raised either by teams or DSs, will NOT be allowed.**

SXPs

- A more robust form will be used for 2026-27, requiring clubs/teams to provide more information and justification for the SXP. It is on the SC Website.
- 2 game (matchweek) periods only, not a long-term solution.

Play-off Day 2027

- Saturday 24 April 2027 (cannot go later due to EH Calendar),
- Aldershot Army Hockey Association Pitches again.
- Last fixtures of season will be on 10 April 2027.
- Will be conducted under the “Last 4 Fixtures” regulations.

Promotion and Relegations 2027/8

- The Promotion and Relegation lines will not be entered into GMS until Relegations from the EHL, and the Play Off results are known.
- There could be considerable additional relegations in some Divisions to allow the restructuring to 12 team leagues in the 27/28 season as notified in the Welcome Letter.

Variances to Rules of Hockey

- **All Area Adult League Matches**
- A match consists of two halves of **35 minutes** with a half-time interval. This will be 5 minutes, unless otherwise agreed by both teams and umpires before the match starts.
- For the 2026-27 season, SC Premier Divisions games will be four quarters of 17 minutes 30 seconds, with quarter-time intervals of 2 minutes, a half-time interval of 5 minutes, and no stoppage for penalty corners. If the Home team wishes to play the match in two halves, as above, they must follow Regulation 5.2.4.
- Time is not stopped for a goal, nor for a penalty corner, unless stopped by an umpire

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SC Officiating website - umpiredev.co.uk

- Every club should have an ongoing umpire development process
- We are keen to help clubs develop umpires – come to us with proposals showing how we can help (not simply buying hardware).
- Make sure that we have contact details for your Club Umpire Developer (you should all have at least one)
- New rules analysis available on umpiredev. Players and umpires need to know this!

Section 11 Umpires

- All Umpires MUST be members of EHO – please check prior to the season, and get them signed up (Bronze membership is FREE).
- Both Umpires MUST be recorded on the MatchSheet (11.4.1).
- Umpires – if both teams agree to the umpires in control of the match, there is no comeback by either team on their performance (ALRs do not cover on-pitch decisions).
- Any issues of Umpiring standards/conduct are to be directed to SCO – the ALMC cannot intervene.

Questions



<https://southcentral.englishhockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents>

[Link to the presentation recording](#) Passcode: ?6n^x8Bd

A copy of this presentation will be on SC website, with the recording.

Questions and Answers (1)

No	Questions raised from club meeting	ALMC Answer
1	Does the 12 players apply to both teams (when doubling up)	When players double up between two teams, it is the lower team who are restricted to 12 players. Please see reg 8.4.2.
2	Can we get a cut of the GMS player data that you're basing the 50% rule on ahead of the final 4 weeks to make sure we have the right data to base decisions on	Please contact your DS. Please keep enquiries to a necessary level and only ask if you have a concern. The DSs have a lot of teams to service
3	Regarding playing down and 50% rule and SXP, as an opposition will we have anything to give us this info in advance? Or is there auto checking through GMS?	We are currently looking at the best way of informing both teams of an approved SXP.
4	Is there a way to store player numbers in GMS that will populate in the team sheet.	No. But the numbers will appear if the "copy forward" option is used from the previous week's team sheet.

IF IN DOUBT – CONTACT YOUR DS IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANYTHING IN THE REGULATIONS

Questions and Answers (2)

No	Questions raised from club meeting	ALMC Answer
5	How does the 50% apply when 2 teams in same league	The teams are considered in numeric order for the 50% regulation – regardless of league positions.
6	Is there a minimum number of games for the 50% rule; e.g.: a player had it applied after only 3 games	No. But SXP requests for players with limited playing history are generally treated positively.
7	Is the data for primary and secondary clubs available to clubs or should clubs keep a record to ensure the regulation is adhered to?	Clubs should keep a record.
8	If a team incurs 10 yellows in a season an automatic 1 point is incurred when the 10 th is issued and then every 5 yellow cards from there on gets another point deduction	Yes. A warning will be issued after the 5 th team yellow.

IF IN DOUBT – CONTACT YOUR DS IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANYTHING IN THE REGULATIONS

Questions and Answers (3)

No	Questions raised from club meeting	ALMC Answer
9	How do we know the 50% for oppositions?	Teams won't have this data, but DS's will be monitoring.
10	Whose responsibility is it to rearrange games that fall outside of university term time. Is this automatic by the league or should we wait for the university to contact. If this isn't done by 8 th September, what happens?	It is the University's responsibility to contact the opposition affected and agree a new date. If no contact from the University team, contact your DS
11	What is the latest time before a match to submit a team sheet to GMS	5 minutes before the GMS match start time.
12	As club admins, can we remove ex-players	Yes. If necessary, ask GMS Support for help.

IF IN DOUBT – CONTACT YOUR DS IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANYTHING IN THE REGULATIONS

Questions and Answers (4)

No	Questions raised from club meeting	ALMC Answer
13	Has the impact of points deductions for yellows been considered at prem. Is there data from last year how this would have affected the table? The higher you go, the quicker that cards are used to by umpires to manage the game, are you going to find that every team is losing points for fouls that aren't especially 'bad'	Based on last season's YC data, only a handful of teams would have reached the 10-card threshold. The object of the regulation is to encourage fewer YC across all divisions.
14	Is it 10 yellows for one player or whole team?	The point deduction is for team yellows. There is a further regulation (12.2.2) under which individuals receiving 4 YCs have a one match suspension.

IF IN DOUBT – CONTACT YOUR DS IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANYTHING IN THE REGULATIONS

Questions and Answers (5)

No	Questions raised from club meeting	ALMC Answer
15	Other than last 4 games 8.3.3 doesn't mention 50% - 8.3.4 states 50% only comes in when higher team does not have a fixture?	Agreed. Regulation is to prevent lower teams being strengthened when higher teams don't play or in last four games.
16	How do we raise a concern with the yellow card rule for the January review	All clubs will be asked for input into the 2027-8 regulations during the first half of this season. Please raise your suggested amendments as part of this process.
17	Could some more context be shared on the Yellow Cards = points deduction please? I see a lot of problems with this as the season rolls on and fear it is very open to abuse / teams intentionally trying to get oppositions carded <i>(From Facebook post meeting)</i>	The regulation was introduced across all areas as it was felt there was no penalties for teams receiving excessive yellow cards. Whilst reporting on YCs will be available to the ALMC, it won't be publically available. Therefore, teams are unlikely to know YC numbers for their opposition.

IF IN DOUBT – CONTACT YOUR DS IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANYTHING IN THE REGULATIONS