



MR Cricket Hockey East Area Adult Hockey Leagues
Pre – Season Rules & Guidance Document
2025 – 2026 Season

20 September 2025

REVISION 2

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Introduction

Yes we have now reached the final countdown to a new hockey season where we all anticipate engaging, exciting and competitive hockey matches being played across all our leagues in the east region.

The league committee exists to allow this to happen within the regulations laid down by England Hockey. I cannot stress enough how important it is to read these regulations before the season starts. There are, as happens annually, changes from last year. I would like to encourage all captains to not only read the regulations themselves but ask your players to do the same. If for any reason you feel unsure about how to interpret a regulation during the season ask your league manager to avoid falling foul of a rule and being penalised. We'd much rather you checked in advance and avoided any penalty.

In the guidance you are receiving here we have tried to highlight some issues that from our experience have caused issues previously in order to prevent any misunderstanding of the regulations.

As I say if you are unsure ask a current East committee member.

It just remains to say, good luck to everyone for the coming season. Let's hope the weather is kind to us.

Rosemary Prince - League Chair

Phil Churchman - Area League Manager and GMS Coordinator

League Governance Structure

The MR Cricket Hockey East Area Adult Hockey Leagues ("The Leagues") are managed on behalf of the East Hockey Area by the East Area League Management Committee (ALMC).

The ALMC comprises:

Area League Chair – (Currently Rosemary Prince)
Area League Manager / GMS Coordinator – (Currently Philip Churchman)
Open League Coordinator – (Currently Ali Smyth)
Women's League Coordinator – (Currently Vicky Benedikz)
Officiating Representative – (Currently Paul Watts)

In the case of a conflict or unavailability the East Results Coordinator (Richard Munns) will sit in the ALMC

Working alongside the ALMC is the League Division Management Committee (LDMC) in which sits the various Area League Division Secretaries (division managers), an indoor representative and the SXP sub-committee.

In the event of disputes the first port of call should always be the division manager for the relevant division. A full list of division managers is on the next page. Division managers will investigate any issues or complaints, alongside the relevant league coordinator and these shall be presented to the ALMC for review and action. The ALMC will convene regular meetings inclusive on the LDMC members where significant issues impact a wider point or a further discussion with a larger cohort benefit the resolution or decision-making process.

Continuing from last season, a separate selection exemption pass committee has been set up. Explanation of how the SXP process works is contained in the relevant section later on.



MR CRICKET HOCKEY EAST AREA ADULT HOCKEY LEAGUES

WOMENS & MENS LEAGUES

Division Managers - 25/26 Season



Open Leagues

	Prem	Ali Smyth							
	Div 1 North	Phill Barlow			Div 1 South	Phill Barlow			
	Div 2 NE	Suzanne Armitage	Div 2 NW	Nicky Cast	Div 2 SE	Andy Longfield	Div 2 SW	Phil Churchman	
	Div 3 NE	Suzanne Armitage	Div 3 NW	Nicky Cast	Div 3 SE	Andy Longfield	Div 3 SW	Phil Churchman	
	Div 4 NE	Suzanne Armitage	Div 4 NW	Nicky Cast	Div 4 SE	Andy Longfield	Div 4 SW	Phil Churchman	
Div 5 NEN	Phill Barlow	Div 5 NES	Suzanne Armitage	Div 5 NW	Nicky Cast	Div 5 SE	Caron Bradshaw	Div 5 SW	Sarah Farmer
			Div 6 NW	Rosemary Prince	Div 6 SE	Caron Bradshaw	Div 6 SW	Sarah Farmer	
					Div 7 SE	Caron Bradshaw	Div 7 SW	Sarah Farmer	
							Div 8 SW	Sarah Farmer	

Womens Leagues

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Divisions

Grade 2
Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 5

Area League Management Committee

League Chair	Rosemary Prince	rosemary.prince@btinternet.com
GMS Lead	Phil Churchman	phil.churchman@outlook.com
Open League Manager	Ali Smyth	alismsyth1984@gmail.com
Womens League Manager	Vicky Benedikz	vickybenedikz@hotmail.co.uk
Officiating Liaison	Paul Watts	paul.watts@east.officiating.hockey

League Division Management Committee

Ali Smyth	alismsyth1984@gmail.com	Nick Curtis	nick_curtis01@yahoo.co.uk
Andy Longfield	andy.longfield@btinternet.com	Nicki Cast	nicki.cast@btinternet.com
Caron Bradshaw	bradshawfamily2012@gmail.com	Phill Barlow	phillbarlow.hockey@gmail.com
Chris Perry	chris.perry48@yahoo.com	Ruth Aldous	ruth_aldous@hotmail.com
Chris Rowland	Chrisrowland1957@yahoo.co.uk	Sarah Farmer	sarahfarmer@btconnect.com
Emma Houlihan	Houlihan148@googlemail.com	Sue Owen	sue.owen@ntlworld.com
		Suzanne Armitage	suzanneasuzannea67@gmail.com
Richard Munns	richard.munns1@btinternet.com	Vicky Benedikz	vickybenedikz@hotmail.co.uk
* - ALMC Conflict / Absence Alternate		Dave Cooper	Davejcooperuk@gmail.com

SXP Sub-Committee

Rosemary Prince
Chris Perry
Phil Churchman
Phill Barlow
Ali Smyth

GMS Admin Sub-Committee

Phil Churchman
Sue Owen

Promotion & Relegation Notes

Following a largely unbalanced set of promotions and relegations to accommodate relegations from the national league alongside an unbalanced geographical split, the area league management committee are hoping for a slightly more stable set of promotions and relegations in the 25/26 season.

The note below sets out the position to be adopted to establish the division for the following season and clarify our position on a few “lessons learned” from this season.

League intent for 2025-2026 Structure

- 12 Team Divisions at grades 2&3
- 12 Team Divisions at Grade 4 & 5 where practical whilst maximizing the number matches played at lower levels.

As last season rule 4.5.4. will be in place where two divisions merge into one,

rule 4.5.4.b

1 Higher Division (A) 2 Parallel Lower Divisions (B1, B2)*	Bottom three teams in Division A relegated ∞ Top team from each of B1 and B2 promoted; plus ∞ 2nd-placed team with best playing record § across B1 and B2 promoted
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For the purposes of this rule 2NE & 2NW will feed into 1N and 2SE and 2SW will feed into 1S.

Where numbers of teams are stated, these are made based on one team being relegated from the national league, should this vary rules 4.5.5 will be enacted.

If no teams come down from the national league the team finishing 10th in East Prem will be reprieved relegation. The team in 10th place in 1S and 1N with the highest PPM will be reprieved.

If an extra team comes down from the national league the team in 9th place in East Prem will be relegated. The team in 9th in 1S and 1N with the lowest PPM will be relegated.

In all instances where “the best second placed team” is being selected for promotion, should an additional promotion spot become available, the other second place team will take priority irrespective of the points / ppm of the third placed team in the division.

As last year:

- Both Men's and Ladies leagues will have the same structure for grades 2&3, and rules will apply to both.
- At division 1 level it is assumed that once the 24 teams for 2025-26 have been established they will be split into two geographical divisions.
- At division 2 and below Clubs will be allocated to “quadrants” and all teams from a club will play in that quadrant unless agreed with the ALMC on a case-by-case basis.
- The quadrants will be self-contained regarding promotion and relegation, with different splits not affecting other divisions at the same level, i.e. Men's 5SE is a 1 to 1 division, however Division 5NE is split into further subdivisions

- For grade 4 & 5 divisions the ALMC will make best endeavours to arrange divisions to prioritize maximising consistency of fixtures by attempting to place as many teams in divisions of 12 as possible, this may mean that 11 team divisions may occur at grade 4 and 10 team divisions at grade 5. In order to facilitate this, there may be additional relegations over the normal two as stated in the regulations.
- For the purposes of division allocation, teams will be ranked within their respective quadrants from division 2 down. Teams finishing in promotion spots will be placed above those teams within the standard relegation positions from the division above to allow the divisions to be split.
- Based on the inherent unpredictability of the promotion and relegation situation as demonstrated over the last two years, along with other geographical alignment issues, Clubs should be aware that in many cases third from bottom in a twelve division should not be considered a safe spot until the 2026/27 entries have been formulated into a new league.

Non-Standard 12 Team Divisions

This season there are a number of divisions that don't have a 12 team / 22 match structure.

Where there are less than 12 teams each team will play each other twice as normal. If a team drops out their results will be omitted from the tables.

Where there are more than 12 teams each team will play every other team once, and most teams twice. If there are an odd number of teams, each team will have a bye week, some teams may have 2 bye weeks if they are due to "play" the bye twice. In these cases, for the final standings teams will be ranked on points per match first, then goal difference to allow a fair comparison of performance as teams may have played a different number of games. If a team withdraws from the division, all results against that team will be removed. If multiple teams withdraw and leave gaps, or if clubs wish to arrange extra matches against the teams they only play once, please speak to the GMS coordinator.

Teams wishing to decline promotion.

It is anticipated that all teams finishing in a promotion position will be promoted for the next season, this also applies if there are additional promotion spots available due to teams withdrawing from divisions above.

Any team that declined promotion, or were granted additional relegations, in the previous season will not have a request to decline promotion granted.

If a club wishes to decline its promotion this request will be reviewed by the ALMC on a case by case basis, however the following decision process will be followed:

1. Can the club demonstrate quantifiable reasoning for declining the promotion. Once evidence has been provided the ALMC will assess the projected playing strength of the team relative to the playing standard of both the higher and present division.
2. Should 1. be satisfied, a representative from the ALMC will contact the team from the division above who would be reprieved asking if they wish to remain in the higher division, for clarity it should be assumed that this offer will only be made to second or higher from bottom teams, any team finishing bottom, or with a total of less than 1 ppm will be relegated.
3. Should they reject the opportunity, a representative from the ALMC will contact the team next in line for promotion and ask if they wish to be promoted. In a 1 – 1

division this will be the team finishing next in line, for a 2 into 1 division this will be the second placed team not originally in a promotion position.

4. Should none of these teams wish to play in a higher division the declining team will be asked if they wish to re-consider or withdraw the team from the division structure and be placed in the lowest division within a quadrant, or if available fill a gap in a lower division where a team has dropped out. Once teams have been withdrawn, the standard regulations for dealing with additional promotions and relegations will apply.

The intention to decline should be stated at the earliest possible date, and no later than the deadline for league entries. Teams being asked about their intentions will be given a 48 hour window so the process can be concluded within a week.

Whilst this process may sound a little officious, the requirement to implement a structured process has been brought about by a number of teams creating situations whereby the ALMC are stuck in a never ending loop of teams saying they don't want to go up.

Reprieve due to Changes in Relegations

If the number of relegations in a division is reduced due to circumstances in divisions above or the division itself, any team that would ordinarily be reprieved relegation that has fewer than 8 points (or equivalent PPM) will assumed to still be relegated unless specifically requested otherwise. In cases where a reprieved team with less than 8 points wishes to be relegated, this request will be granted with the next eligible team being promoted.

Major Changes for 26-27

Should the ALMC wish to make significant changes to the division structure for the 26-27 season, all notes above may be superseded via an area wide Club consultation and corresponding Club vote. Any such consultation will be carried out on a league by league basis.

Development Teams Notes

The Mr Cricket Hockey East Area Adult Hockey Leagues structure makes provision for Development Teams. The purpose of this provision is to support and encourage participation in the lowest divisions of the league. The intention is to provide experience of playing hockey within a league, both from a playing and administration perspective. It is hoped that it will give new team or club start-ups the opportunity to 'learn the ropes' when they may not yet be confident of full participation in a competitive League. It is anticipated that a Development Team would play on this basis for one or two seasons as the aspiration is to establish an Adult Team that plays on a competitive basis.

Key Points

- Development Teams can only play in the lowest ranked division of the vertical league structure
- Development Team entry must be submitted on the [Adult League Team Entry Form](#) before the 1st May
- A Development Team may not change their status to an Adult Team after 13th September 2025.
- An Adult team may request to change their status to a development team and complete the season in accordance with the development team rules.
- A Development Team is expected to play fixtures each scheduled week, a Development Team will be removed from the division if they fail to honour more than 4 fixtures during the season (see Regulation 4.3), including away matches.
- In general, the Standard Adult League Regulations apply to all Development Teams but with greater leniency in terms of compliance with Player Eligibility/Fair Selection. The following key variations apply in the East:
 - All matches are played as friendlies; this includes matches against other Development Teams and Adult Teams playing on a competitive basis
 - GMS team sheets and post-match information should be submitted as per the Standard Adult League Regulations (see Regulation 9.4)
 - Results for development team matches will remain in the league tables to allow teams to see how their performance progresses during the season.
 - At the end of the season all points in a Development Team fixture will be removed i.e., no points will be awarded to either side and the final positions will be determined with results against adult teams only. The ALMC will periodically produce tables excluding the development teams to allow adult teams to see where they stand. These tables will be posted to the East website rather than GMS.
 - A Development Team must have a minimum of 6 core players i.e., players who have not played for another team in the league on that day (and must have a minimum of 7 players to play the match)
 - Team selection of the Development Team and their opposition may be supplemented as follows:
 - Players of grade 4 or below playing down from other teams (of the same gender) from that Club. It is expected that players playing down from a higher Grade will do so in the spirit of 'development' i.e., not try to dominate the game
 - Players whose regular team is grade 2 or 3 may request an SXP to play in a development team. A grade 2 or 3 player playing a development team match without an approved SXP will be deemed to not be complying with the principles of team selection and will attract a T1 fine.
 - 'Borrowing' players from the opposing team or other clubs
 - Players aged 12 (of the same gender) with the agreement of their

- parent/guardian and if the Club can ensure that the player has the physical development and confidence to participate
- In games featuring a development team, both sides may select players aged 12, not just the development team
 - ALL players must be registered on GMS, U18 players must be registered via a parent as an U18 related player.
- If a Development Team cancels a fixture, they will incur financial penalties as per the Standard Adult League Regulations. See Appendix 6 Standard Penalties and Tariffs i.e., a T1 fine of £25 and if applicable pitch costs to the opposition.
 - Adult Teams who cancel fixtures against a Development Team will be penalized as per the Standard Adult League Regulations. See Appendix 6 Standard Penalties and Tariffs i.e., a T1 fine of £25 and if applicable pitch costs to opposition. Adult teams will not be given points deductions or a fine for failing to honour an away fixture where the development team did not travel to fulfil the corresponding home fixture.
 - A 5-0 walkover will not be applied to any Development Team fixture and will be marked as cancelled.
 - Normal match cancellation protocols MUST be followed.
 - A development team that repeatedly fails to fulfil league fixtures may be removed from the league schedule in line with regulation 4.3.1, should this happen, the withdrawn team will be free to arrange the previously scheduled match as a friendly, however the fulfilment obligations on the other team will be removed.
 - All grade 5 matches may be moved to an alternative date by mutual consent between both clubs. In such a case the league manager must be informed in order to make the change on GMS. Once a date change has been agreed and implemented on GMS, all regulations with regard to fulfilling the fixture will be relevant with respect to the new date.
 - **We would note that due to the revised England Hockey Transgender policy, a female born player wishing to play in a development team in an open / men's league will no longer be eligible to play in the Women's league.**

If a Development Team is not able to meet these criteria,
then participation is not recommended

Selection Exemption Passes / Fair Selection

Selection of teams should be in accordance with the fair selection rules included within section 8 of the regulations, we recommend all team captains, managers and club administrators to read this and Appendix 4 "Fair Selection & Player Eligibility Guidance Notes" prior to raising any issues or queries.

As stated in regulation 8.1.4 "The ALMC can determine at any time whether or not a Club is in breach of the Aims of Fair Selection."

For the 2025-26 Season the ALMC have determined that in order to allow a fair determination of team playing strength, and in accordance with 8.1.3 "Clubs have flexibility to select players hierarchically by availability but must not select players below their regular team to strengthen lower ranked teams.", In order to allow a quantitative assessment of playing strength, Clubs will not be allowed to concede "top" or "middle" ranked sides for the first 3 match weeks of the season. In any circumstance where a Club does not fulfil a fixture in the first three weeks of the season, the lower teams will be deemed unfair selections and the games shall be awarded as a 5-0 loss and 1 point deduction shall be applied.

For further notes on fair selection please see the later section of this document.

Applying for an SXP

For the 2025-26 season clubs / teams wishing to request a selection exemption pass for a player shall do so by completing the online form [here](https://forms.gle/wQDgVi5ZapKadXZ28):

<https://forms.gle/wQDgVi5ZapKadXZ28>

A direct link will be placed on the East Website for ease.

A sub-committee will review all submissions and either approve or reject on the basis of evidence supplied and GMS data.

The sub-committee has been set up on a quadrant basis, however will work together to generate consensus and cover for absences.

The SXP sub-committee will review all SXP requests submitted by 8pm Wednesday reviewed prior to Saturdays matches, for those received after this time, they will try to review as many as possible prior to the match day. We would note that during last season the majority of SXPs received by Friday night were processed before the games.

For any submission after the deadline whereby confirmation hasn't been received, the committee will consider receipt of the form as a request prior to the match, however playing the player(s) in question is at the Teams risk. The committee does have the ability to request more information, for the purposes of the regulations, this does not count as an approved SXP.

SXP Sub-Committee (with notional area)

Rosemary Prince	South East
Chris Perry	North East
Phill Barlow	North West
Phil Churchman	South West
Ali Smyth	Prem / Div 1S&N

General Regulations incorporating ALMC Commentary, Interpretations and Guidance

Additional commentary / guidance / notes provided in orange

AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2025-2026

The Area Adult League Regulations 2025-2026 (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.

This will be the East Area Board

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.

The East Area Adult Hockey Leagues

ALC: The Area League Chair. - Rosemary Prince

ALDS: Area League Divisional Secretary. – See List

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

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).

Appealing Party: The party requesting an Appeal or Further Appeal. For a Further Appeal, this could be either the Appellant or the Respondent to the initial Appeal.

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

Area Appointed Umpire: The Umpire(s) or official(s) 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 and Colleges Sport.

Cascade Effect: The knock-on impact of additional relegations or reprieves (originating from NL interaction or other adjustments) on promotion/relegation numbers in lower Step

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

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

Club Team Limit: The maximum number of teams that one club is permitted to field in the same Division, as defined in Regulation 4.4.

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.

Designated "X Development" within the lowest division in a quadrant

Teams not specifically called "X Development" in GMS will assumed to be adult teams with corresponding player eligibility criteria.

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

Doubling Up: When a player participates in two Adult League fixtures for their Club on the same match day (including Area League and NL 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.

EHAP: 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.

EHDP: The England Hockey Disciplinary Panel.

FIH: The International Hockey Federation.

Further Appeal: An appeal, by the Appellant or EHCD, against a decision by the AAP.

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.

[See division manager list for grade allocations](#)

Higher Division: A Division positioned at a numerically lower (superior) Step in the Area League pyramid relative to another Division.

Ineligible Player: A player who, due to suspension or registration status cannot be selected .

League: The relevant Area League.

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.

Lower Division: A Division positioned at a numerically higher (inferior) Step in the Area League pyramid relative to another Division

Matchweek: Covers all matches taking place from Thursday to Wednesday.

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

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.

Parallel Division: Two or more Divisions that feed into the same higher Step, whether at the same Step or at different Steps, where promotion from multiple divisions leads to the same destination Division.

PPM: Points Per Match: A calculation (Total Points ÷ Matches Played) used primarily to compare the performance records of teams across Parallel Divisions.

Principles: Principles of Team Selection.

Ranking: The hierarchical order of a Club's teams within the League pyramid structure, where a Club's highest-ranked team competes in the highest Division for which the Club is eligible, and subsequent teams are positioned in lower Divisions progressively according to their relative standing within the Club's team structure.

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

Reprieve: The cancellation of a team's relegation, typically due to a lack of relegation from a higher league or a vacancy arising.

Respondent: The party responding to an Appeal, the ALMC in the first instance.

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

Scheduled Fixture Date: The date a fixture is scheduled within the GMS at 8th September.

[Or date agreed by the division manager if moved after 8th September](#)

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.

AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2025-26

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.

Vacancy: An unfilled team slot within a Division after the initial application of standard promotion/relegation rules, requiring filling via Regulation 4.5.8 procedures.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 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 its respective Area Company.

1.2 Titles & 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.

1.3 Compliance With Policies

All England Hockey policies, rules and regulations, listed in Appendix 2, will apply to all matches within the Leagues.

1.4 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.

1.5 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 Overview Of Committee Structure

The management of the Area Adult Leagues is overseen by various committees and roles organised to ensure effective governance and administration.

2.2 Leadership

- 2.2.1 The Chair of the Adult Leagues and Competitions Committee will be elected at the Area AGM.
- 2.2.2 Unless provided for in Regulations issued by the Board, the Chair of the Adult Leagues and Competitions Committee shall be chair of the ALMC. The ALMC will form part of, or be a sub-committee of, the Area Adult Leagues and Competitions Committee.

2.3 Governance & Control

- 2.3.1 As a committee of the Area Company, the Area Adult League is under the complete control of the Area Board of Directors.
- 2.3.2 The League may hold additional meetings for clubs as agreed with the Area Directors.
- 2.3.3 The League budget and entry fees are set at the Area AGM by the membership, with League accounts overseen by the Area Finance Director.

2.4 Committee Appointments & Diversity

- 2.4.1 The ALMC members are proposed by the Area League Chair (ALC) and appointed by the Area Directors.
- 2.4.2 The Area Directors will expect the ALMC to be diverse in composition and open to attracting new volunteers.
- 2.4.3 Any club representative roles on the ALMC are elected at the Area AGM.

2.5 Composition Of The ALMC

The ALMC will typically include, but is not limited to, the following roles:

- **Area League Manager (ALM):** Oversees the work of Divisional Secretaries, collaborates with the Adult Leagues Chair, and liaises with the Officiating Area Administrator and Appointment Lead.
 - East Definition – Phil Churchman
- ♦ **GMS Manager:** Manages the official information on the GMS for Adult Leagues and Competitions and supports clubs in using the GMS.
 - East Definition – Phil Churchman
- ♦ **Public Relations Officer:** Promotes the Area Adult Leagues and Competitions, raises their profile and shares best practices.
 - ♦ Current Vacant
- ♦ **Club Representatives** (Optional): Represent clubs at the Committee, providing feedback on performance and areas for operational improvement.
 - ♦ All ALMC members are attached to Clubs for the 2025/26 season therefore no specific Club representative role has been implemented
- ♦ **Area League Divisional Secretaries** (ALDS): Manage Divisions proactively, serve as the primary contact for teams within their Divisions and verify match information on the GMS.
 - ♦ East Definition - League Managers
- ♦ **Officiating Representative:** Links the Area Officiating Committee with the Adult Leagues and Competitions Committee to ensure appropriate officiating standards and provide input as requested.
 - ♦ East Definition – Paul Watts

2.6 Allocation Of Roles

The Adult Leagues and Competitions Committee will allocate roles within its members as necessary to perform its functions effectively and will assign titles to these roles in accordance with guidelines from the Board.

2.7 Compliance With Regulations

The Area Adult Leagues will be managed in accordance with Area Adult League Regulations issued periodically by England Hockey. The Directors will issue necessary Regulations to ensure consistent administration across different Areas.

2.8 Review & Appeals

- 2.8.1 ALMC decisions may be reviewed by the Area Directors, and significant league issues should be reported to them and the Area Management Committee.
- 2.8.2 Appeals against ALMC decisions should follow the procedure set out in Regulation 16.

2.9 Umpire Decisions

The ALMC will not adjudicate on decisions made by umpires or appointed match officials during matches. Similarly, umpires will not adjudicate on League Regulations.

2.10 Clarification of Regulations

Team administrators requiring clarification on League Regulations should consult directly with the relevant ALM or ALDS.

First port of call should be league manager

2.11 Grading Of Divisions

2.11.1 Areas are responsible for determining the Grades of their Divisions using the provided table as guidance. The relevant requirements for participant eligibility, competition, and matchday administration will inform this process.

2.11.2 The Area Leagues Working Group (ALWG) will conduct an annual moderation to ensure consistent Grade application across Leagues.

Grade	Divisions Included in Each Grade
1	England Hockey Leagues (Premier Division, Division 1 North and 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 lower Division that promotes teams to it); and (ii) Any other Divisions, in addition to above, as designated by the ALMC

2.12 Annual Review

The ALWG will conduct 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 that are members of the Area, or from a neighbouring Area if agreed by the AMC and the ASC.

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 by a merger between existing clubs, must advise the relevant ALM by 1st May.

We will try to accommodate any late changes up to the point the final tables are published, usually early July, however after the May deadline the ability to review specific requests, particularly with regard to playing strength or location, is limited and decisions will be influenced by disruption to existing leagues

- 3.1.4 For their teams to be eligible to participate in the League by the Due Date, Clubs must have:
- (a) Completed their membership to England Hockey (and where relevant Hockey Wales), including any payments.
 - (b) Paid League entry fees.
 - (c) Paid any fines or monies outstanding to England Hockey, Area and/or Sub-Area.

3.2 Club Administration

- 3.2.1 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.
- 3.2.2 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.
- 3.2.3 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.

The league will host a presentation day in June or July where all division winners, Open and Women's top scorers and a fair play award will be presented. The presentation day constitutes a meeting called by the ALMC for Division winners. Failure by a division winner to attend the trophy presentation day to collect the trophy will result in a £100 fine

- 3.2.4 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.

3.3 Team Entry

- 3.3.1 A club must enter its teams into a League by the designated date set by the ALMC.
- 3.3.2 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.
- 3.3.3 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.
- 3.3.4 Teams from a new club formed by 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.
- 3.3.5 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. Withdrawn teams will remain in the League tables with all matches void and will occupy the lowest places. Teams withdrawn during the season would usually be placed in the bottom Division if allowed to re-join the League in the following season. Any teams in the club below the withdrawn team may not be eligible for promotion at the end of the season, at the discretion of the ALMC.

ALMC will review requests on a case by case basis and may allow non-lowest teams to drop out if a club can demonstrate with quantifiable evidence as to the specific need to remove a team.

- 3.3.6 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.
- 3.3.7 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.

See Promotion / Relegation notes above

- 3.3.8 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.

Subject to ALMC agreement and suitability of replacement teams to fill the vacant slot(s). Unlikely that a team will be placed in a higher league as promotions are designed to do this at the end of each season.

- 3.3.9 Clubs may request a team to be designated a development team, to be accepted at the discretion of the ALMC.

Only in the bottom division of Grade 5

3.4 Team Administration

- 3.4.1 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.

If a member of the ALMC or division manager goes into GMS to find contact details for a team admin and is unable to find either an email address or telephone number visible on the "team" tab of fixture within GMS (the same page as you enter the team sheet), they will issue a reminder to the listed club admins as per the Stage 1 Breach penalty listed in the regulations. Clubs will have 48 hours to have the necessary visibility activated or it will be deemed a Stage 2 breach and a tier 1 fine of £25 will be issued to the Club.

To make contact details visible an individual needs to go into their GMS profile, click the "amend record" button and make sure the three check boxes "Hide All", "Hide Mobile" & "Hide Email" are **ALL** unchecked.

As there are thousands of club and team admins in East, we don't have the ability to go through everyone to check they are visible, however we will be taking a stance that in any dispute that involves an issue about communication, (normally frozen pitches, travel or post match hospitality), we would consider the unavailability of contact information within GMS to be a primary factor in determining whether a club has followed both the regulations and reasonable processes.

- 3.4.2 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.

Grades 2, 3 and 4 will be established as 12 team divisions up to 1st July. If a team drops out after this the division will continue with a reduced number of teams. In grade 5 divisions will be set to provide the optimum standardization of division sizes within a quadrant

- 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 based on geographic location.
- 4.1.5 The ALMC shall decide which Divisions are at which Grade in line with Regulation 2.11.
- 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:
- Highest goal difference;
 - Highest number of goals scored;
 - Highest number of matches won;
 - Aggregate result of the matches between the teams concerned (and, if also equal, away goals taking precedence over home goals);
 - 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.
- ♦ Grade 2 – 1
 - ♦ Grade 3 – 3
 - ♦ Grade 4 – 4
 - ♦ Grade 5 – 4 but at the discretion of the ALMC

Teams in grade 4 conceding 4 games or more may request to be designated "development" allowing them to have additional double ups to fulfil fixtures until the end of the season, this does not allow them to play 12 year old players. Teams will be placed in the bottom division of the quadrant in the next season

Teams in grade 5 conceding 4 games or more may request to be designated "development" allowing them to have additional double ups to fulfil fixtures until the end of the season, this does allow them to play 12 year old players providing clubs are satisfied they are physically able to compete. Teams will be placed in the bottom division of the quadrant in the next season

Teams in grade 5, including development teams not fulfilling more than 4 games may be removed from the league structure if it is not demonstrated they are fulfilling sufficient fixtures demonstrate the viability of the team.

4.4 Teams From The Same Club & 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:

- ♦ Grade 2 – 2
- ♦ Grade 3 – 2
- ♦ Grade 4 – 3 unless exceptional circumstances as agreed by the ALMC
- ♦ Grade 5 – unlimited

4.5 Promotion & Relegation

4.5.1 This Regulation governs the promotion and relegation of teams between Divisions and Steps within the Area League pyramid structure at the conclusion of each Season. It also details the process for accommodating team movements resulting from promotion to, or relegation from, the National League (NL).

4.5.2 Where illustrative examples are provided within this Regulation, they are intended solely for clarification and do not form part of the binding rules.

4.5.3 The standard promotion and relegation of teams between Divisions at the end of the Season shall operate according to Regulation 4.5.3(a) below, and any variations that are agreed by the ALMC.

(a) Standard Promotion & Relegation

Scenario	Relegations from Higher Division(s)	Promotions from Lower Division(s)
1 Higher Division (A) 1 Lower Division (B)	Bottom two teams in Division A	Top two teams in Division B
1 Higher Division (A) 2 Parallel Lower Divisions (B1, B2)*	Bottom two teams in Division A	Top team in both of Division B1 and Division B2
1 Higher Division (A) 3 Parallel Lower Divisions (B1, B2, B3)	Bottom three teams in Division A	Top team in each of Division B1, Division B2 and Division B3
2 Parallel Higher Divisions (A1, A2) 3 Parallel Lower Divisions (B1, B2, B3)△	Bottom two teams in both of Division A1 and A2	Top team from each of Division B1, B2 and B3, plus the 2nd-placed team with the best playing record [§] across Divisions B1, B2 and B3

* Similar ratio for 2 Higher/4 Lower and 4 Higher/8 Lower

△ Similar ratio for 4 Higher/6 Lower

§ Determined using the Points Per Match (PPM) calculation (see Regulation 4.5.6) and Regulation

~~4.2.2 tie-breaking criteria if PPM is equal:~~

- ~~(b) Illustration A: If Division A1 and A2 represent Step 7, and Divisions B1, B2, and B3 represent Step 8, under the standard arrangement, four teams would be relegated from Step 7 (two from A1, two from A2), and four teams would be promoted from Step 8 (the winners of B1, B2 and B3, plus the best-performing 2nd-placed team).~~

Not in place

4.5.4 Discretionary Variations: For Divisions competing at Grades 2 to 5, the ALMC has discretion to implement alternative promotion and relegation arrangements.

- (a) If any variation from the Standard Arrangements (Regulation 4.5.3(a)) is to be applied, the ALMC must notify all teams participating in the affected Divisions before the start of the relevant Season.
- (b) Regular Variations (Grades 2-5)

League Pyramid Configuration	Alternative Relegation/Promotion Criteria
1 Higher Division (A) 2 Parallel Lower Divisions (B1, B2)*	Bottom three teams in Division A relegated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top team from each of B1 and B2 promoted; plus 2nd-placed team with best playing record § across B1 and B2 promoted
2 Parallel Higher Divisions (A1, A2) 3 Parallel Lower Divisions (B1, B2, B3)^	Option 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottom three teams from each of A1 and A2 relegated Top two teams from each of B1, B2, and B3 promoted OR Option 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottom team from each of A1 and A2 relegated; plus 2nd-bottom team with worst playing record § across A1 and A2 relegate Top team from each of B1, B2, and B3 promoted

* Similar ratio for 2 Higher/4 Lower and 4 Higher/8 Lower

^ Similar ratio for 4 Higher/6 Lower

§ Determined using the Points Per Match (PPM) calculation (see Regulation 4.5.6) and Regulation 4.2.2 tie-breaking criteria if PPM is equal.

In place, as per Promotion / Relegation Note

Please note - 1N will feed to 2NE & NW and vice versa. 1S will feed to 2SE and 2SW and vice versa. Once the 24 teams are established a geographical split will be carried out

4.5.5 Interaction with National League (NL)

See Promotion Notes

(a) Additional Relegations from Area Premier Division:

- If two or more teams from the Area are relegated from the NL into the Area Premier Division (Step 4), an equal number of additional teams shall be relegated from the Area Premier Division to the next Step (Step 5).
- These additional relegations affect the lowest-placed team(s) in the Premier Division that would not otherwise have been relegated under standard rules.

(b) Reprieves from Relegation from Area Premier Division:

- If no team is relegated from the NL into the Area Premier Division, the highest-placed team in the Premier Division that would otherwise have been relegated shall be reprieved (i.e., not relegated).

(c) Cascade Effect:

- The principles of additional relegation (4.5.5(a)) and reprieves (4.5.5(b)) shall cascade down through subsequent Steps of the Area League pyramid.
- Example: If one additional team is relegated from the Premier Division (Step 1) to Step 2 due to NL relegations, this triggers one additional relegation from Step 2 to Step 3, from Step 3 to Step 4, and so on. Conversely, a reprieve at Step 1 triggers a reprieve at Step 2, etc.

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- ♦ Where a cascade affects a Step with Parallel Divisions, any additional relegation required will apply to the team(s) occupying the relevant relegation position(s) that possess the lowest Points Per Match (PPM) record across those Parallel Divisions (see Regulation 4.5.6). The highest-placed team eligible for reprieve will similarly be determined by PPM if necessary.

(d) Mitigation of Cascade Impact:

- ♦ The ALMC may, at its discretion, temporarily increase the number of teams in an affected Division for one Season to mitigate significant disruption caused by the cascade effect.

The ALMC will not be increasing the number of teams in Grades 2-4 to accommodate additional teams

- ♦ If such an adjustment is made, the ALMC must simultaneously publish the intended mechanism for re-balancing the Division size (e.g., revised promotion/relegation numbers) for the following Season.

4.5.6 When teams from Parallel Divisions need to be compared for promotion, relegation, or reprieve purposes (as per Regulations 4.5.3(a), 4.5.4(b), and 4.5.5(c)), their ranking is determined using Points Per Match (PPM).

- (a) PPM is calculated to two decimal places. Standard mathematical rounding applies (e.g., 1.755 rounds up to 1.76, 1.754 rounds down to 1.75).
- (b) If teams have an identical PPM, their relative ranking will be determined using the tie-breaking criteria outlined in Regulation 4.2.2 (Goal Difference, Goals Scored, etc.).

4.5.7 Interaction with Club Team Limits (Regulation 4.4):

(a) Promotion Bar:

- ♦ A team is barred from promotion if that promotion would result in its club exceeding the maximum number of teams permitted in the higher Division, as specified in Regulation 4.4.
- ♦ If a team is barred from promotion for this reason, the promotion place may be filled according to Regulation 4.5.6 (Filling Vacancies).

A club may request promotion to a comparable division in a different quadrant if promotion is blocked by its own teams. The ALMC will review on a case by case basis on the basis of disruption to other clubs

- ♦ *Illustration B:* Club X has two teams in Division 2 North (the maximum allowed per Regulation 4.4). Their next team finishes top of Division 3 North. Promotion is barred. The place is offered to the next highest-placed eligible team in Division 3 North.

(b) Relegation Adjustment:

- ♦ If a team's relegation into a lower Division would result in its club exceeding the maximum number of teams permitted in that lower Division (per Regulation 4.4), the relegated team retains its place. Instead, the club's lowest-ranked existing team within that lower Division shall be relegated, irrespective of its final league position.
- ♦ Any vacancy created by this adjusted relegation may be filled according to Regulation 4.5.8 (Filling Vacancies).

4.5.8 Vacancies within a Division that arise after the application of Regulations 4.5.3 to 4.5.7 (e.g., due to team withdrawal, denied promotion under 4.5.7(a), adjusted relegation under 4.5.7(b)) shall be filled according to the following order of priority:

- (a) **Placement by ALMC:** A team placed directly into the Division by the ALMC outside of normal promotion/relegation, based on assessed playing standard, as permitted under Regulation 3.3.8.
- (b) **Reinstatement:** A team that was subject to an **additional** relegation from that Division solely due to the cascade effect (Regulation 4.5.5(c)). Priority given to the team with the highest PPM if multiple teams were additionally relegated.
- (c) **Reprieve:** The highest-placed team within that Division that would otherwise have been relegated. (PPM used to differentiate if applicable).
- (d) **Substitute Promotion:** The next highest-placed eligible team in the Division below, specifically when

the originally promoted team was barred under Regulation 4.5.7(a) (Club Team Limits).

(e) **ALMC Discretion:** Any other team at the discretion of the ALMC.

4.5.9 Notwithstanding the standard Division sizes, the ALMC may decide to increase or decrease the number of teams competing in any Division to accommodate exceptional circumstances not covered elsewhere in these Regulations.

- ♦ If the ALMC makes such an adjustment, it must publish the intended mechanism for restoring the standard Division size (e.g., adjusted promotion/relegation numbers) for the *following* Season concurrently with the notice of the temporary adjustment.

4.5.10 Procedural Requirements:

(a) **Notification:** The ALMC will endeavour to publish a provisional list of promoted and relegated teams by 31st May.

(b) **Appeals:** Clubs wishing to appeal a promotion or relegation decision affecting them must lodge the appeal in accordance with the procedures and timelines specified in Regulation 16 (Appeals), typically within seven (7) calendar days of the provisional notification.

(c) **Confirmation:** Promotions and relegations become final and binding once:

(i) Either the designated period for lodging appeals has expired, and no appeals have been received, or

(ii) All lodged appeals relating to promotion and relegation have been formally resolved.

(d) **Time Limits:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all time limits mentioned in this Regulation refer to calendar days.

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.

Games may only be moved outside of the stated playing window due to circumstances beyond a clubs control such as exceptional weather, ground / pitch unavailability, participation in indoor competitions. Clubs may request to bring matches likely to take place in Ramadan forward to an alternative date on the provision should a slip date be required for a weather postponement this takes priority. All requests for moving matches must be received prior to the Christmas break

"Beyond a clubs control" does not include weddings or other social events. Clubs may request moving fixtures for other reasons, however the opposition do not have to agree, if an agreement is not made between the Clubs the original fixture date must be fulfilled.

5.1.3 Matches taking place from Thursday to Wednesday are considered to be in the same Match week.

5.1.4 At Grades 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 in compliance with Regulation 5.2.1.

5.2 Fixture Management

5.2.1 Each team shall enter the proposed time and venue for each of its home matches into the GMS by the dates below.

(a) All pre-Christmas matches by 8th September.

(b) All post-Christmas matches by 1st December.

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(c) The ALMC may allow for shorter notice periods in Grade 3, 4 and 5 at their discretion .

- 5.2.2 Once on the GMS, Clubs must contact the Team Contact of the opposing team, and the ALM or ALDS, as directed, to inform them of ANY change to this information, as soon as GMS is changed.

Any change to a fixture time not communicated to the opposition will result in a T1 Fine

- 5.2.3 To change time or venue within 21 days of the match, clubs need agreement of the opposition, ALM or ALDS, and any umpires appointed to the match.

Changes of location or time that require the away team to depart or return more than 30 minutes before or after the original time must be notified 21 days prior to the match at all grades. It is incumbent on the home team to verify the away team have received confirmation and accepted the change. Changes of less than 30 mins must be notified at least 8 days in advance at all grades.

It is the ALMCs view that most teams plan their squads and travel on the day of their previous match, i.e. on Saturday you look at your next fixture, any change of less than one pitch slot (90mins), with more than 9 days notice should be accepted unless specific material reasons are given. Changes either with less notice or by more than 90 minutes will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

If a team cannot accommodate a late change request, the game shall be rescheduled to a slip date at the home teams expense.

- 5.2.4 Home teams must contact the opposition between 10 and 21 days before the fixture to confirm the match details specified by the ALMC.

We are aware that for many Clubs the administrative week starts on a Sunday after Saturdays games.

Therefore the ALMC are of the view that we will not be enforcing the 10-21 day rule for Clubs not sending out notifications if they are sent up to **7 days** (i.e. Sunday night for a Saturday match), however, should not communicating issues materially impact the fulfilment of the fixture, then clubs will deemed to have failed to reasonably notify their opposition if the 10 day notice has not been met.

- (a) Home teams must ensure confirmation of receipt by the away team..

The home team must be able to demonstrate they have made all reasonable attempts to contact the opposition, confirmation is only required if there is a change

- (b) After receipt has been confirmed, any changes to time or venue are to be by exception only, and must be agreed by both teams, the ALM or ALDS, and any umpires appointed to the match. Changes must be agreed AND confirmed no later than 2000 hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match.

- (c) Premier League teams in the Areas must inform the opposition of their intention to play quarters or halves in accordance with Appendix 3 – Rule 5.1, within the days specified above.

We are aware that for many Clubs the administrative week starts on a Sunday after Saturdays games. Therefore the ALMC are of the view that we will not be enforcing the 10-21 day rule for Clubs not sending out notifications until **7 days** (i.e. Sunday night for a Saturday match), however, should not communicating issues materially impact the fulfilment of the fixture, then clubs will deemed to have failed to reasonably notify their opposition if the 10 day notice has not been met.

- 5.2.5 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.

In the event that the match does not take place due to unavailability of the pitch at the originally scheduled time, and the home team are found to be at fault, this may be treated as failure to fulfil the fixture and a walkover awarded. The ALDS will determine if the game is to be awarded or rescheduled and whether any travel costs will be required to be reimbursed.

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.

- 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.englandhockey.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, in consultation with team captains, they may 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. Postponement and/or abandonment are covered in Regulation 13.
- 6.1.5 Home League teams must provide a designated bench area on the side of the pitch (preferably away from any spectator area and not within 5 metres of any spectator area in any event) 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 the 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 Grades 4 and 5 this may be varied with discretion for other persons to be within, or participants to leave the area if agreed by the opposition and umpires.
- ♦ Grade 2 – Chairs or benches for both teams and umpires (Subject to dispensation from the ALMC in exceptional circumstances)
- Dispensation may be granted prior to the match, though the minimum standard at grade 2 will be the provision of a seated area for suspended players
- ♦ Grade 3 – Designated bench area
 - ♦ Grade 4 – Designated bench area
 - ♦ Grade 5 – Designated bench area

We understand that this may be beyond Clubs control, therefore our position is as follows:
Clubs should make every attempt to ensure no spectators are within 5m of the bench area, if the facilities do not allow this then failing to comply be a factor in any issue it may be considered in any penalty applicable.

Should there be any issue with any individual within 5 meters (or more if deemed still part of the bench areas), the match officials or team officials may make a request that any individuals concerned are deemed to be involved in the match and must be included on the relevant team sheet submitted, and therefore both the individual and team / club are subject to any penalties applicable.

Where individuals are not available to be listed on the team sheet, teams will have 24hours from league request to have said individual included within the team sheet or identify the reasons this cannot be done along with relevant details to identify the individual. Failure to do so will be considered failing to include a match participant on a team sheet therefore falsification of a team sheet.

Whilst this may sound harsh, our intent is that if you can't comply with the regulation, you must ensure that the situation it is intended to avoid either doesn't happen, or can be policed effectively.

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 & 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 Appointed 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.englandhockey.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

A game may be shortened to a minimum of 30 minutes each way agreed by both captains and umpires prior to the match commencing

6.4.2 If the delay is caused by the late arrival of players, where a team has at least 7 players available to start the match, and further delay would mean that a normal-length match could no longer be completed within the allocated time slot, then the match should start.

Assumption of 35 mins per half plus 5 mins half time, and 5 mins for end of match switch over, games must start 80mins before the next published start time on the pitch, alternative pitch booking or light cut-off assuming at least 7 players are present.

6.5 Changing Facilities

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.

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

(*Subject to dispensation from ALMC in exceptional circumstances)

If the above standards cannot be met, this must be communicated to opposition teams via the required 10 day email.

6.6 Hospitality

- 6.6.1 Home teams are required to make post-match hospitality available to visiting teams and Area Appointed Umpires.
- (a) 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.
- The home team may request confirmation from the away team as to numbers, the request must be made no later than 6 days before the match (i.e. Sunday for a Saturday) and the away team must confirm by 20:00 Wednesday
- 6.6.2 Clubs who do not intend to provide post-match hospitality must seek ALMC approval, before the start of the season, with justification. If the ALMC allows a Home team not to provide hospitality for the season, they should inform all of their opposition teams before their first game. Away teams may reciprocate or not.

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.
- (a) **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.
- (b) **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.
- Players found to be bypassing the transfer process by creating new registrations will be deemed ineligible players in any league game they participate in. This includes if the new registration is created as a player turns 18. Players registering with a new club with an existing registration will also be deemed ineligible.
- 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.

A player may not register with a new club to play adult league hockey if they played adult league hockey for another club previously within the GMS era (since 2022), they must complete a transfer.

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

7.3 Gender

7.3.1 Competition Categories

Players shall play in the relevant category as determined by England Hockey Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy, and must only play in one category, during a season, unless approved by the ALMC.

England Hockey Wording - Participants will be unable to play across both Female and Open categories in a single season, unless they become ineligible to participate in the Female category during a season in which case they can move from the Female to the Open category.

7.4 Players Living Partially Away From Home

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 Team Selection are followed to reflect player ability.
- ♦ Requires the approval of ALMC before they can play, once dual registered.

7.5 No Objection Certificate (NOC)

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

Players may apply after the date, but the application must be received prior to GMS registration and prior to playing a League match. A player registering after the date without permission will count as an ineligible player.

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.

- (a) Both the Clubs involved in the transfer must approve the request online.
- (b) If either Club does not approve the request, the ALMC should be approached for decision if not approved 10 days after the request is raised.
- (c) 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 information).
- (d) 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.

A late transfer request form will be provided in February.

7.8 Unassigned Players Moving Between Countries

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 – TEAM SELECTION

8.1 Aims

The aims of Team Selection are:

- 8.1.1 For clubs to have reasonable flexibility in managing player selection, enabling players to be able to play where possible and not be “unselectable” due to the League Regulations.
- 8.1.2 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
 - (a) their availability on any one day; and
 - (b) not being selected at a lower level than usual for the purpose of strengthening a lower team.

8.2 General

- 8.2.1 **Purpose:** These Team Selection Regulations establish a comprehensive framework for player eligibility and team selection. The intention is to endeavour for all Clubs to feel that competition is “fair” and that clubs are not disadvantaged by the application of these Regulations.

General Point - The ALDS or SXP Committee will assess any requests for players to play outside of their stated eligibility and will be flexible with respect to reviewing playing gaps, recent team appearances and specific circumstances if the request is made prior to the match. Should a complaint be received after the match, the ALDS will make their assessment purely on statistical evidence against the rules at the time.

- 8.2.2 **Scope:** These Team Selection Regulations apply to players in Adult Leagues only and excludes Masters and Junior Hockey. Only the current season is relevant for player eligibility.

8.2.3 Club Responsibility:

- (a) Clubs are expected to select teams on merit.
- (b) The requirement to select players for teams in hierarchical order still applies when a Club has multiple teams playing at the same Step and/or in the same Division.

In order to allow a quantitative assessment of hierarchical playing strength, Clubs will not be allowed to concede “top” or “middle” ranked sides for the first 3 match weeks of the season. In any circumstance where a Club does not fulfil a fixture in the first three weeks of the season, the lower teams will be deemed unfair selections and the games shall be awarded as a 5-0 loss and 1 point deduction shall be applied.

- 8.2.4 **Authority:** The ALMC can determine at any time whether a Club is in breach of the Aims of Team Selection.

- 8.2.5 **Selection Data:** The ALMC will use GMS as the primary data source when evaluating compliance with Selection Regulations.

- 8.2.6 **Exceptions:** Any player eligibility exception requires a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) – refer to Regulation 8.6 below.

8.3 Movement Of Players

8.3.1 **Selection for Higher-Ranked Teams:** Selection for Higher-Ranked Teams: Players can be selected for a team ranked higher than their Regular Team without restriction.

8.3.2 Selection for Lower-Ranked Teams:

- (a) Restrictions apply to selecting players for teams ranked lower than their Regular Team for the purpose of strengthening those teams.
- (b) Clubs must not “drop” players to strengthen a lower-ranked team by selecting players who normally complete at a higher level.
- (c) In this context, to “drop” a player refers to the act of selecting or reassigning a player from a higher-ranked team to a lower-ranked team temporarily, typically for a specific match.

A players “regular” team will be assessed as either being the team they have appeared for the most times, or if different, teams the player has played for in their recent playing history.

8.3.3 **Eligibility Summary:** The 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		

8.3.4 **If a Higher-Ranked Team has no Fixture or Does Not Play its Scheduled Fixture:** In a Matchweek where a team has a League fixture but any higher-ranked teams in their Club do not:

- (a) The team can only select players who have made at least 50% of their playing appearances for either that team or a lower-ranked team – refer to the definition of Regular Team.
- (b) Regulation 8.3.3 does not apply in such a Matchweek.

If there is a risk of postponement of a higher team, a club should notify the relevant ALDS of the selection of a potentially non-eligible player prior to the matches being postponed. The ALDS will deem a postponed match as a fixture where the higher team does not have a match and the 50% rule will apply unless notified the day before the match date

8.3.5 **If 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 scheduled League fixture and a rearranged fixture, on Saturday and Sunday, for example:

- (a) For the rearranged match, the team can only select players who have made at least 50% of their playing appearances for either that team or a lower-ranked team – refer to the definition of Regular Team.
- (b) Regulation 8.3.3 does not apply in such a Matchweek.

8.3.6 Final Four matches:

- ♦ **For the final four League matches that a team plays** all players must have played a minimum of 50% of their matches for either that team or a lower-ranked team.

Any player not fulfilling the 50% criteria may request an SXP to be eligible. The guidance for granting the SXP will be as follows:

1. Any player whose last 3 appearances are for the lower team will be considered eligible.
2. Any player that has played more than 2/3rds of matches for a team since Christmas will be considered eligible.
3. Player numbers in higher teams will be reviewed and assuming that clubs are maintaining their average squad size in the higher team, players who can reasonably claim to have played a number of games for a lower team will be considered eligible. We would note we do not expect to see players with no track record of being a lower team player being put forward. e.g. the 1s normally have a squad of 14, as long as they continue to have a squad of 14, players who have been up and down during the season will be eligible to play down even if the 50% rule is not met. We would note that with all applications to date we have treated 50% as a guideline not a concrete wall and these principles follow that logic.

8.4 Doubling Up

8.4.1 **Definition:** Doubling up refers to a player participating in two Adult League fixtures within the same Matchweek, one of which is for their Regular Team, including NL and Area League fixtures. 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.

8.4.2 Conditions For Doubling Up:

- (a) **Permitted at Grades 4 and 5 only** to ensure that matches take place.
- (b) Permitted only as a last resort to cover player shortage.
- (c) Generally allowed for the lowest or second-lowest ranked teams only, and no more than two teams apart in the Club's hierarchy of teams.
A club may request a double up in higher teams if it can demonstrate this is the logical thing to do without unduly strengthening a lower team. E.g. Two teams away at the same ground
- (d) Maximum of 13 players for the lower-ranked team for whom players are doubling up.
- (e) A maximum of three players can double up, including the goalkeeper.
- (f) Each player can only play in two games per matchday
- (g) Excludes designated Development Teams.

Junior Development Players

Whilst the junior development player / "benching" rule has been omitted from the 25/26 regulations, the ALMC are understanding of Clubs wishes to give their junior players experience of higher level games where they may experience limited pitch time. For the 25/26 season the ALMC will review such requests a permission to double up such players for an individual match day.

1. Requests may only be to play for a clubs first team
2. Only 5 requests may be made per individual player per season
3. Only 1 request per week
4. The 1st team must have a squad of at least 13 **outfield** players (including the player for which the request is being made)
5. An SXP must be received AND granted.
6. The players lower team on the day may only be one team or one division lower than the higher team.

8.5 Player Eligibility For Doubling Up

8.5.1 Outfield Players:

- (a) No doubling up permitted by players from higher-ranked teams that played for a higher-ranked team on the previous match day.
- (b) No Club-wide restriction on the total number of players doubling up, provided that one match is for each player's Regular Team.

8.5.2 Goalkeepers (GK):

- (a) GK doubling up as a GK is limited to lower teams within two ranks of their Regular Team, as shown in the Doubling Up Summary table in Regulation 8.5.4 below and subject to the conditions stated in Regulation 8.4.2 above.
- (b) A GK, whose Regular Team plays in Grade 3 may double up for a Grade 4 or 5 team only with an approved SXP.
- (c) A regular GK 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.

8.5.3 Specific GK Rules:

- (a) 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.
- (b) If the GK is doubling up as an outfield player in the lower-ranked team, that team cannot have more than 13 players selected for the match, refer to Regulation 8.4.2.
- (c) In exceptional circumstances, such as a late injury to the GK selected, a GK can double up as a GK for a higher team 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.
- (d) If a Regular Grade 3 GK doubles up by playing outfield at Grade 4 or 5, no SXP is required.

8.5.4 **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 8.5.2	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal. Refer to 8.5.2
4	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal. Refer to 8.5.2	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 8.5.2	Maximum 3 players per team	Maximum 3 players per team

* in exceptional circumstances

- ♦ If a Club believes that a particular doubling up scenario is justified, a Selection Exemption Pass can be requested in advance.

8.6 Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)

8.6.1 Clubs may request an SXP for exemption of a player from specific selection Regulations:

- All such requests require a clear and detailed explanation of the specific circumstances.
- The ALMC reviews the SXP request and – if approved by the ALMC, the SXP will exempt that player for a specified period.
- SXP requests are limited to genuine circumstances, such as the illustrative examples in Appendix 4.

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

SXPs received by 8pm Wednesday will be responded to before the matchday, we will try and review those received afterwards but cannot guarantee they will be confirmed. SXPs will only be granted before a match, playing an ineligible player without requesting one will be deemed as playing an ineligible player.

9 TEAMS, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

9.1 Match Sheets

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

9.2 Players

9.2.1 Only players whose names appear on the team sheet shall be permitted to play in that match.

9.2.2 A player whose name appears on the match sheet, 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 The team sheet must be completed on the GMS before the match starts. This includes:

- ♦ the names of all players, and the number of the shirt the player is wearing;

At grades 4&5 names must be on the team sheet and visible, numbers can be added after prior to submission

- ♦ the identities of the captains and goalkeepers;
- ♦ the names of both umpires (umpires appointed by the away team added by their Team Contact);
- ♦ the name of a Match Official, if appointed;
- ♦ the names of any team officials participating in the match.

The ALMC/ALDS has discretion to allow names to be added after the match, at Grades 4 and 5.

9.4.2 Both captains and 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 not played, inform the ALDS, see Regulations 13 and 14) as soon as possible but no later than as below:

- ♦ Grade 2-5 – 2000 hrs on the day of the match or two hours after completion 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.

- ♦ Grades 2-5 - 2000 hrs on the day of the match or two hours after completion of the match. – Goal scorers, Green, Yellow and Red Cards

Failure to include yellow or red cards received by a player will be classed as a reporting violation
Times may be approximate, however please can captains try and get them in the correct order

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

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

GENERAL MATCHSHEET ENTRY NOTE

All details above must be included by the deadline of 8pm or 2 hours after the match depending on which is later. If any details are missing when the ALDS checks the match sheet after the deadline, the Club / Team admin will be given 24 hours from the issuance of the warning to review and correct any issues on the team sheet. After the 24 hour period is over, the team sheet will be considered a submitted document and any further issues related to its completion or the information provided within it, may be considered as falsification of a team sheet rather than accidental error.

10 DRESS

10.1 Expectations

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 Overview

10.2.1 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.

10.2.2 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)

10.3 Colour Clashes

10.3.1 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.

10.3.2 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.

10.3.3 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)

10.3.4 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.

10.4 Additional Requirements

10.4.1 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.

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

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

DRESS GENERALLY – The purpose of team kits and numbers is to allow the Umpires to tell individuals and teams apart. The ALMC will not be actioning any complaints from Clubs except where an umpire complains the actions / dress of a team mean they are unable to fulfil their role, OR where omission of shirt numbers makes identification of players either by umpires or league officials a hindrance to an ongoing investigation.

11 UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

11.1 Appointments

11.1.1 The responsibility of appointing competent umpires to matches falls to the Area Officiating Committee, Welsh Hockey Umpires Association or Club as appropriate.

11.1.2 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.

11.1.3 Where Clubs are responsible for appointing to a match, the home club must appoint both umpires, except in the cases below:

- (a) 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;
- (b) 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 Regulation 11.5. 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.

Irrespective of the above, if a club wishes to provide their own suitably qualified umpire for an away match, this should be accepted up Wednesday 8pm before a Saturday with ALDS consent.

11.2 GMS Reporting

Both umpires must be recorded on the GMS team sheet.

For club appointed umpires each team should include "their" umpires on their respective match sheets. Failure to record umpires on match sheets will be considered a breach of regulation 9

11.3 Match Officials

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.

11.4 EHO Membership

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/>

11.5 Umpire Requirements

11.5.1 The table below outlines the requirements for umpires at each Grade of competition.

	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 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed	No formal accreditation required. Refer to 11.7
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 and the opposition captain)	Yes

11.5.2 The ALMC may permit umpires below the required level of accreditation to officiate, if a request is made in advance of the match.

At grade 2, clubs wishing use a Level 1 assessed umpire must submit an Umpire level 2 exemption form for approval, this must be submitted by 8pm on the Wednesday before a Saturday match

At Grade 3 and below, Clubs providing both umpires must endeavour to provide both umpires as the required level for the grade, however may provide one umpire at the minimum acceptable level for the grade on the basis the other umpire is of the required level. In this instance Clubs do not need to request permission to do so. Where a club wishes to provide two umpires below the required level this must be approved by the division manager. In cases where each club provides a single umpire, the clubs must agree that there will be at least one umpire at the required level, and unless agreed otherwise this shall be the home team.

If one of the two umpires is being assessed to reach the level of the game being played, the other umpire must be of the required level unless approved by the league manager.

11.6 Replacement Of Appointed Umpires

11.6.1 If at any match an appointed umpire is unable to officiate, whether through late withdrawal, 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.

11.6.2 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 captains so agree.

11.6.3 If, under Regulations 11.6.1 or 11.6.2 - 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. Once the captains have agreed the game may proceed, the result of the match will be valid.

NOTE: Wherever reasonably possible the emphasis should be on reaching agreement and playing the match.

- 11.6.4 In the event that no suitable umpire is found, or captains do not agree:
- (a) If the original umpire was appointed by the Area Officiating Committee or if an umpire is injured during the match, then the match must be postponed and replayed in line with League Regulations. No penalty awarded in this circumstance.
 - (b) 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.
 - (c) 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.

11.7 Unqualified Umpires

The ALMC may permit umpires to cover Grade 5 matches without a Level 1 qualification, as long as they are 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.

11.8 Feedback

- 11.8.1 There can be no appeal or complaint against any decision (or non-decision) of an umpire on the field of play during a match.
- 11.8.2 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.
- 11.8.3 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:
- (a) This Regulation shall apply to all participants, including players, team officials and spectators, in all levels of competitions.
 - (b) 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:
- (a) Clubs are responsible for regulating the behaviour of their players, officials, members, and spectators, in compliance with the EH Code of Conduct.
 - (b) 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.

- (c) Clubs must document and communicate their internal procedures to ensure consistency and transparency.
- (d) Clubs are encouraged to implement educational or preventive measures to promote good conduct, sportsmanship and respect among their participants and spectators.

12.1.4 The team manager is responsible for the conduct of all team officials, and any club officials not in the spectator area, during a match. The captain assumes that responsibility if there is no team manager.

12.2 Yellow/Red Cards

12.2.1 Player Responsibilities and Club Accountability:

- (a) 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.
- (b) Clubs are responsible for applying suspensions.

12.2.2 Suspension Thresholds:

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:

- (a) The Club of any player due to receive a suspension must contact the relevant ALDS immediately.
- (b) Clubs must ensure timely communication with the ALMC regarding any suspensions.
- (c) 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.
- (d) If that match is postponed, the ALDS will confirm the suspension date, which will normally be the next league match(es) that the team plays.

12.2.4 Red Cards:

- (a) 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.
- (b) If the red card is a Minor Offences red card as defined under the EH Disciplinary Regulations, it shall be recorded as two yellow cards and a red card, for the purposes of accumulation and suspension as recorded above.

12.2.5 Bench Yellow Cards:

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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:

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.

Please see EH Calendar - And note junior competitions in some cases supersede adult ones.
Teams must seek a postponement at the earliest opportunity

13.2 General Postponement & Abandonment Rules

13.2.1 Decision-Making Authority:

- ♦ Immediately before or during a match, an accredited and 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 and umpires must be the key factor in the decision to postpone or abandon the match.

13.2.2 Reporting to ALDS: The relevant ALDS should be informed of the postponement or abandonment, at the time of the decision and no later than 2000 hrs on the day of the match, 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:

- (a) A new date for postponed or abandoned matches must be agreed within 10 days, using a League Reserve date if possible. If not using the next League Reserve date the following is the deadline for Fixtures to be played.

Clubs must demonstrate meaningful attempts are being made to agree a date, the ALMC may award a match if Clubs are felt to have not proceeded in good faith

- (b) Matches must be replayed within:

- ♦ Grades 2-5: 36 days

For this season the ALMC have allocated default dates for re-arrangements, Clubs are free to agree alternative dates within 36 days, however if agreement is not made the default date will apply.

- (c) The ALMC may set a block fixture move date, if a large number of Fixtures need rearranging, and Fixtures should be played no later than this date.

Matches already arranged for this date may need to be moved to accommodate the block movement, in this case please liaise with you ALDS

13.3.2 Agreement and Discretion:

- (a) Both teams and the ALMC must agree to a postponement, unless due to weather.
- (b) If teams disagree, the ALMC will decide
- (c) 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 & Travel Issues

- 13.4.1 Home Team Responsibility: The home team must
- (a) Confirm the latest acceptable notification time for cancellation with the visiting team.
 - (b) Inspect the pitch before the visiting team's departure time, using a realistic view and the Met Office as a reference.
 - (c) 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:
- (a) If the procedures are not followed and the pitch is found unfit upon arrival, umpires and teams must submit a report for ALMC review.
 - (b) Matches should be rearranged in accordance with Regulations 13.3.1 and 13.3.2.
- 13.4.5 Travel Issues: The away team must
- (a) Check the Met Office, Highways England and/or Highways Wales for travel conditions 24-48 hours in advance.
 - (b) 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.

In order to allow a quantitative assessment of hierarchical playing strength, Clubs will not be allowed to concede "top" or "middle" ranked sides for the first 3 match weeks of the season. In any circumstance where a Club does not fulfil a fixture in the first three weeks of the season, the lower teams will be deemed unfair selections and the games shall be awarded as a 5-0 loss and 1 point deduction shall be applied.

After the first 3 weeks, in grades 2-4 any point deduction applied to the conceding team will be applied to all lower teams. No penalty would be applied to grade 5 teams that have fully compliant teams, i.e. all players meet the 50% rule where a higher team does not have a fixture.

- 14.1.1 A team that fails to play due to a 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.
- 14.1.3 The relevant ALDS should be informed of the forfeiture, by the forfeiting team, at the time of the decision and no later than the scheduled time of the match, so that they can update GMS.
Teams SHOULD NOT update the GMS themselves.
Teams recording a walkover themselves as a 5-0 will be classed as a Regulation 9 breach.

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.
- 15.4 Any club or team that believes that there has been a breach of the regulations in a match by their opposition, has 7 days from that match to report it to their relevant ALDS. Any such report must include all relevant details and proof of the breach.

16 APPEALS

16.1 Scope Of Appeals

Please note the appeal process. All decisions to award games have passed through the ALMC prior to a club being notified, if you wish to complain about a decision, this can only be reviewed by the formal appeal process, i.e.. With a form and a deposit. Complaints to the League Chair or ALM (Secretary) about a decision without a the form and deposit will be treated as requests for clarification and will be responded to at the Chair / ALM discretion.

- 16.1.1 Decisions made by an umpire or appointed Match Official during a game are final and cannot be appealed under any circumstances.
- 16.1.2 The following parties may file an appeal against a decision of the Area League Management Committee (ALMC) under the procedures outlined in this section:
 - (a) Clubs directly affected by an ALMC decision
 - (b) Teams directly affected by an ALMC decision
- 16.1.3 An appeal will be allowed where the decision of the ALMC was:
 - (a) **Based on an error of fact** or could not have reasonably been reached by the ALMC when faced with the evidence before it; or
 - (b) **Unjust due to procedural irregularity:** There was serious injustice because of a procedural or other irregularity in the proceedings followed by the ALMC (e.g., failure to follow the regulations); or
 - (c) **New evidence available:** Significant and relevant new evidence has come to light which was not available before the ALMC decision was made and could not have reasonably been obtained earlier but, had it been available, may have caused the ALMC to reach a materially different decision; or
 - (d) **Manifestly unreasonable sanction:** The sanction imposed is manifestly unreasonable in light of the relevant ALMC decision.

16.2 Appeal Against an ALMC Decision

An initial Appeal must be submitted using the process described in Appendix 6

16.3 Further Appeal to the EH Appeal Panel

- 16.3.1 Following a decision of the AAP, either the Appellant, the Respondent, or the EHCD may request permission for a Further Appeal to be heard by the EH Appeal Panel (EHAP).
- 16.3.2 Permission for a Further Appeal shall only be granted if the Chair of the EHAP determines (in their sole discretion) that:
 - (a) The Decision of the AAP is **based on an error of fact** or could not have reasonably been reached

by the AAP when faced with the evidence before it; or

- (b) The Decision of the AAP is **unjust due to procedural irregularity**: There was serious injustice because of a procedural or other irregularity in the AAP proceedings;
and

- ♦ The proposed Further Appeal has a reasonable prospect of success.

16.3.3 The procedure for a Further Appeal is described in Appendix 6.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – LEAGUE TITLES & DIVISIONS

See <https://www.englandhockey.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)
- ♦ EH Code of Conduct
- ♦ EH Disciplinary Regulations
- ♦ EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey
- ♦ EH Privacy Policy
- ♦ EH Equality Policy
- ♦ EH Guidance on Faith and Fixtures
- ♦ UK Anti-Doping Rules
- ♦ EH Anti-Corruption Policy
- ♦ EH League Sponsorship Policy
- ♦ EH Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy
- ♦ EH Safe Hockey Policy

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

<https://www.englandhockey.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).

For 2025-26 it is optional that Premier Division games may be four quarters of 17 minutes 30 seconds, with no stoppage for short corners. To be implemented if requested by the Home team.

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 – PLAYER SELECTION GUIDANCE

The guidelines outlined in this reference ensure a comprehensive framework for player 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 Team Selection.

1 SELECTION NOTES

1.1 Objective

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

1.2 Player Selection Hierarchy

- 1.2.1 Clubs are expected to select teams on merit.
- 1.2.2 Players should not be selected at a lower level than their Regular Team for the purpose of strengthening a lower-ranked team.

1.3 Doubling Up Restrictions

- 1.3.1 Doubling up, defined as playing in multiple teams on the same matchday, is generally not permitted except in specific cases as described in Regulation 8.4.
- 1.3.2 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.

2 SELECTION EXEMPTION NOTES

- 2.1 At the ALMC's discretion a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) can be granted for a specific time period to manage specific scenarios.

- 2.1.1 A club can request a retrospective exemption in the case of an emergency.

- 2.1.2 Clubs are encouraged to request SXPs in advance, though they may be considered retrospectively in cases where injuries occur close to the match start time, such as during warm-up.

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

2.2.1 Grade 1

- ♦ No doubling up is permitted except in very specific circumstances that will always require an SXP:
 - ♦ If a Grade 1 GK plays outfield in a lower-ranked team to help with numbers an SXP is required.
 - ♦ If both the 1st team (1s) and 2nd team (2s) play in the NL, and a 1s player is injured immediately before the game a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) is required for a 2s player to play for the 1s as cover. A 1s player cannot double up for 2s.

2.2.2 Grade 2

- ♦ No doubling up is permitted except in exceptional circumstances for a goalkeeper with an SXP.
- ♦ 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.

2.2.3 Grade 3

- ♦ No doubling up is permitted except for a goalkeeper with an SXP.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ A Grade 3 outfield player cannot double up outfield for any Grade 4 or Grade 5 team.

2.2.4 Grades 4 & 5

- ♦ Doubling up is permitted subject to the conditions stated in Regulation 8.4.2 “Conditions For Doubling Up”.
- ♦ No specific SXP requirements apply to doubling up at Grade 4 and Grade 5.

2.3 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.

2.3.1 Player returning from injury after a few weeks

- (a) A regular Grade 2 1st team player wants to return by playing in the Grade 3 3rd team.
- (b) A regular Grade 3 3rd team player wants to return by playing in the Grade 5 5th team.

2.3.2 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

- (a) 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.
- (b) A player regularly covered for injuries or unavailability in a higher team.
- (c) 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.
- (d) A player not selected by a higher team, which has been their Regular Team, in line with club selection, but not for the purposes of strengthening a lower team.

2.3.3 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

- (a) A mid-ranked team has significant unavailability, and players doubling up genuinely come from lower-ranked teams.
- (b) A low-ranked team has significant unavailability and requires more than three players to double up to field a team.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.

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

- ♦ 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.
 - ♦ 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.
- (a) Teams playing on the Saturday must select teams that comply with the usual selection Regulations.

(b) Player eligibility for the rearranged Sunday fixture

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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*.

2.3.5 Examples of emergency issues

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.

APPENDIX 5 – STANDARD PENALTIES & TARIFFS OF FINES

- 1 Please refer to Regulation 15 - Breach Of Regulations & Penalties.
- 2 Breaches
 - ♦ Stages - Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 below refer to an individual breach and the process giving the opportunity to rectify this.
 - ♦ 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
 - ♦ There are recommended amounts for fines, Tariff 1, T1 - £25, Tariff 2, T2 - £50, Tariff 3, T3 - £100
 - ♦ Note waiving of a fine is at the discretion of the ALMC
 - ♦ Where a fine is applied it will be doubled for repeat offences
 - ♦ Payment of fines is within 28 days unless an alternative date is set by the ALMC.
 - ♦ 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
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. T1 Fine	All Club fixtures awarded as Walkovers until completed. T2 Fine
3.2.1 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	T1 Fine	
3.2.3 Representation from club at any meeting called by the ALMC	2-5	T1 Fine	N/A	N/A
3.2.3 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	T1 Fine	N/A
3.3.1 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
3.3.5 Withdrawal of a team during the season.	2-3	T3 Fine	N/A	N/A
	4-5	Warning regarding re-entry following season		
3.4.1 & 3.4.2 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	T1 Fine	N/A

REGULATION 5: FIXTURES

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
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. T1 Fine	N/A
5.2.2& 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	T1 Fine	T2 Fine
5.2.4 Home team did not contact the opposition between 10 and 21 days before the fixture	2-5	Warning Stage 2 if it leads to match not taking place on specified date	T1 Fine	T2 Fine

REGULATION 6: MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
6.1 & 6.5 Provision of Pitch & Facilities and Changing facilities in line with Regulation and no effort to mitigate	2-5	Warning	Warning	T1 Fine
6.6 Failure to supply hospitality	2	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine
	3-5		Warning	
6.6 Hospitality requested or confirmed and not taken	2-5	Reimburse opposition.	Reimburse opposition. T1 Fine	Reimburse opposition. T2 Fine

REGULATION 7: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – REGISTRATION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
7 Fielding an ineligible player in a match.	2-4	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T1 Fine, plus 1 point deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T2 Fine, plus 2 points deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 Fine, plus 3 points deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player
	5	Warning for maladministration. 1 point deducted for each ineligible each player if negligent, e.g. not received or transfer approval. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T2 Fine for maladministration. 1 point deducted for each ineligible player if negligent, e.g. not received or transfer approval. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T3 Fine and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player if negligent, e.g. not received or transfer approval. In addition, match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).
7.7 Transfer or Registration process not followed by player	2-5	If a player has bypassed the Transfer process by making a new Registration, when identified, the player shall receive a suspension for the number of games played whilst ineligible		

REGULATION 8: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – TEAM SELECTION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
8 Not complying with principles of team selection. (May be playing without approved SXP)	2-3	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T1 Fine, plus 1 point deduction and one point for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T2 Fine, plus 2 point deduction and two points for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 Fine, plus 3 point deduction and three points for each ineligible player
	4	T1 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).	T2 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).	T3 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).	T1 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).	T2 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).
8.4 Doubling up a player contrary to Regulations	2-5	T1 Fine and 1 point may be deducted for each ineligible player in lower team. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T2 Fine and 2 points may be deducted for each ineligible player in lower team. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T3 Fine and 3 points may be deducted for each ineligible player in lower team. 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
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.	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction.
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.	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction.
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.	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction.
9.4.4 Team not reporting yellow and red cards on the GMS Timeline by specified time.	2-5	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction.
9 Falsifying information on match sheet,, including incorrectly recording or omitting information on match sheet	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 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.	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 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.	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 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.

REGULATION 10: DRESS

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
10 Uniform kit, additional clothing, numbers	2	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine, for significant non-compliance
	3-4		T1 Fine for significant non-compliance	T1 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
11 Failure to supply umpire of appropriate level	2	T1 Fine	1 point deduction from match and T1 Fine	1 point deduction from match and T2 Fine. ALMC to determine if match is to be replayed
	3-4	Warning		
	5	N/A	Warning	1 point deduction from match and T1 Fine
11.1.2 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	T1 Fine	T2 Fine
11.2 Both Umpires must be recorded on GMS Team Sheet	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction
11.4 Failure of umpire to register as member of England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club	2-5	Warning	Warning	T1 Fine
11.8.3 Failing to complete umpire report (Only for Area Appointed Umpires)	2	T1 Fine	T2 Fine	T3 Fine

REGULATION 12: DISCIPLINE

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
12.2.3(a) Failure to inform ALDS of pending suspension	2.5	T1 Fine	T2 Fine	T3 Fine
12.2.3(c) 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. T1 Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. T2 Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. T3 Fine
12.2.4 Fielding an ineligible player in a match due to suspension**	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning plus 1 point deduction if deliberate. T1 Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning plus 1 point deduction if deliberate. T2 Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning plus 2 point deduction if deliberate. T3 Fine

Notes:

* Yellow card totting up count

** Red Card Suspension

REGULATION 13: POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
13 Failure to comply with regulation	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. T1 Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. T2 Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. T1 Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses
13.2.2 Not informing ALDS by deadline	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine
13.3.1(a) Rearrangement not agreed within regulation days	2-5	Warning, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture	T1 Fine, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture	T2 Fine, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture
13.3.1(b) Rearrangement date not within regulation days	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine

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
14 Failure to honour a fixture	2	T2 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.	T2 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.	T3 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.
	3-4	T1 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.	T2 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.	T2 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.
	2-4	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.		
	5	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.	Further 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.	Further 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 Team Selection & Player Eligibility)]		
14 Failure to honour a fixture in the last four scheduled fixtures of the season	2-4	All above deducted penalty points will be doubled	All above deducted penalty points will be doubled	All above deducted penalty points will be doubled
14.1.3 Failure to notify ALDS by deadline	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine

Notes

* costs to opposition if applicable. i.e. pitch hire and teas costs.

APPENDIX 6 – APPEAL PROCEDURE

1 INITIAL APPEAL AGAINST AN ALMC DECISION

1.1 Submission Of Appeal Notice

- 1.1.1 All appeals must be submitted using the Appeal Notice form (Appendix 6), clearly marked for the attention of the Area Appeal Panel (AAP).
- 1.1.2 The ALMC must receive the Appeal Notice no later than five (5) days after the Appellant is notified of the decision being appealed.
- 1.1.3 The Appeal Notice must be sent by email to the ALMC at the designated league email address .

1.2 Appeal Deposit

- 1.2.1 A deposit of £100 must accompany all Appeals.
- 1.2.2 The deposit must be paid no later than seven (7) days after the appealing party is notified of the decision being Appealed.
- 1.2.3 This deposit will be returned, all or in part, if the Appeal is successful.
- 1.2.4 Additional Costs:
 - (a) Oral hearings may incur costs (e.g., venue, panel expenses), payable by the appealing party if directed by the AAP.
 - (b) Costs are assessed and communicated at the decision stage.

1.3 Submission Of Full Appeal

- 1.3.1 The complete appeal documentation must include:
 - (a) Copies of all relevant documents
 - (b) Written statements of any witnesses upon which the appealing party intends to rely
 - (c) A detailed explanation of the grounds for Appeal, specifying which of the grounds in section 16.1.3 apply
- 1.3.2 The full Appeal submission must be received by the AAP not later than 14 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision being appealed.
- 1.3.3 All documentation must be submitted via email to the ALMC for forwarding to the AAP.

2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Note: References to “Appellant” throughout this appendix also apply to the Respondent (ALMC) or EHCD when they are the party initiating a Further Appeal, with appropriate role reversals.

2.1 The Appellant

- 2.1.1 To submit all required documentation within specified deadlines;
- 2.1.2 To provide clear and factual information supporting the grounds for Appeal;
- 2.1.3 To pay the required deposit within the specified timeframe;
- 2.1.4 To attend any hearings as directed by the AAP Chair.

2.2 The Respondent

- 2.2.1 To receive and forward appeal materials to the AAP;
- 2.2.2 To appoint a representative to respond to the Appeal;
- 2.2.3 To provide all documentation related to the original decision;

2.2.4 To notify other clubs directly affected by the Appeal.

2.3 The AAP Chair

2.3.1 To issue directions for the further conduct of the Appeal as soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of the Appeal Notice;

2.3.2 To determine whether to stay, suspend, or vary any penalty that is the subject of an Appeal pending determination;

2.3.3 To consider extensions for Appeal deadlines in exceptional circumstances (such decisions shall be final);

2.3.4 To decide whether an oral hearing is necessary;

2.3.5 To ensure all interested parties are notified of the Appeal and its outcome.

2.4 AAP Members

2.4.1 To review Appeal materials and make decisions based on evidence;

2.4.2 To maintain impartiality and adhere to League Regulations.

2.5 Panel Composition

2.5.1 The AAP will consist of at least three members, including the AAP Chair.

2.5.2 Panel members must have no direct interest in the matter being Appealed.

2.6 Affected Clubs

2.6.1 Any club that may be directly affected by an Appeal:

- (a) May submit written evidence and submissions when invited by the AAP Chair
- (b) Must be notified promptly of any appeal that directly affects them
- (c) Must be informed of the outcome of any appeal that directly affects them

3 APPEAL REVIEW PROCESS

3.1 Scope of Review

3.1.1 Every Appeal will be limited to a review of the decision of the ALMC unless the AAP considers that in the circumstances it would be in the interests of justice to treat the Appeal as a re-hearing of the matter.

3.1.2 The AAP will not generally consider new evidence that was not presented to the ALMC unless the criteria in section 16.1.3(c) are satisfied (evidence could not have reasonably been obtained earlier and may have caused a materially different decision).

3.2 Hearing Format

3.2.1 Unless the Chair of the AAP directs otherwise, all appeals will be dealt with in writing by email.

3.2.2 The Appellant may request an oral hearing, in which case the Chair of the AAP may direct that an oral hearing is to be held.

3.2.3 If an oral hearing is directed:

- ♦ All oral hearings will be held by video conferencing means unless exceptional circumstances require an in-person hearing
- ♦ All parties will be given reasonable notice of the hearing date
- ♦ The AAP Chair will issue specific directions regarding the conduct of the hearing

3.3 Decision-Making Criteria

The AAP will consider:

- (a) Whether the grounds for appeal specified in section 16.1.3 have been established
- (b) The evidence presented by all parties
- (c) Whether the ALMC's decision was based on an error of fact or was unreasonable given the evidence
- (d) Whether significant procedural errors occurred during the ALMC's process
- (e) Whether any new evidence meets the criteria for consideration
- (f) The proportionality and reasonableness of any sanction imposed

3.4 Timelines for the Appeal Process

- 3.4.1 Appeal Notice submission: within 5 calendar days of ALMC decision notification.
- 3.4.2 Deposit payment: within 7 calendar days of ALMC decision notification.
- 3.4.3 Full Appeal, and corresponding Respondent's evidence submission: within 14 calendar days of ALMC decision notification.
- 3.4.4 Oral hearing: request to be made as soon as possible and no later than the submission of the full Appeal.
- 3.4.5 AAP Panel formation: within 5 calendar days of receiving the full appeal.
- 3.4.6 AAP review & hearing:
 - (a) Written appeals: Decision within 14 calendar days of panel formation.
 - (b) Oral hearings: Scheduled within 14 calendar days of panel formation, with a decision within 7 calendar days after the hearing.
- 3.4.7 Decision notification:
 - (a) Initial decision communicated within 48 hours of the AAP's ruling.
 - (b) Detailed written reasons provided within 7 calendar days (extendable by the AAP Chair).
- 3.4.8 The Chair of the AAP may extend the timetable shown in 3.4 if necessary, with notification to all parties when such an extension is granted.

4 APPEAL OUTCOMES

4.1 Potential Decisions

- 4.1.1 In making its decision the AAP may:
 - (a) **Dismiss the Appeal** if it lacks merit or fails to meet eligibility criteria, upholding the original decision
 - (b) **Allow the Appeal in full** and overturn the original decision
 - (c) **Allow the Appeal in part** and modify the original decision
 - (d) **Refer the matter back to the ALMC** for reconsideration with specific directions
- 4.1.2 **Costs:** The Appellant may be liable for costs if the Appeal is unsuccessful.

4.2 Sanctions

- 4.2.1 If an Appeal is not allowed in full, the AAP may impose any sanction that the ALMC could have imposed.
- 4.2.2 The AAP may increase or decrease any sanction imposed by the ALMC.
- 4.2.3 If an oral hearing occurs, the AAP may order the Appellant to pay all or part of the Appeal costs.

5 APPEAL OUTCOMES & COMMUNICATION OF DECISIONS

5.1 Notification Of Decision

The decision of the AAP shall be notified in writing to the parties to the Appeal within 48 hours of the decision being made.

5.2 Reasons For Decision

Succinct reasons for the decision shall be sent to the parties to the Appeal and the England Hockey Competition Department (EHCD) within 7 days of the decision.

5.3 Timeline Extensions

The Chair of the AAP may extend the timetable in paragraphs 5.1 & 5.2, if necessary.

5.4 Finality Of Decisions

Other than as provided for under Regulation 16.3, the decision of the AAP shall be final.

6 FURTHER APPEAL TO THE EH APPEAL PANEL

The procedures in this section apply to any party (Appellant, Respondent, or EHCD) seeking a Further Appeal.

6.1 Process for Further Appeal

6.1.1 The Request must be in writing in a document headed "Further Appeal Request".

6.1.2 A Request for permission for a Further Appeal must be submitted within 14 days of the AAP's decision notification.

6.1.3 The Request must be sent to the England Hockey Competitions Department (EHCD) marked for the attention of, and to be forwarded to, the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel.

6.1.4 The Request must be copied to the other party to the Appeal, and the AAP.

6.1.5 The Request must include a summary of the facts and matters relied upon by the Appealing Party to satisfy the requirements for permission for a Further Appeal.

6.2 Documentation Requirements

6.2.1 Within 7 days of receipt of the Further Appeal Request, the AAP shall send:

(a) A hard copy bundle of all documents that were before the AAP to the EHCD, marked for the attention of the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel

(b) Electronic copies of the same documents as an attachment to an email

6.3 Further Appeal Deposit

6.3.1 A deposit of £100 must accompany all Further Appeal Requests.

6.3.2 The deposit must be paid to England Hockey within 14 days of the AAP's decision notification.

6.3.3 The deposit will be refunded, in whole or in part, if the Further Appeal is successful.

6.3.4 Additional Costs:

(a) Oral hearings may incur costs (e.g., venue, panel expenses), payable by the Appealing Party if directed by the EHAP.

(b) Costs are assessed and communicated at the decision stage.

6.4 Further Appeal Decision Process

6.4.1 The Chair of the EHAP will review the Request as soon as reasonably practical and notify all parties of their decision promptly.

(a) If permission for a Further Appeal is granted, the Chair is not required to give reasons.

- (b) If permission is refused, the notification shall include succinct reasons for that decision.
- (c) If permission is granted, the Further Appeal Request shall become the Appeal Notice for the purposes of the Further Appeal.

6.4.2 The decision of the Chair of the EHAP shall be final.

6.5 Hearing Format

6.5.1 The Chair of the EHAP shall issue directions for the further conduct of the hearing as soon as reasonably practical.

6.5.2 If permission for a Further Appeal is granted, such Appeal shall be either in writing or an oral hearing, subject to whatever is requested by the parties or directed by the Chair of the EHAP (whose decision will be final).

6.5.3 All oral hearings will be held by video conferencing means.

6.6 Potential Outcomes of Further Appeal

6.6.1 In making its decision the EHAP may:

- (a) **Dismiss the appeal** if it lacks merit or fails to meet eligibility criteria, upholding the original decision
- (b) **Allow the appeal in full** and overturn the original decision
- (c) **Allow the appeal in part** and modify the original decision

6.6.2 **Costs:** The Appealing Party may be liable for costs if the appeal is unsuccessful.

6.7 Final Decision

6.7.1 The decision of the Chair of the EHAP will be notified in writing to the EHCD, the AAP, the ALMC, and the original Appellant.

6.7.2 The decision of the EHAP shall be final and binding on all parties.

7 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 or Club 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**

The MO shall report any significant variance to the League Regulations by either team to the ALDS
- 5 **CLUB APPOINTED MATCH OFFICIALS**

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