



Welcome

ADULT LEAGUES & COMPETITIONS

PRESEASON ALL CLUBS MEETING - 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

Website: midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions

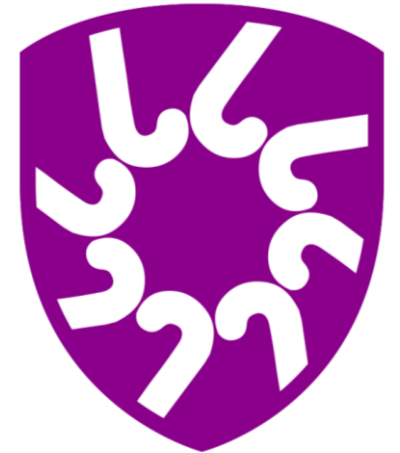
While we wait for the meeting to begin, please enter **your name** and the **Club** you are representing in the Teams Chat, so we can track attendance.

Meeting Admin

- ▶ The meeting will be recorded, so we don't miss anything.
- ▶ Please enter **your name** and the **Club** you are representing in the Teams chat, so we can track attendance.
- ▶ With so many attendees and in anticipation of questions, we are asking that the **questions be put in the chat**. If there is time at the end of the presentation we will attempt to answer. Otherwise, all questions and answers will be documented and sent to all attendees.
- ▶ All the guidance documents referred to in this meeting are available on the Midlands website, here: <https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents>
- ▶ This presentation will be published on the Midlands Adult League website after the meeting.

Introduction from Midlands Chair

- ▶ The Midlands Chair of Directors, **Tim Lorimer**, has requested to say a few words.
- ▶ Midlands Hockey website:
<https://midlands.englishhockey.co.uk/about-midlands-hockey>



**MIDLANDS
HOCKEY**

Adult League Management Committee (ALMC)

- ▶ There has been some changes to the organisation of the ALMC for the new season
- ▶ New roles include:
 - **Area League Clubs Rep,**
Daniel McConaghy
 - **Discipline Coordinator,**
Chris Ashton
- ▶ All League contact details can be found on the website -



- <https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/adult-leagues-contacts>

Regulations

- ▶ Summary of regulation changes for 2026/27 is listed in the document '**Summary of Changes - Area Adult League Regulations 2026-27**'.
 - The Regulations and Summary of Changes can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ Changes include:
 - Team selection & doubling players, reduced from 13 to 12 players.
 - Red & Yellow Cards, new team-level Yellow Card penalty regime.
 - Premier League games are now expected to be quarters.

AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2026-27

AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2026-2027

The Area Adult League Regulations ("Regulations") 2026-2027 (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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Summary of Changes to League Regulations 2026–27

Summary of Changes to the 2026–27 Area League Regulations

The 2026–27 regulations contain a number of revisions, which are covered in the following tables. A short summary:

- **Player eligibility** sees a notable addition: **Non-UK Passport Holders section** (Regulation 7.5), who must comply with "EH Participation in Hockey for non-UK Passport Holders" policy referenced in Appendix 2 (a UK Government requirement). The old **No Objection Certificate (NOC) regime** has been removed entirely and replaced by this framework – the NOC definition has also been deleted from the Glossary.
- **Dual Registration** is expanded and tightened. Players must nominate a Primary Club and a Secondary Club, with the Primary Club retaining selection priority. Dual Registration is now not permitted in a team's final 4 matches, a transfer is required to change Primary Club, and ALMC approval does not persist beyond the end of the season.
- **Regulation 8 Player Eligibility – Team Selection** has a number of changes:
 - The Doubling Up definition has shifted from 'same match day' to '**same Matchweek**' – broadening the window over which eligibility is assessed.
 - 8.3 Movement Of Players has been revised – e.g., 8.3.4 'When a Higher-Ranked Team has no Fixture or Does Not Play its Scheduled Fixture', plus a clarification that prior-season data may be used in Week 1.
 - 8.4 Doubling Up has been tightened, with a number of modifications. For example, the doubling-up squad cap is reduced from 13 to 12 players. Note the checklist for circumstances that permit doubling up.
 - Regulation 8.4.1 revised: When considering eligibility of a player to double up the player is considered to have been selected to play for the **higher** team and is doubling up to play for the **lower** team.
 - 8.5 Player Eligibility For Doubling Up includes a revised table (8.5.4 Doubling Up Summary)
- Regulation 9: match-sheet confirmation now explicitly covers **goals and cards** (not just the score), and hospital-treatment injuries must be reported by the match-sheet deadline.
- 12.2 Yellow/Red Cards introduces a **new team-level yellow-card penalty regime** (Regulation 12.2.1(b)).
- Regulation 14 (Failure to Honour) is restructured with a grade-by-grade penalty matrix, including a cascade penalty for clubs whose lower teams also forfeit.
- **Half-time** is 5 minutes across Grades 2–5 unless agreed before the match commences, and the playing quarters format becomes the default for Premier Divisions unless the home team advises otherwise (i.e., the notification direction has been inverted compared with 2025–26).
- **Appeal deadlines tightened:** Promotion/relegation appeal window reduced from 7 to 5 days (4.5.10(b)); Further-Appeal Request window reduced from 14 to 5 days (Appendix 6, 6.1.2).

Promotions & Relegations

- ▶ At the end of the season, the normal approach of promoting the top two in each Division will be implemented. The exception being Premier where only one team is promoted to the EHL.
 - To match these promotions, there will be matching relegations from the Divisions above.
 - In some cases, PPM (points per match) will be used to identify which teams should be relegated.
- ▶ Please see the document '**Midlands Guidance 2026-27_Promotions & Relegations**' on the Midlands website.



MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUE PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS 2026/27

Open/Men's League

DIVISION	TEAMS	PROMOTIONS Communicated	RELEGATIONS Communicated	NOTES
Premier	12	1	2	Promotion to EHL. EHL relegations see note ¹
Division 1	12	2	2	
Division 2	12	2	4	4 teams relegated into 2 divisions
3 West	12	2	2	
3 East	12	2	2	
4 West	12	2	2	
4 East	12	2	2	
5 West	12	2	4	
5 East	12	2	4	8 teams relegated into 4 divisions
6 North West	12	2	2	
6 North East	12	2	2	
6 South West	12	2	2	
6 South East	12	2	2	
7 North West	12	2	2	
7 North East	12	2	2	
7 South West	12	2	2	
7 South East	12	2	2	
8 North West	12	2	2	
8 North East	12	2	2	
8 South West	12	2	2	
8 South East	12	2	2	
9 North West	12	2	2+	
9 North East	12	2	2+	
9 South West	12	2	2+	10 teams relegated into 5 divisions 8 (positions 11/12) plus 2 worst PPM ¹
9 South East	12	2	2+	
10 North West	10	2	None	
10 North East	11	2	None	
10 Central	11	2	None	
10 South West	10	2	None	
10 South East	10	2	None	
	352			

GMS

- ▶ There are a few changes to the GMS this season, some yet to be made live, including:
 - Changes to how some information is displayed and GMS notifications.
 - Email notifications of changes to fixtures, post 8th September.
 - All submission fields in the Match Sheet (Score) are mandatory.

- ▶ **Club Admin** and **Team Contacts** for each Team must be available on the GMS by **8th September**.
 - Club Admin email & phone number should be on view.
 - Each Team requires at least **two Team Contacts** (usually Captain) with emails & phone numbers on view (Regulation 3.5).
 - Contact details can be updated via user profile in GMS (see [GMS Team Contact Guidance](#)).

Player Registration (1 of 2)

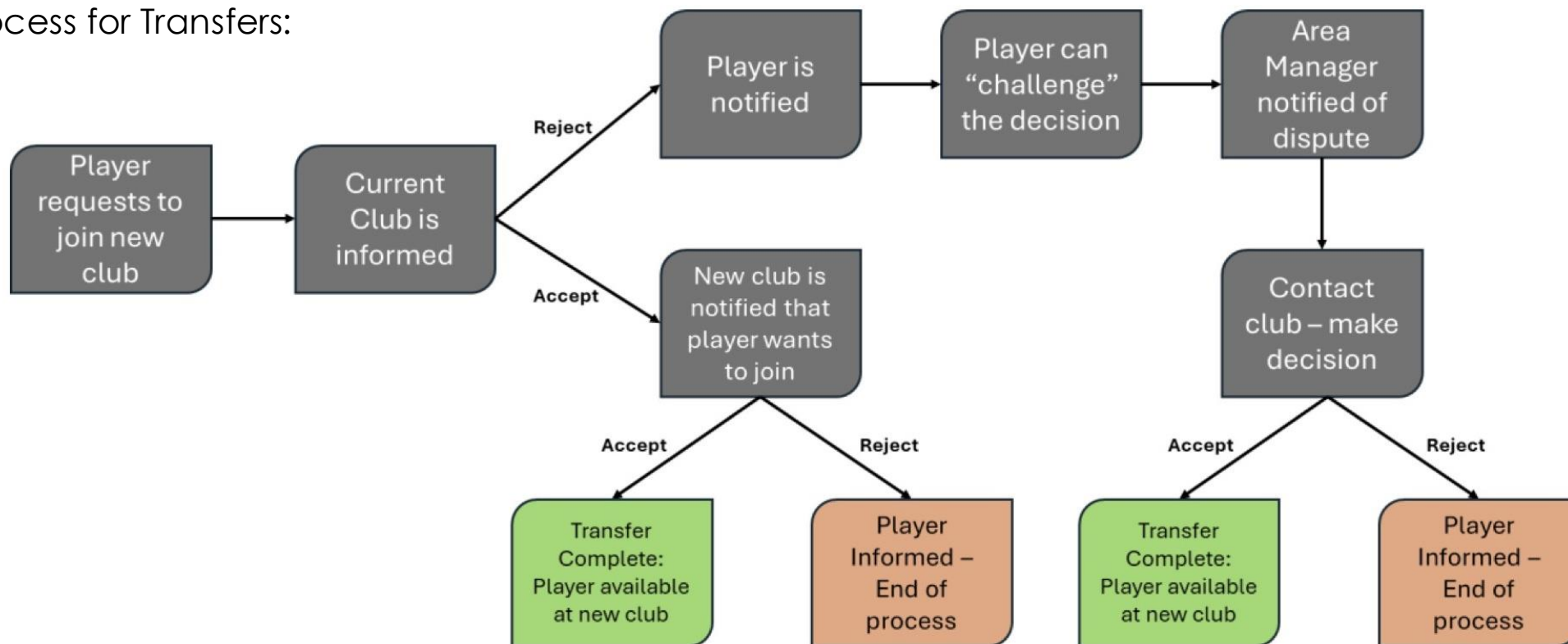
- ▶ Please ensure **ALL players are registered** before the start of the season.
- ▶ **New Registrations** are passed directly to Clubs to accept and should not be used instead of a Transfer.
 - Adult League is able to review new registrations and will be asking Clubs to check that a Transfer is not required.
 - It is the responsibility of the receiving Club to ensure a player has transferred correctly.
- ▶ As per the Regulations, fines will be issued for non-compliance.
- ▶ Contact GMS Support for advice: GMS.support@englandhockey.co.uk
- ▶ **Dual Registration** (Second Club) has changed for 2026/27 (Regulation 7.2.4), see next slide for details.

Player Registration (2 of 2)

- ▶ **Dual Registration** (Regulation 7.2.4), requires ALMC approval **before** the player can play; ALMC approval will last for one season.
- ▶ There are two instances where players can be Dual Registered:
 1. Playing in a **non-Adult League Competition in the same Area**, e.g. Masters or EH Cup Competition. This type of Dual Registration requires no Grade limitations.
 2. Playing in **another Area League**, e.g. at University or working away from home, with Grade limitations (listed below). Once they play in **any Grade 1 or 2** Adult League Fixture in either Area, they are no longer eligible for Dual Registration for that season.
- ▶ **Grade 3 and below:** Dual Registered players can play for either Club, but only one Adult League Club per Matchweek.
- ▶ Dual Registered players are not permitted to play in a Team's final 4 matches of the season.
- ▶ Contact GMS Support for advice - GMS.support@englandhockey.co.uk

Transfers

- Core process for Transfers:

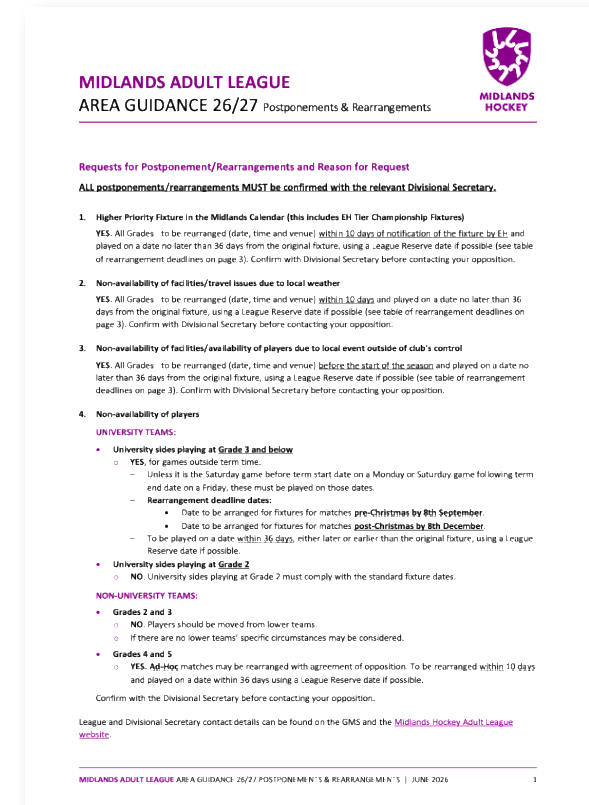


Fixtures & Accepted Changes (1 of 4)

- ▶ Changes to fixtures – Regulation 5.1.
 - Any changes are **subject to the approval of the Area League Management Committee (ALMC)**.
 - Clubs to note the guidance issued by England Hockey on Faith and Fixtures when considering requests for rescheduling a fixture. A copy of '**Ramadan Information 2026/27**' can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ Regulation 5.1.2 – Always include the **Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) in communications regarding changes to fixtures.
- ▶ Regulation 5.2.4 – Home teams **must contact the opposition between 10 and 21 days** before a fixture to confirm the match details specified by the ALMC.
- ▶ **Saturday 24th October, EH Championship fixture** – Teams that have entered the EH Championships and have a Competition fixture can rearrange the League fixture. The League fixture may not be rearranged if the team entered has been drawn a **Bye** fixture on 24th October.

Fixtures & Accepted Changes (2 of 4)

- ▶ University term dates:
 - Term dates are listed in the document '**Midlands Guidance 2026-27_Postponements & Rearrangements**' and can be found on the Midlands website.
 - At Grade 3 and below (Regulation 5.1.4) 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**.
- ▶ Always include the **Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) in communications regarding changes to fixtures.



Fixtures & Accepted Changes (3 of 4)

- ▶ Match start times – if different to times stated in Regulation 6.3 this **must be agreed** with the Divisional Secretary (ALDS) and opposition team.

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

Fixtures & Accepted Changes (4 of 4)

- ▶ Fixture management (Regulation 5.2) – all fixture details are expected to be on GMS by:
 - All fixtures for matches pre-Christmas by **8th September**.
 - All fixtures for matches post-Christmas by **1st December**.
 - Both '**From time**' AND '**To time**' should be input for each fixture.
- ▶ **Pitch bookings** must be of a minimum duration (Regulation 6.2.1): **1 hour 30 minutes**
- ▶ Changes to published fixtures are by **exception only** and must be notified to the ALM or ALDS and agreed by both teams and umpires.
- ▶ **ANY change** to published fixtures must be communicated a minimum number of 10 days prior to the match and include the ALDS, who will update GMS, and the Team Contact(s) of the opposing team.
 - To ensure that changes to fixtures are communicated to all parties, this season all fixtures on GMS will be locked from 9th September and **ANY** changes will need ALDS action.

Umpires

- ▶ Umpires & Match Officials, Regulation 11.
- ▶ Regulation 11.1.3 – Where Clubs are responsible for appointing to a match, the home club must appoint both umpires, except:
 - Where a Club believes it will not be able to provide two umpires, it **MUST contact its opposition** to 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.
 - The away club has contacted the home club to say it intends to appoint an umpire for the match. This must be done **at least 5 days before the match**. The home club is not allowed to decline.
 - This umpire must be at least '**Acceptable Minimum Accreditation**' as per the Regulations.
- ▶ Both umpires must be recorded on the GMS team sheet.
- ▶ **All umpires** MUST be registered members of **England Hockey Officiating** (EHO). An unregistered umpire can complete their registration **up to 24 hours after** the relevant fixture has been completed.

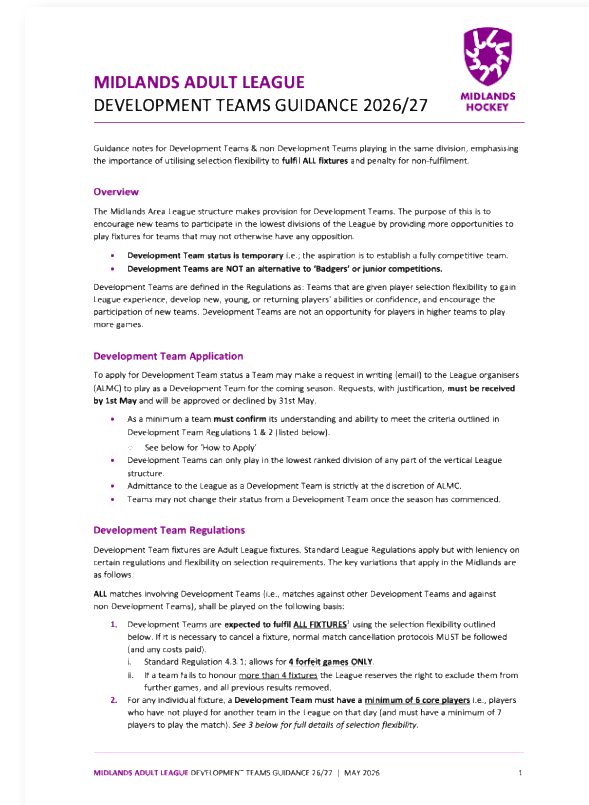
Umpires – Acceptable Accreditation

- ▶ The table outlines the requirements for umpires at each Grade of competition.
 - If an umpire has no formal accreditation a definition of competence for Grade 5 matches can be found in Regulation 11.7.
- ▶ If you have any issues, **contact the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS).

	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

Development Teams (1 of 2)

- ▶ Development Team guidance is available in the document '**Midlands Guidance 2026-27_Development Teams Guidance**' and can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ The same regulations and GMS deadlines apply to Development Teams, with some exceptions.
- ▶ Development Teams are expected to **fulfil ALL fixtures**.
- ▶ Development Team fixture reporting on GMS:
 - Score to be **recorded as 0-0**.
 - Goal scorers can be entered on GMS to keep a record.
 - **All cards must** be recorded.



Development Teams (2 of 2)

- ▶ Non-development Teams playing in the same Division are permitted the same player selection flexibility for games against Development Teams only.
- ▶ Player eligibility – players aged 12 or above with the agreement of their parent/guardian.
 - No more than three U13s permitted on the pitch for a team at any one time.
- ▶ A '**Spirit of Development**' is expected of experienced players from higher teams when playing in a Development Team fixture, such players are:
 - Not permitted to score goals.
 - Not permitted in opposition 23.
 - Maximum of two permitted in defending 23 and defending a short corner.
 - The same spirit should be shown by non-development teams.
- ▶ If you have any issues, **contact the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS).

Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)

- ▶ Regulation 8 covers Team Selection.
- ▶ Regulation 8.6 – Clubs may request an SXP for exemption of a player from specific selection Regulations.
 - SXP requests are limited to genuine circumstances, such as the illustrative examples in Appendix 4 of the Regulations.
- ▶ Weekly deadline for SXP request: **20:00 on Friday** before Saturday League fixture.
 - **Selection Exemption Pass Request Form**
 - SXP requests are discussed between both Divisional Secretaries, so allow plenty of time for consideration.
 - Include all relevant information.
- ▶ If you have any queries, **contact the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS).

Match Day GMS

- ▶ Deadlines for all match details on GMS – Team Sheet, Score and Match Sheet (Timeline):
 - **Team Sheet:** 5 minutes before match.
 - With correct details (umpires, captain, goalkeeper, shirt numbers, match officials, etc.).
 - **Score:** 20:00 on day of match.
 - With number of goals and cards for BOTH Teams, input '0' if required.
 - **Match Sheet (Timeline):** All Grades **20:00 on day of match**.
 - All scorers and card details **MUST** be recorded for your Team.
- ▶ Inform the Divisional Secretary (ALDS) of Red cards.
 - 2nd Yellow resulting in Red card to be recorded as two Yellows and one Red.
- ▶ If you have any issues, **contact the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) ASAP.

GMS Reminders Leaflet

- ▶ Printed copies of the GMS Reminders leaflets will be sent to all clubs (x2 per team plus 2 extras).
 - Suggest all Club Admins and Team Contacts are given a copy.
- ▶ The leaflets contain:
 - Club Admin and Team Contact GMS responsibilities.
 - Guidance for Development Teams.
- ▶ Link to form to provide a postal address for your club – [Club postal address 2026/27 – Fill in form](#)

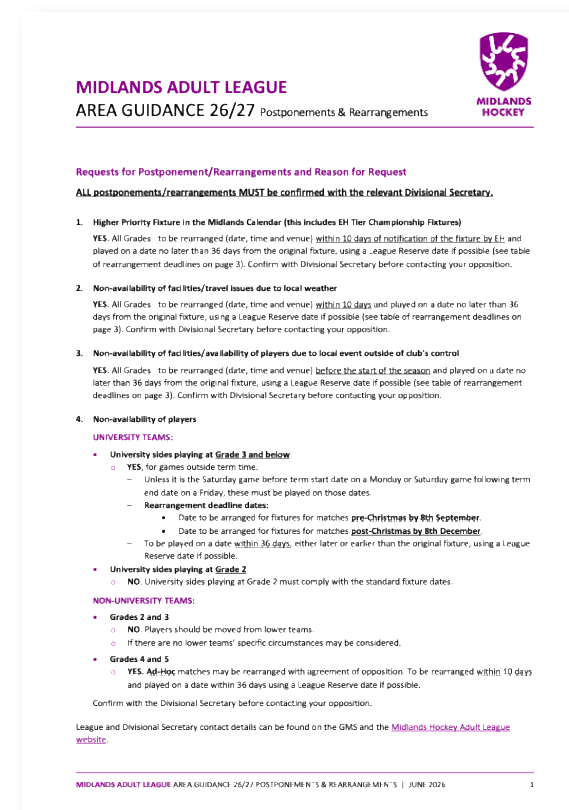


Discipline

- ▶ **Discipline and Misconduct Regulations** can be found on the England Hockey website:
 - <https://www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/rules-and-regulations/discipline-and-misconduct>
- ▶ Please ensure the Disciplinary Contact in your Club's '**England Hockey Club Portal**' contains the correct contact details.
 - [England Hockey Club Portal](#)
- ▶ **Red Card Report form:**
 - [Red Card and Misconduct Complaint Form](#)
- ▶ **Yellow Card monitoring:** from this season Team Yellow Cards will be recorded and penalties applied as per the Regulations.

Postponements & Rearrangements (1 of 2)

- ▶ Postponements and rearrangements.
 - Guidance is available in the document '**Midlands Guidance 2026-27_Postponements & Rearrangements**' and can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ When a match is postponed or cancelled (Regulation 13):
 - **Notify the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) with valid reason for match postponement/cancellation ASAP, ideally at the time of the decision.
 - The ALDS will update the fixture status ASAP.



Postponements & Rearrangements (2 of 2)

- ▶ Rearrangements – deadlines for rearrangements:
 - Rearranged date and time must be agreed **within 10 days**, using a League Reserve date if possible.
 - Matches must be replayed within **36 days**.
 - See '**Midlands Guidance 2026-27_Postponements & Rearrangements**' for details of deadline for each League date.
 - Refer to the Midlands Calendar for priority matches.
 - Midlands Calendar can be found on the Midlands website, here:
<https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents>
- ▶ **Notify the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) and include in all rearrangement communications.

Forfeits

- ▶ Forfeit guidance is available in the document '**Midlands Guidance 2026-27_Forfeit Guidance**' and can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ The forfeiting team must **notify the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) at the time of the decision and no later than the scheduled time of the match with reason for the match forfeit.
 - For advice, please contact your ALDS **before the decision to forfeit** is made.
 - Teams **will be fined** if the ALDS is not notified on time (Regulation 14.3).
- ▶ The basic penalty for any forfeit game is **5-0 loss** with additional penalties subject to Grade.
 - Progressive additional points deducted for repeat offences and fines at appropriate level.
 - Additional penalties for lower teams when higher team forfeits.
 - Additional penalties apply in Grades 2-4 during the Teams last 4 fixtures of the season.

Adult Indoor

- ▶ We plan to run two days of **Adult Indoor on 12th/13th December 2026** (Tier 1/Tier 2), at **Aldersley Leisure Centre** for both Open/Men's and Women's teams.
 - Day 1: Competition to identify the two entries for the EH National Super 6s.
 - Day 2: for Clubs trying Indoor for the first time or looking to continue to develop.
- ▶ Teams will be expected to pay a deposit of 50% of the Entry fee, on booking, and the final 50% three weeks before the competition. There will be no refund of either payment.
- ▶ We will email entry invitations to all Clubs shortly, a link to the entry form is copied below:
 - [Adult Indoor Competition 2026/27 – Entry form](#)

Fines & Midlands Invoice

- ▶ Clubs and Teams do breach the Regulations.
 - Appendix 5 of the Regulations specifies all Regulation breaches and the associated penalties.
 - Each fine requires an Invoice which will have a payment due date.
- ▶ A reminder that Midlands' Invoices have been issued and should be paid **before the start of the season**.
 - There are some outstanding fines from last season, if not paid by **19th September** the final penalty will be that ALL Club fixtures are **awarded as Walkovers** until settled.
 - Numerous reminders have been sent to delinquent Clubs.
- ▶ If you have any queries regarding Midlands invoices, contact **Louise Perry** at bookkeeping@midlands.hockey

Summary: Club & Team Preseason Reminders

- ▶ Club Admin and Team Contacts for each team must be available on the GMS **by 8th September**, with email and phone number on view.
- ▶ ALL fixture details (time and venue) before Christmas must be posted on the GMS **by 8th September**.
 - Post-Christmas matches by **1st December**.
- ▶ Match start times – if different to times stated in Regulation 6.3 must be agreed with both Divisional Secretary (ALDS) and opposition.
- ▶ First point of contact for all queries is **ALWAYS the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS).
- ▶ Please ensure all e-mails to League Officials contain:
 - Your **Name**, Club **Role**, **Club**, **Team** (if applicable).
 - If email is related to a specific Team/match also include **Division**, **Date**, **Teams/Match details**.

Adult League Social Media

- ▶ We have an Adult Leagues **Facebook group** to allow communication between clubs and teams in the Midlands Area. Please join the group.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/midlandshockeyadultleagues>
- ▶ We also have an Adult Leagues **Instagram** account (@midlands_hockey_adult_leagues), useful for reminders throughout the season, please follow us there.
 - https://www.instagram.com/midlands_hockey_adult_leagues/
- ▶ If time, **QUESTIONS** from the Teams Chat





Thank you for attending

ADULT LEAGUES & COMPETITIONS

PRESEASON ALL CLUBS MEETING - 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

Website: midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions