

SOUTH MASTERS LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2026-2027

The South Masters League Regulations (“Regulations”) 2026-2027 (Appendix A of the Area Regulations) come into effect for London, South Central and the South East Area Companies and align with the Adult Regulations when they are approved by the Area Standing Committee under regulation 1.8 of the Area Regulations.

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

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GLOSSARY

In these Regulations:

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

ADA: The relevant Area Disciplinary Administrator.

ADP: The relevant Area Disciplinary Panel.

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

ALC: The Area League Chair.

ALCC: The Adult Leagues and Competitions Committee which oversees the administration of all Adult Leagues and Competitions within an Area.

ALDS: Area League Divisional Secretary.

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

ALMC: The Area League Management Committee

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

AMC: The Area Management Committee.

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

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.

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 Matchweek (including Area League and NL fixtures), one of which is for their Regular Team.

Dual Registration: Players registering for two Clubs to play adult league hockey.

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

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different Grades depending on the size of those Leagues.

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 cannot be selected, due to these Regulations or the EH Disciplinary Regulations.

League: The relevant Area or Masters 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

MLA: Masters League Administrator.

MLDS: Master League Divisional Secretary.

MLC: Masters League Chair.

MLMC: Masters League Management Committee

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

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.

Primary Club: When a player is dual-registered, the primary club is the one where the player is likely to play the **majority** of their season. For university students, this is the club at their university. The primary club remains the same throughout the season.

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.

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

Secondary Club: When a player is dual-registered, the secondary club is the one where the player is likely to play the **minority** of their season. For university students, this is their home club. The secondary club remains the same throughout the season.

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

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 Overview

- 1.1.1 Purpose: These Regulations provide a structured, fair and consistent framework for the governance of the hockey leagues played under England Hockey's jurisdiction. 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 Organisation: The league structure in England is organised into three 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.
 - ♦ South Masters League: One three Area league administered by London Hockey Ltd,
- 1.1.3 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.

1.2 Compliance With Rules & Policies

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 Application of England Hockey Policies: All England Hockey policies, rules and regulations, listed in Appendix 2, will apply to all matches within the Leagues.

1.3 Grade-Specific Regulations

Grades: 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.

1.4 Age-Specific Regulations

These regulations governing Masters leagues are tailored to include specific age variances across the age groups to reflect the needs and delivery of each level.

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 Masters League Chair (MLC) will be elected at the London Area AGM.
- 2.2.2 Unless provided for in Regulations issued by the Board, the MLC shall chair the MLMC.

2.3 Governance & Control

- 2.3.1 As a committee of the London Area Company, the South Masters League is under the 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 London Area AGM by the membership, with League accounts overseen by the Area Finance Director.

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2.4 Committee Appointments & Diversity

2.4.1 The MLMC members are proposed by the MLC and appointed by the Area Directors.

2.4.2 The Area Directors will expect the MLMC to be diverse in composition and open to attracting new volunteers.

2.5 Composition Of The MLMC

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

- ♦ **Masters League Chair (MLC)** Oversees the work of Divisional Secretaries, collaborates with the Adult Leagues Chair, and liaises with the Officiating Area Administrator and Appointment Lead.
- ♦ **Masters League Administrator (MLA)** Manages the official information on the GMS for Masters Leagues and Competitions and supports clubs in using the GMS.
- ♦ **Masters League Divisional Secretaries (MLDS)** Manage Divisions proactively, serve as the primary contact for teams within their Divisions and verify match information on the GMS.

2.6 Allocation Of Roles

The MLMC 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 Masters 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 MLMC decisions may be reviewed by the Area Directors, and significant league issues should be reported to the Area Directors and the Area Management Committee.

2.8.2 Appeals against MLMC decisions should follow the procedure set out in Regulation 16.

2.9 Umpire Decisions

The MLMC will not adjudicate on decisions made by umpires or appointed match officials on the Rules Of Hockey, during matches. Similarly, umpires will not adjudicate on these Regulations, other than as required to make match day decisions, e.g. under Regulation 13.2.

2.10 Clarification of Regulations

Team administrators requiring clarification on these Regulations should consult directly with the MLC or MLA.

2.11 Grading Of Divisions

2.11.1 The MLMC is 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.

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2.11.2 The MLMC 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 South Masters League Open-Men O40 Premier, South Masters Women O35 and London Women O35
5	Area lowest Divisions. The Division(s) at the lowest Steps in any Area League pyramid. South Masters Open-Men O50 Premier and Open-Men O50 London and Open-Men O50 South, Open-Men O70 South Masters Open-Men O60 Premier and Open-Men O60 South, South Masters Women O45

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.

2.12.1 The MLMC will conduct an annual review of the Masters League Regulations at the end of each season and publish a new version annually following receipt of the Adult Regulations.

3 ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

3.1 Clubs

- 3.1.1 Eligibility: Each Area League is open to teams from clubs that are members of the London, South Central and South East Areas, or from a neighbouring Area if agreed by the MLMC.
- 3.1.2 Conduct: 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 all EH Policies as referred to in Regulation 1.2.2, together with 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 MLMC 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 Deadline for new entries: A new club, or a club formed by a merger between existing clubs, must advise the relevant MLMC by 1st May.
- 3.1.4 Payment Of Fees: 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 Liaison Officers: 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 MLMC, 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 MLC or MLA, by the date specified. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via, or for use in, the GMS.

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- 3.2.2 Data Protection: By agreeing to be a Liaison Officer and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Liaison Officer consents to receiving information from the MLMC and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the MLC or MLA and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.
- 3.2.3 Representation At Meetings: Each participating club is expected to have a representative from their club at any meeting called by the MLMC. These will ordinarily be online but may be physical meetings. In addition, each club shall respond to requests for information by the MLC, MLA, MLMC or MLDS by the Due Date.
- 3.2.4 Trophies: Any club that wins a perpetual trophy must arrange for it to be returned at the club's cost to the MLMC by 1st February, unless otherwise agreed by the MLMC. 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 Deadline For Entries:
- (a) A club must enter its teams into a League by the designated date set by the MLMC.
 - (b) 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 MLMC.
- 3.3.2 Movement Between Areas: A club wishing to field a new team in or move an existing team into a neighbouring Area Adult 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 New Clubs: 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.
- 3.3.4 Declining Promotion: 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 MLMC reserves the right to accept or decline this and if the former to determine how the place will be filled.
- 3.3.5 Movement Out Of Age Group. Clubs may request that a team or teams be placed in a higher or lower Age group 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 MLMC reserves the right to determine if a new placing can be accommodated and at which Step without significant adverse effects on other clubs.

3.4 Team Withdrawal

- 3.4.1 Withdrawal During A Season: 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 in an older age group than the withdrawn team may not be eligible for promotion at the end of the season, at the discretion of the MLMC.

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3.5 Team Administration

- 3.5.1 Team Contacts: Each participating team must appoint a Team Contact who should be available to the MLMC, 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 MLC or MLA, via or for use in the GMS and by the date specified. An individual may be Team Contact for more than one team. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via or for use in the GMS.
- 3.5.2 Data Protection: 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 MLC, MLA, MLDS and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the MLC, and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.

3.6 Teams

- 3.6.1 In the Women's League, players may come from up to four local clubs. The chosen local clubs shall remain so for the whole season.
- 3.7 Teams shall consist of up to 16 players including a maximum of 2 goal keepers.

4 THE COMPETITION

4.1 Structure

- 4.1.1 Responsibility:
- (a) Each Area League will be structured as determined by the MLMC.
 - (b) Any significant changes to League pyramids or the Grades of Divisions will be reviewed and agreed annually at the MLMC.
- 4.1.2 Shape:
- (a) Each age group 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 3:1.
 - (b) Divisions in age group Leagues will usually be made up of 12 teams. This may be varied by the MLMC, for example, due to the geographic spread of teams or to accommodate numbers of teams in specific age groups, or where a team withdraws and is not replaced.
- 4.1.3 The formation of any Divisions below the age group Premier Division shall be decided annually by the MLMC. These may be 'geographically balanced' Divisions and are Divisions at the same Step within a League that feed into a higher Step.
- 4.1.4 Grades: The MLMC shall decide which Divisions are at which Grade in line with Regulation 2.11.

4.2 Scoring Systems

- 4.2.1 Points For Matches: Teams shall be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss.
- 4.2.2 Determination Of Finishing Order: 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:
- (a) Highest goal difference;
 - (b) Highest number of goals scored;
 - (c) Highest number of matches won;

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- (d) Aggregate result of the matches between the teams concerned (and, if also equal, away goals taking precedence over home goals);
- (e) 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 may be arranged with match arrangements organised by the MLMC.

4.3 Walkovers

Withdrawal From The League: A team that fails to honour more than the number of matches during the season as detailed below may be withdrawn from the League and all previous results will be void. The MLMC will consider the circumstances before implementing any sanction.

- ♦ Grade 4 – 4 (at the discretion of the MLMC)
- ♦ Grade 5 – 4 (at the discretion of the MLMC)

4.4 Teams From The Same Club

Maximum Number Of Teams In A Division: The maximum number of teams from the same club who may play in the same Division at any Grade is as follows:

- ♦ Grade 4 – 2 (MLMC can allow more in exceptional circumstances)
- ♦ Grade 5 – 2 (MLMC can allow more in exceptional circumstances)

4.5 Promotion & Relegation

4.5.1 **Scope:** 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 **Examples:** 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 **Promotion & Relegation:** 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 MLMC.

(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

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- 4.5.4 Discretionary Variations: For Divisions competing at Grades 2 to 5, the MLMC 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 MLMC must notify all teams participating in the affected Divisions before the start of the relevant Season.
- 4.5.5 To avoid the impact of additional relegations and inclusion of new teams, the MMLC may, at its discretion, determine to increase the size of a Division(s) for the following season and revise promotion and relegation arrangements for the subsequent season to rebalance the Divisions.
- 4.5.6 If the relegation of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a division (see Regulation 4.4), adjustments to the Divisions will be at the discretion of the MMLC.
- 4.5.7 If the promotion of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a Division, the promotion will be at the discretion of the MMLC.
- 4.5.8 Procedural Requirements:
- (a) Notification: The MLMC will endeavor 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 five (5) 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 MLMC will issue fixtures with their scheduled dates.
- 5.1.2 Fixtures should be played on the prescribed dates.
- 5.1.3 Clubs must have a good reason to request rearranging a fixture to the nearest slip date/two fair dates, such as bad weather or player international duty (see separate guidance). Any changes should be identified prior to the start of the league and fixtures rearranged prior to the start of the League season. This is subject to the approval of the MMLC. Clubs are to note the guidance issued by England Hockey on Faith and Fixtures when considering requests for rescheduling fixtures.
- 5.1.4 Matches taking place from Thursday to Wednesday are considered to be in the same Matchweek.

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.
- (c) The MLMC 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 MLC, MLA or MLDS, as directed, to inform them of ANY change to this information, before GMS is changed.
- 5.2.3 To change time or venue within 21 days of the match (or after the MLMC has locked the fixture), clubs need agreement of the opposition, MLC and any umpires appointed to the match.

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- 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 MLMC.
- (a) Home teams must ensure confirmation of receipt by the away team.
 - (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 MLMC 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.
- 5.2.5 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 4 – Designated bench area
 - ♦ Grade 5 – Designated bench area
- (*Subject to dispensation from MLMC in exceptional circumstances)

6 MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Pitches & Facilities

- 6.1.1 All League matches must be played on artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey. The MMLC, 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 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.
- 6.1.3 If the pitch is deemed unsuitable by the umpires, in consultation with team captains, they may direct that the match be postponed. The MMLC 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.
- 6.1.4 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>

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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
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 MLMC, and any Area Appointed Umpire to the match, agree.
- 6.3.3 Consideration should be given to opposition travel when scheduling fixtures, and the MLC 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”). Appropriate illumination certification must be supplied to the ALMC on request.
See: <https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>

6.4 Starting The Match

- 6.4.1 In the event of delays to start times participating teams should aim to agree to delay for as long as reasonably possible, taking into account the time available for the match and any subsequent matches. Team Captains may agree to play a shortened match
- 6.4.2 If the delay is caused by 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.

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 4 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off-site
 - ♦ Grade 5 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off-site
- (*Subject to dispensation from MLMC in exceptional circumstances)

6.6 Hospitality

- 6.6.1 Home teams are required to make post-match hospitality available to visiting teams and Appointed Umpires.
- ♦ 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.
- 6.6.2 Clubs who do not intend to provide post-match hospitality must seek MLMC approval, before the start of the season, with justification. If the MLMC 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

Club Registration: To be eligible to play in the League, a player must be registered with their Club in the England Hockey Game Management System (GMS) to play Adult League hockey. Masters is included in Adult hockey.

- (a) New Players: Players who have not previously registered on GMS 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 MLMC permits a different registration to be used by the player.

7.2 Multiple Registrations

- 7.2.1 Participation in Other Competitions: After playing their first match in any one season, a player must not play for another Club in competitions outside England and Wales.
- 7.2.2 Multiple Registrations: Players may be registered with multiple Clubs for different competitions (e.g., Masters and/or Adult Area League, Area Masters, EH Indoor, EH Championships and must comply with all relevant eligibility regulations for each different competition.
- 7.2.3 Players are only eligible for one club at a time for League competition. To change the club for which a player is eligible, a transfer is required.
 - ☐ Players whose last game was in a league outside England and Wales must also satisfy transfer and registration requirements.

7.3 Age Requirements

- 7.3.1 **Age qualification:** The date for age qualification will be up to December 31st in any given calendar year (i.e. for the 2026 -27 season is 1st January to 31st December 2027).

MO40 All players must be 40 or over on the qualification date, except that no more than THREE players aged 37 or over on the qualification date, but under 40, may be in a single match day squad.

MO50 All players must be 50 or over on the qualification date except that no more than THREE players aged 47 or over on the qualification date, but under 50, may be in a single match day squad.

MO60 All players must be 60 or over on the qualification date except that no more than FOUR players aged 58 or over on the qualification date, but under 60 may be in may be in a single match day squad.

MO70 All players must be 70 or over on the qualification date except that no more than FIVE players aged 65 or over on the qualification date, but under 70 may be in a single match day squad. A GK may be aged 60 or over on the qualification date, but under 70 and is included in the FIVE underage players.

WO35 All players must be over 35 or over on the qualification date.

WO45 All players must be 45 or over on the qualification date except that, TWO players aged 43 or over on the qualification date, but under 45, may be in may be in a single match day squad.

7.4 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 MLMC, or they become ineligible to compete in the female category during the season, in which case they can move to the Open-Men's category.

7.5 Non-UK Passport Holders & Visa Holders

Any player who does not hold a UK passport but does hold a passport for another country must comply with the terms of the EH Participation in Hockey for non-UK Passport Holders policy (See Appendix 2).

7.6 Registration Deadlines

7.6.1 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 23:59 on 31st January.
- (b) Players may apply to the MLMC for late registration. The MLMC has discretion to approve or deny late registrations.

7.6.3 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) 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). The ALMC will arbitrate & make the decision.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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).
- (e) The MLMC may arbitrate if refusal is unreasonable.

7.6.4 Transfer Deadline: A player may transfer between Clubs participating in the Leagues only once during the period from the start of the season to 23:59 on 31st January.

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

8 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – TEAM SELECTION

Masters team selection is age group determined. See Regulation 7.3.

Selection of teams is at the discretion of clubs and based on player availability on any one day.

9 TEAM SHEETS, SCORES & MATCH SHEETS

9.1 Match Sheets

All match sheets for MO40, MO50, MO60, WO35 and WO45 and results in all age group Divisions will be managed using GMS. It is highly recommended that MO70 also use GMS for match sheets.

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

9.3.1 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.

9.3.1 Team Officials must be aged 16 years or above on the day of the fixture.

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:

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

9.4.1.3 the identities of the captains and goalkeepers;

9.4.1.4 the names of both umpires (umpires appointed by the away team added by their Team Contact);

9.4.1.5 the name of a Match Official, if appointed;

9.4.1.6 the names of any team officials participating in the match.

The MLMC 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 number of goals & each type of card, for both teams, as soon as possible, but no later than the deadline below. If the match is not played, both teams must inform the MLMC of the reason for not completing the match by the same deadline, see Regulations 13 and 14.

9.4.3.2 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 complete the match sheet, by confirming the details listed, by the deadline below. They should use estimated times (not 0) if exact times not recorded during the match.

9.4.4.2 Full details of goals, including type of goal & scorer, colour of card & recipient.

9.4.4.3 Deadline: 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

9.4.5 Any injuries requiring hospital treatment must be reported using the page below, by the deadline for completing the match sheet:

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

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. 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)

10.3.3 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:

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

11 UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

11.1 Appointments

11.1.1 The responsibility of appointing competent umpires to Masters matches falls to the home team as appropriate.

11.1.2 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

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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;

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- (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.

11.2 GMS Reporting

Both umpires must be recorded on the GMS team sheet.

11.3 Match Officials

The League may appoint an umpire for a given match.

- 11.3.1 All umpires should 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/>

- 11.3.2 Any official serving an EHO membership suspension shall be ineligible to officiate or take part in any League fixture until such suspension has been completed.

11.4 Umpire Requirements

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

	Grade 4	Grade 5
Level of accreditation required	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed
Acceptable minimum accreditation (where agreed by the MLMC)	Level 1 Unassessed	No formal accreditation required. Refer to 11.7
Who conducts appointments	Clubs	Clubs
Can umpires be switched at half time?	No (unless agreed by the ALMC and the opposition captain)	Yes

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

- 11.4.3 Upon notification by EHO, the MLMC may temporarily or permanently suspend an umpire from officiating in League competition.

11.5 Replacement Of Appointed Umpires

- 11.5.1 If at any match an appointed umpire is unable to officiate, whether through late withdrawal, non- appearance of an 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.
- 11.5.2 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 its 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.
- 11.5.3 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.

- 11.5.4 In the event that no suitable umpire is found, or captains do not agree:
- (a) If the original umpire was appointed by an Area Officiating Committee/MLMC 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. 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.
- (b) 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.

11.6 Unqualified Umpires

The MLMC 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.

11.7 Feedback

- 11.7.1 There can be no appeal or complaint against any decision (or non-decision) of an umpire on the field of play during a match.
- 11.7.2 Any issues regarding umpire conduct by either Area Appointed Umpire or Club Appointed Umpire shall be dealt with by the appointing body, EHO, or via the EH Disciplinary Regulations as appropriate, and not the MLMC.
- 11.7.3 All clubs MUST complete an Umpire's report for Area Appointed Umpires by 2000 hrs the Monday after the match, or two days after a non-Saturday fixture.

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. 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) Teams will face incremental penalties for yellow cards accrued during the season in League matches.
- (c) 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:

- 12.2.2.1 Four yellow cards in a season – one match suspension;
- 12.2.2.2 Two additional yellow cards in the same season (i.e., six in total) – one further match suspension;
- 12.2.2.3 Each additional yellow card thereafter in the same season – one further match suspension. Penalties for teams are listed in Appendix 5.

12.2.3 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, for the purposes of accumulation above, and a red card also.

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12.2.4 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.

12.2.5 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.

12.2.6 Application of Suspensions:

- (a) The Club of any player due to receive a suspension must contact the relevant ADP and MLMC immediately.
- (b) Clubs must ensure timely communication with the MLMC regarding any suspensions, including start date & end date of suspensions, as soon as they are known.
- (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 ADP/MLMC.
- (d) If that match is postponed, the ADP/MLMC will confirm the suspension date, which will normally be the next league match(es) that the team plays.

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, venue or travel issues, or if a team is playing a higher priority fixture.

13.2 General Postponement & Abandonment Rules

13.2.1 Decision-Making Authority:

- 13.2.1.1 Immediately before or during a match, an accredited and assessed umpire has the authority to decide on postponement or abandonment due to safety concerns.
- 13.2.1.2 If unassessed umpires are officiating, team captains will make the decision; if one captain deems the pitch unsafe, the match must be postponed.
- 13.2.1.3 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 MLMC: The MLMC 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 MLMC will decide the appropriate action after receiving reports from umpires and

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teams. This may include rescheduling the fixture.

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13.3 Rearrangement Procedures

13.3.1 Moving The Match:

- (a) A postponed or abandoned match must be played on the next League Reserve date, unless a team already has a fixture on that date.
- (b) If not using the next League Reserve date, Masters teams should offer two fair dates using League Reserve or Bye dates where possible. Midweek dates can also be offered.
- (c) All Masters matches must be replayed within the time frame of the prescribed league season.
- (d) The MLMC 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.
- (e) New details for the match (date, time & venue) must be agreed within 10 days.

13.3.2 Agreement & Discretion:

- (a) Both teams and the MLMC must agree to a postponement, unless due to weather.
- (b) If teams disagree, the MLMC will decide.
- (c) If teams cannot agree on a date, the MLMC 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 MLMC as soon as possible 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. Reporting and Consequences:

- (a) If the procedures are not followed and the pitch is found unfit upon arrival, umpires and teams can submit a report for MLMC review.
- (b) Matches should be rearranged in accordance with these Regulations.

13.4.4 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 MLMC.

13.4.5 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 Penalties

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 MLMC may impose in line with Breach Of Regulations & Penalties.

14.2 Examples Of Failure To Honour A Fixture

14.2.1 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 MLMC.

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14.2.2 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.

14.2.3 A team cannot elect not to continue the match.

14.3 Reporting

The MLA or MLC 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.

15 BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

15.1 Scope

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 Application Of Penalties

15.2.1 For breaches of any or all of these Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Conduct, the MLMC 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 MLMC 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.

15.2.2 When imposing any penalty, the MLMC 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.

15.2.3 Complaints

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

16 APPEALS

16.1 Scope Of Appeals

16.1.1 Decisions made by an umpire or appointed Match Official on the Rules Of Hockey, during a game, are final and cannot be Appealed under any circumstances.

16.1.2 The following parties may appeal a decision of the Masters League Management Committee (MLMC) under the procedures outlined in this section:

- (a) Clubs directly affected by an MLMC decision.
- (b) Teams directly affected by an MLMC decision.

16.1.3 An appeal will be allowed where the decision of the MLMC was:

- (a) **Based on an error of fact or could not have reasonably been reached** by the MLMC 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 MLMC (e.g., failure to follow the regulations); or
- (c) **Manifestly unreasonable:** The sanction imposed is manifestly unreasonable in light of the relevant MLMC decision.

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16.1.4 Additionally, an appeal will be allowed should it be shown that significant and relevant **new evidence** has come to light which was not available before the MLMC decision was made and could not have reasonably been obtained earlier but, had it been available, may have caused the MLMC to reach a materially different decision.

16.2 Appeal Against an MLMC 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; or
- (c) The Decision of the AAP is **manifestly unreasonable** in the light of the relevant decision before it.

16.3.3 The procedure for a Further Appeal is described in Appendix 5.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – LEAGUE TITLES & DIVISIONS

South Masters Open - Men O40 Premier
South Masters Open - Men O50 Premier
South Masters Open - Men O50 London
South Masters Open - Men O50 South
South Masters Open - Men O60 Premier
South Masters Open - Men O60 South
South Masters Open - Men O70 Premier
South Masters Women O35 North
South Masters Women O35 South
South Masters Women O35 London
South Masters Women O45 London

See <https://london.englishhockey.co.uk/masters-hockey-in-london>

See <https://www.englishhockey.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:

- 16.3.3.1 FIH Rules of Hockey (with any variations as determined by EH and as shown in Appendix 3)
- 16.3.3.2 EH Code of Conduct
- 16.3.3.3 EH Disciplinary Regulations
- 16.3.3.4 EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey
- 16.3.3.5 EH Privacy Policy
- 16.3.3.6 EH Equality Policy
- 16.3.3.7 EH Guidance on Faith and Fixtures
- 16.3.3.8 UK Anti-Doping Rules
- 16.3.3.9 EH Anti-Corruption Policy
- 16.3.3.10 EH League Sponsorship Policy
- 16.3.3.11 EH Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy
- 16.3.3.12 EH Safe Hockey Policy
- 16.3.3.13 EH Participation in Hockey for non-UK Passport Holders

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

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

APPENDIX 3 – VARIANCES TO FIH RULES OF HOCKEY

The Rules of Hockey 2026 shall apply including the new rules from 1st September 2026 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/Masters League Matches

A match consists of two halves of **35 minutes** with a half-time interval. This will be 5 minutes, unless otherwise agreed by both teams and umpires before the match starts.

For the 2026-27 season, Premier Division games will be four quarters of 17 minutes 30 seconds, with quarter-time intervals of 2 minutes, a half-time interval of 5 minutes, and no stoppage for short corners. If the Home team wishes to play the match in two halves, as above, they must follow Regulation 5.2.4.

Rule 8.2

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

Rule 13.3

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

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.

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- 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 6.

APPENDIX 4 – STANDARD PENALTIES & TARIFFS OF FINE

Please refer to Regulation 15 - Breach Of Regulations & Penalties.

- 1 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.
 - ♦ All penalties at each Stage are applied for a breach.
- 2 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	- T2 Fine - All Club fixtures awarded as Walkovers until completed.
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 MLMC	2-5	T1 Fine	N/A	N/A
3.2.3 Response to requests for information by the MLMC 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 - T1 Fine	Team(s) not entered
3.4.1 Withdrawal of a team during the season.	2-3	T3 Fine	N/A	N/A
	4-5	Warning regarding re-entry following season		

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3.5.1 & 3.5.2 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
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SOIUTH MASTERS LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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 MLMC	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
6.1.5 Unauthorised personnel in the team's designated bench area	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T1 Fine 1 point deduction
6.6 Failure to supply hospitality	2	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine
	3-5		Warning	
6.6 Hospitality confirmed and not taken	2-5	Reimburse opposition.	T1 Fine Reimburse opposition.	T2 Fine Reimburse opposition.

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	• T1 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction • 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	• T2 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction • 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	• T3 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 3 point deduction • 1 point deducted for each ineligible player
	5	If administrative error: • Warning If negligent (e.g. not received transfer approval): • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined), at ALMC discretion. • 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	If administrative error: • T2 Fine If negligent (e.g. not received transfer approval): • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined), at ALMC discretion. • 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	If administrative error: • T3 Fine If negligent (e.g. not received transfer approval): • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deducted for each ineligible player • T3 Fine
7.7 Transfer or Registration process not followed by player	2-5	• Player suspended for the number of games played whilst ineligible, up to a maximum of 3, or until registration is correctly completed, whichever is longer	• Player suspended for the number of games played whilst ineligible, up to a maximum of 3, or until registration is correctly completed, whichever is longer	• Player suspended for the number of games played whilst ineligible, up to a maximum of 3, or until registration is correctly completed, whichever is longer

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REGULATION 9: TEAM SHEETS, SCORES & MATCH SHEETS

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
9.4.1 Failure to correctly and fully upload all players and 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 1 point deduction
9.4.3 Failure to correctly report number of goals and cards for both teams on the GMS by specified time.	2-5	- Warning - New deadline to complete GMS - Stage 2 if not completed.	T1 Fine	- T2 Fine 1 point deduction
9.4.4 Failure to correctly and fully confirm details of teams, goals and 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 1 point deduction
9.4.4 Failure to correctly and fully report 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 1 point deduction
9 Falsifying information on match sheet, including incorrectly recording or omitting information on match sheet	2-5	- T3 Fine - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). 1 point deduction - MLMC to determine if team to be relegated at end of season or additional points deducted at start of next season.	- T3 Fine - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). 1 point deduction - MLMC to determine if team to be relegated at end of season or additional points deducted at start of next season.	- T3 Fine - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). 1 point deduction - MLMC to determine if team to be relegated at end of season or additional 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 or match official	2	• T1 Fine	• T1 Fine • 1 point deduction	• T2 Fine • Match replayed, at ALMC discretion • 1 point deduction
	3-4	• Warning		
	5	• N/A	• Warning	• T1 Fine • 1 point deduction
11 Failure to supply properly qualified umpire or competent & equipped match official	2	• T1 Fine	• T1 Fine • 1 point deduction	• T2 Fine • Match replayed, at ALMC discretion • 1 point deduction
	3-4	• Warning		
	5	• N/A	• Warning	• T1 Fine • 1 point deduction
11.1.2 Failure to confirm venue, start time or other match related information to Area Appointed umpire, at least 3 days before the Fixture.	2-5	• Warning	• T1 Fine	• T2 Fine
11.2 Not recording an umpire on GMS Team Sheet	2-5	• Warning	• T1 Fine	• T2 Fine • 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

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REGULATION 12: DISCIPLINE

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
12.2.1(b) Team accumulating too many yellow cards	2-5	Warning for 5 yellow cards	1 point deduction for 10 yellow cards	1 point deduction for every additional 5 yellow cards
12.2.6(a) Failure to inform ALDS of pending suspension	2-5	T1 Fine	T2 Fine	T3 Fine
12.2.6(b) Failure to inform ALDS of length of player's suspension	2-5	T1 Fine	T2 Fine	T3 Fine
12.2.6(c) Player suspended due to number of yellow cards missing incorrect match	2-5	- T1 Fine - Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined).	- T2 Fine - Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined).	- T3 Fine - Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined).
12.2.3 Fielding an ineligible player, due to red card/misconduct suspension, in a match	2-5	- T1 Fine - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). 1 point deduction if deliberate	- T2 Fine - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). 1 point deduction if deliberate	- T3 Fine - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). 2 point deduction if deliberate

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	- T1 Fine &/or reimbursement of opposition expenses - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined) for deliberate/negligent failure.	- T2 Fine &/or reimbursement of opposition expenses - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined) for deliberate/negligent failure.	- T3 Fine &/or reimbursement of opposition expenses - Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined) for deliberate/negligent failure.
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	- ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture - T1 Fine	- ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture - T2 Fine
13.3.1(b) Rearrangement date not within regulation days	2-5	T1 Fine	T2 Fine	T3 Fine

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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 • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• T2 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• T3 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).
	3-4	• T1 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• T2 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• T2 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).
	2-4	• Additional Penalty: where the forfeiting team's lower teams are also within these grades (and their game is played) then the result will stand but the point deduction applied above, plus 1 additional point, will also be applied to that lower team.		
	5	• Warning • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• Further Warning • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• Further Warning • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).
		• 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
14.2.2 Failure to complete a fixture	2	• T2 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• T2 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• T3 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).
	3-4	• T1 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• T2 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• T2 Fine • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).
	5	• Warning • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• Further Warning • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 1 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).	• Further Warning • Match awarded to opposition 5-0 (or higher score as determined). • 2 point deduction (or higher deduction as determined).
14.3 Failure to notify MLMC by deadline	2-5	• Warning	• T1 Fine	• T2 Fine

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

APPENDIX 5 – APPEAL PROCEDURE

1 INITIAL APPEAL AGAINST AN MLMC DECISION

1.1 Submission Of Appeal Notice

- 1.1.1 All appeals must be submitted using the Appeal Notice form, downloaded from the Area website, clearly marked for the attention of the Area Appeal Panel (AAP).
- 1.1.2 The MLMC 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 MLMC 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, or at the discretion of the AAP.
- 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 or 16.1.4 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 MLMC for forwarding to the AAP.

2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Note: References to “Appellant” throughout this appendix also apply to the Respondent (MLMC) 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;

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2.2.4 To attend any oral hearings, as directed;

2.2.5 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 MLMC 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 MLMC unless the criteria in section 16.1.4 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.

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- 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
 - ♦ Both Appellant and Respondent will be invited, and asked to provide information, as directed by the AAP Chair
- 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 MLMC's decision was based on an error of fact or was unreasonable given the evidence
 - (d) Whether significant procedural errors occurred during the MLMC'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 MLMC decision notification.
- 3.4.2 Deposit payment: within 7 calendar days of MLMC decision notification.
- 3.4.3 Full Appeal, and corresponding Respondent's evidence submission: within 14 calendar days of MLMC 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 decision.
 - (b) Detailed written reasons provided within 7 calendar days of the decision date (extendable by the AAP Chair).
- 3.4.8 The Chair of the AAP may extend the timetable shown in 3.4 if necessary or upon request, or vary with the agreement of the parties. All parties will be notified upon amendment of the timetable.

4 APPEAL OUTCOMES

4.1 Potential Decisions

- 4.1.1 In making its decision the AAP may:
- (a) **Dismiss the Appeal** if it fails to meet eligibility criteria;
 - (b) **Dismiss the Appeal** and uphold the original decision;
 - (c) **Allow the Appeal in full** and overturn the original decision;
 - (d) **Allow the Appeal in part** and modify the relevant part of the original decision;
 - (e) **Refer the matter back to the MLMC** 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 MLMC could have imposed.
- 4.2.2 The AAP may increase or decrease any sanction imposed by the MLMC.
- 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 5 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 the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel.
- 6.1.4 The Request must be copied to the other party to the Appeal.
- 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

Within 7 days of receipt of the Further Appeal Request, the AAP shall send to the EHCD a copy bundle (hard copy or electronic – whichever was used) of all documents that were before the AAP, marked for the attention of the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel.

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, or at the direction of the Chair of the EHAP.

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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.
 - (d) If permission is granted the Chair may stay all or any part of an existing sanction pending completion of the 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 Save where the Chair of the EHAP directs otherwise, all Appeals will be dealt with by email unless the Appellant requests an oral hearing, in which case the Chair of the EHAP may direct an oral hearing.
- 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 fails to meet eligibility criteria;
 - (b) **Dismiss the Appeal** and uphold the original decision;
 - (c) **Allow the Appeal in full** and overturn the original decision;
 - (d) **Allow the Appeal in part** and modify the relevant part of the original decision;
 - (e) **Refer the matter back to the MLMC** for reconsideration with specific directions.
- 6.6.2 **Costs:** The Appealing Party may be liable for costs if the appeal is unsuccessful.

6.7 Sanctions

- 6.7.1 If an Appeal is allowed in part, the EHAP may impose any sanction that the AAP could have imposed.
- 6.7.2 The EHAP may increase or decrease any sanction imposed by the AAP.
- 6.7.3 If an oral hearing occurs, the EHAP may order the Appellant to pay all or part of the Appeal costs.

6.8 Final Decision

- 6.8.1 The decision of the Chair of the EHAP will be notified in writing to the EHCD, the AAP, the MLMC, and the original Appellant.
- 6.8.2 The decision of the EHAP shall be final and binding on all parties.

6 AREA LEAGUE APPEAL NOTICE

If the Appeal Notice Form is unobtainable from the Area website, send the form below.

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 6 – DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPOINTED MATCH OFFICIALS

1 APPOINTMENT

1.1 Appointing Body

The AOC or Club may appoint a Match Official (MO) to League matches with duties and responsibilities as laid out in this Appendix.

2 MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Before The Match

The MO shall check that players, and team officials, present correspond with information listed on a Club's team sheet, and officials are in line with Regulation 9.3. Only those listed may enter the designated bench area.

2.2 During The Match

2.2.1 The MO shall record all goals including scorer and type of goal, and all cards during the match.

2.2.2 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.

2.3 After The Match

2.3.1 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.

2.3.2 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 MA.

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 12.2.3 or 12.2.5 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 MLMC.

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.