



## SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026-27

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### INTRODUCTION

England Hockey is pleased to confirm that we will again run a full range of Schools Championships for the 2026-27 season sponsored by Notts Sport. See the link below for more information.

<https://www.englishockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events/championships/schools-championships>

Entry to the Nationally lead Championships, detailed below, is now open via the link below.

[Notts Sport Girls and Boys Schools Championships 2026-27 – Fill in form](#)

England Hockey reserves the right to revise the Tier that a school enters at.

This sheet provides more details of Championships where teams enter nationally.

In addition, Areas will organise lower Tier activity for schools. Nb England Hockey and Areas retain the authority to decline an entry if they believe a school is playing at too low a tier.

For 2026-27 we are trialling a new level in the Under 14 national competition. All teams will enter the Cup, teams who lose their first game will go into the Trophy and teams who lose their first game in the Trophy go into the Shield. This means teams have more opportunities to progress against other teams of a similar level. This is especially appropriate for the U14s where direct entry is only into the Cup or the Vase, unlike the U16s where this is direct entry into Cup, Trophy or Vase.

For this season we will use different titles for the Schools Championships. Now that the tiers are established these titles are more engaging for public use than Tier 1, Tier 2 etc

The titles are as follows

U18 Super League, U18 Cup, U18 Plate – previously U18 Tier 1  
U18 Trophy and U18 Shield – previously U18 Tier 2 Cup & Plate  
U18 Vase - previously U18 Tier 3

U16 Super League, U16 Cup, U16 Plate – previously U16 Tier 1  
U16 Trophy and U16 Shield – previously U16 Tier 2 Cup & Plate  
U16 Vase – previously U14 Tier 3

U14 Cup, U14 Trophy, U14 Shield - previously U14 Tier 1 Cup & Plate  
U14 Vase - previously U14 Tier 2



## U18 SUPER LEAGUE

### Overview

The Girls and Open/Boys Under 18 Super League will run as a maximum of 4 parallel Premier Divisions with 8 teams in each. The competition can run with a smaller number of teams. On completion of fixtures in the divisions, teams will be drawn to play quarter finals and semi-finals leading to the final. The Championships will run over the Autumn and Easter terms.

The aim of the competition is to provide high level competition for schools' specialising in hockey. You can see details of last season's entrants, results and standings on our website. Schools who enter the U18 Super League are expected also to enter any U16 team in the Super League and U14 in the Cup.

Teams will be drawn into Divisions, this will be done on a geographic basis. Once drawn, teams will need to arrange fixtures. Matches must be played midweek. Teams will not be expected to play matches outside of their term dates.

In the Open/Boys' competition teams will need to play a minimum of three league fixtures before Christmas, and in the Girls competition a minimum of two fixtures after Christmas. These will be drawn by England Hockey.

England Hockey will set a range of dates for matches.

### Dates - provisional

<b>Girls Under 18s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Super League matches concluded	Played by 11 Feb
Plate Quarter Final	Played by 25 Feb
Cup Quarter Final/Plate Semi-Final	Played by 02 Mar
Plate Final	16 Mar
Cup Semi Finals & Finals	17 & 18 Mar

<b>Open/Boys Under 18s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Super League matches concluded	Played by 12 Feb
Plate Quarter Final	Played by 24 Feb
Cup Quarter Final/Plate Semi-Final	Played by 03 Mar
Plate Final	17 Mar
Tier 1 Championships Semi Finals & Finals	17 & 18 March

England Hockey will facilitate discussions between teams to organise fixtures as required.

**Entry Fee - £150.00**

**Closing Date.**

Friday 22 May for both Girls and Open/Boys Super League.



## U16 SUPER LEAGUE

### Overview

The Girls and Open/Boys Under 16 Super League will again run with pools leading to knockout games to provide high level competition for schools' specialising in hockey. The Championships will run as a maximum of 8 parallel Premier Divisions with a maximum of 5 teams in each. Divisions will be organised on a geographic basis. Once drawn, teams will need to arrange fixtures. Matches must be played midweek. Teams will not be expected to play matches outside of their term dates. The competition can run with a smaller number of teams. On completion of fixtures in the divisions, teams will be drawn to play last 16, quarter finals and semi-finals leading to the final. For teams who do not qualify for the last 16 a separate Plate competition will run.

The championships will run during similar periods to the 2025-26 tournaments, Girls in the Autumn term, concluding in the Easter term, Open/Boys in the Easter term concluding early in the Summer term. The provisional dates are as follows

<b>Girls Under 16s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Super League matches concluded	Play by 10 Dec
Cup Quarter Finals Qualifier/Plate Quarter Finals	Play by 11 Feb
Cup Quarter Finals	Play by 24 Feb
Plate Semi Finals	Play by 02 Mar
Cup Semi Finals & Finals/Plate Final	17 & 18 Mar

<b>Open/Boys Under 16s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Tier 1 Championships League matches concluded	Play by 11 Feb
Cup Quarter Finals Qualifier/Plate Quarter Finals	Play by 25 Feb
Cup Quarter Finals	11 Mar
Plate Semi Finals	25 Mar
Cup Semi Finals & Finals/Plate Final	22 & 23 Apr

**Entry Fee - £150.00**

Friday 22 May for both Girls and Open/Boys Super League

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### **GIRLS AND OPEN/BOYS UNDER 18 TROPHY & SHIELD GIRLS AND OPEN/BOYS UNDER 16 TROPHY & SHIELD GIRLS AND OPEN/BOYS UNDER 14 CUP, TROPHY & SHIELD**

The Girls and Open/Boys Under 18 & U16 Trophy and the Girls and Open/Boys Under 14 Cup will run as knockout tournaments. In the U18 & U16 losers in Round 1 and Round 2 will play in a parallel Shield competition. In the U14 all teams will enter the Cup, teams who lose their first game will go into the Trophy and teams who lose their first game in the Trophy go into the Shield.

The aim of the U16 and U18 competitions are to provide a competitive knockout for traditional hockey schools. The U14 competition is primarily aimed at schools specialising in hockey but open to other schools wishing to play at this level.



The draws for all Rounds up to the Semi Finals will be made at the start of the competition so teams will know who they may face in latter rounds. Matches will be drawn within zones so that teams will play locally although as teams progress travel distances will increase.

For the first three rounds teams will know if they are drawn at home or away. For subsequent rounds, where practical, home advantage will be allocated depending on how many home or away matches teams in a tie have played, up to that stage in the competition. This is to endeavour to ensure that there is some equality in terms of home/away ties for teams who progress to the latter stages of the competition. In all competitions matches will be played at home venues apart from the finals which will be played at a neutral venue.

## Dates

Matches must be played midweek by the relevant play by date, see below, and teams drawn to play against each other should discuss and agree the date and start time. Given that early round draws are known in advance, teams should look to make arrangements for possible future matches too. Teams will not be expected to play matches outside of their term dates.

The actual number of rounds is dependent on the number of entries.

In these Championships there will be 5 rounds prior to the semi-finals if there are fewer than 64 entrants, 6 rounds if between 64 - 128 entrants. There is an extra round for the U18 & U16 Shield due to the structure. The provisional dates are as follows

<b>Girls Under 18s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Trophy Round 1	Thu 24 Sep
Trophy Round 2 / Shield Round 1	Thu 08 Oct
Trophy Round 3 / Shield Round 2	Thu 05 Nov
Trophy Round 4 / Shield Round 3	Thu 19 Nov
Trophy Quarter Finals / Shield Round 4	Thu 03 Dec
Trophy Semi Finals / Shield Quarter Finals	Thu 04 Feb
Shield Semi Finals	Thu 24 Feb
Trophy & Shield Finals	Tue 16 Mar

<b>Girls Under 16s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Trophy Round 1	Thu 17 Sep
Trophy Round 2 / Shield Round 1	Thu 01 Oct
Trophy Round 3 / Shield Round 2	Thu 15 Oct
Trophy Round 4 / Shield Round 3	Thu 12 Nov
Trophy Quarter Finals / Shield Round 4	Thu 26 Nov
Shield Quarter Finals	Thu 14 Jan
Trophy & Shield Semi Finals	Thu 28 Jan
Trophy & Shield Finals	Tue 16 Mar

<b>Girls Under 14s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Cup Round 1	Thu 01 Oct
Cup Round 2 / Trophy Round 1	Thu 15 Oct
Cup Round 3 / Trophy Round 2 / Shield Round 1	Thu 05 Nov
Cup Round 4 / Trophy Round 3 / Shield Round 2	Thu 19 Nov
Cup / Trophy / Shield Quarter Finals	Thu 10 Dec
Cup / Trophy / Shield Semi Finals	Thu 28 Jan



Trophy / Shield Final	Wed 17 Mar
Cup Final	Thu 18 Mar

<b>Open/Boys Under 18s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Trophy Round 1	Thu 14 Jan
Trophy Round 2 / Shield Round 1	Thu 28 Jan
Trophy Round 3 / Shield Round 2	Thu 11 Feb
Trophy Round 4 / Shield Round 3	Thu 25 Feb
Shield Round 4	Thu 04 Mar
Trophy & Shield Quarter Finals	Thu 11 Mar
Trophy & Shield Semi Finals	Thu 18 Mar
Trophy & Shield Finals	Thu 23 Apr

<b>Open/Boys Under 16s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Trophy Prelim	Thu 14 Jan
Trophy Round 1 / Shield Prelim	Thu 21 Jan
Trophy Round 2 / Shield Round 1	Thu 04 Feb
Trophy Round 3 / Shield Round 2	Thu 25 Feb
Trophy Quarter Finals / Shield Round 3	Thu 11 Mar
Shield Quarter Finals	Thu 18 Mar
Trophy & Shield Semi Finals	Thu 23 Mar
Trophy & Shield Finals	Thu 22 Apr

<b>Open/Boys Under 14s</b>	<b>Date</b>
Cup Round 1	Thu 14 Jan
Cup Round 2 / Trophy Round 1	Thu 28 Jan
Cup Round 3 / Trophy Round 2 / Shield Round 1	Thu 11 Feb
Cup Round 4 / Trophy Round 3 / Shield Round 2	Thu 25 Feb
Cup / Trophy / Shield Quarter Finals	Thu 11 Mar
Cup / Trophy / Shield Semi Finals	Thu 18 Mar
Trophy / Shield Final	Thu 22 Apr
Cup Final	Fri 23 Apr

**Entry Fee - £87.00**

**Closing Date for Girls & Open/Boys Under 18 & U16 Trophy and Under 14 Cup**

Friday 05 June for Girls Championships and Tuesday 29 September for Open/Boys Championships.

## **REGULATIONS**

Full regulations, which will be based on standard England Hockey Knockout and Schools competition regulations, will be issued with joining details but please note the following points.

A team may only be entered in one competition, this does not include where a "Plate/Shield" competition is run for early round losers in the relevant Championships. See also information regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs below.



Players can only play in one age group and in one competition, except that in certain circumstances a goalkeeper may play in more than one age group.

Players must be on the school roll for the full academic year.

Home teams are responsible for pitch costs and any costs associated with umpires appointed by local associations.

In the U18 Super League Championships it is expected that teams must fulfil fixtures on the agreed date. The penalty for failure to do will be considered by EHCD and this is subject to any remission or further penalty - for example points deduction, revision of score or fine, requirement that the fixture be played, disqualification from the subsequent season's competition - that EHCD may determine to impose. Any team that forfeits more than one fixture will be removed from the competition, their playing record expunged and will not be eligible to enter at the U18 age group in 2027-28 unless approved by England Hockey.

Subject to the agreement of the losing team a match in the U14 Cup, U16 Trophy and U18 Trophy Championships may be concluded early when the margin of defeat exceeds eight goals.

**Schools entering U18 Super League may not enter U16 Vase unless agreed by EHCD and Area. Schools entering U18 & U16 Super League may enter a 2nd XI in the U16 and U18 Trophy but not Vase. Teams entering U18 & U16 Trophy and U14 Cup may not enter a 2nd XI into the Vase competition. Any school not complying with the above will be disqualified from the relevant Vase competition.**

Entry into the Plate/Shield competitions for the U14 Cup, U16 & U18 Trophy is only for teams who have played and lost in the initial Championships. In exceptional circumstances EHCD has the discretion to agree to allow entry where a team has not been able to fulfil a fixture.

## **OUTSTANDING ENTRY FEES**

A small number of schools have outstanding entry fees and/or missing result report forms from previous seasons and have been contacted by us. Please note that we will be unable to accept entries from schools where these remain unresolved.

## **REGULATIONS RE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

The following remain as competition regulations for the 2026-27 season. To stress, these relate to EH run Schools Championships only and do not apply for any other schools' hockey activity or other competitions unless similar regulations are applied by the organisers.

**It will be really important that you check the eligibility of your players before selecting a team to play in the Championships. This includes age exemption certification for any player who is playing out of their age group.**

1. In the U18 Competitions unless an educational establishment is i. a State School or ii has been granted Collegiate status (available to schools who only have an intake of a specific gender in the sixth form / Year 12) only a total of three players who have joined the educational establishment in Years 12 and 13 are permitted to be part of the squad of players selected for



any one match (subject to iii. below). ***(To be clear this is 3 players throughout Year 12 & 13 rather than 3 players per year group)***

iii A team may select any player who has transferred into the school in Year 12 from an English educational establishment that only offers education up to Year 11. Such players must be registered in advance with the competition manager.

## 2. Full-Time Academic Education

i. Players must be full members of the named school and must be enrolled to take a full part in the school's academic curriculum for the full academic year.

ii. Players must take public examinations at the same centre as the rest of the school

iii. Players' academic results must be included in their school's published statistics including those seen in the government's league tables and the national press.

## **YOUR FEEDBACK**

As well as the entry information please can you give your view on match lengths in the national run competitions in the survey.

## **FINALLY**

For your information Stephen Barlow retired as Competitions Manager at England Hockey at the end of April. I am sure you all wish him a happy retirement.

If you have any queries regarding the Schools Championships please email me in the first instance as below

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