

ENGLAND HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

2026-2027

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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.

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).

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

Area: Unless the context requires otherwise, the Area Company that has adopted the relevant variant of 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 & Colleges Sport.

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

Doubling Up: When a player participates in two Adult League fixtures for their Club in the same match week (including Area League and EHL fixtures)

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.

EHDL: EH Disciplinary Lead

EHDP: EH Disciplinary Panel

EH Disciplinary Regulations: The regulations that deal with on and off field misconduct in the game.

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

EHF: EuroHockey

EHL: means the England Hockey League comprising of both Open/Men's and Women's League Premier Division, Division One North & South and Conference East, Midlands, North, West also known as League (or for the purposes of the Leagues structure NL National League)

FIH: The International Hockey Federation.

GMS: The online Game Management System designated for use by EH.

Grade: A number of Steps within a league pyramid that are banded together with the same requirements for participant eligibility, competition, and matchday administration. Note: Across parallel leagues, teams at the same Step in different Leagues can be at different Grades depending on the size of those Leagues.

Ineligible Player: A player who, cannot be selected due to these Regulations or the EH Disciplinary Regulations.

League: The England Hockey League.

Leagues: The collective term for the 8 Area Leagues and the National League.

Liaison Officer: The main contact at a team for the EHCD.

League Reserve Date (aka slip date): A date used for the playing of rearranged fixtures.

Matchweek: Covers matches all taking place from a Thursday to Wednesday. Where there is an alternative naming of matches for administrative purposes (for instance in Appendix 8) this definition shall prevail.

Match Official: Individual appointed to the role either by TAP or provided by a club, whose duties and responsibilities are detailed in Appendix 6 of these Regulations

NDP: The National Disciplinary Panel

NGP: The National Game Panel.

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

NOC: No Objection Certificate, internationally recognised by the FIH, designed to support players playing abroad. When a player chooses to play league hockey outside of their home nation the player's home national hockey association issues the NOC to confirm that they consent to the player's participation.

NPUA: The National Programme Umpiring Association

Parallel Division: Two or more Divisions operating at the same level, differentiated by geographical area

PPM: Points Per Match, used to determine promotion or relegation issues. A calculation (Total Points ÷ Matches Played) used primarily to compare the performance records of teams across Parallel Divisions. (see Regulation 4).

Principles: Principles of Team Selection.

Released Player: A player who is not attached to any club on GMS.

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

Step: The allocation of Divisions in a League pyramid structure. EHL Premier Division is Step 1, EHL Division Ones North & South is Step 2 EHL Conferences are Step 3. Multiple parallel Divisions can exist at any Step.

TAP: England Hockey Technical Appointments Panel

Team: Used to differentiate between a Club's different teams, either Open/Men's or Women's.

These Regulations: The England Hockey League Regulations, with references to specific Regulations within these as required.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 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.
- 1.2 The league structure in England is organised into two primary groups:
National League: Administered centrally by England Hockey and currently known as the "England Hockey League".
Area Leagues: Eight regional leagues, each administered by its respective Area Company.
- 1.3 **Titles and Sponsorship:** The official titles of the League and Divisions are detailed in Appendix 1. All communications must refer to the League and Divisions using these titles, including names of any Area or National sponsors.
- 1.4 **Compliance with Policies:** All England Hockey policies, rules and regulations, listed in Appendix **Error! Reference source not found.**, will apply to all matches within the Leagues.
- 1.5 **Standard Rules:** League matches will observe the Rules of Hockey as issued by the FIH.
Exceptions: Any experimental rule changes approved by EH for use in competitions shall be observed. Specific exceptions to the Rules of Hockey, as relevant to League competitions, are detailed in Appendix 2.
- 1.6 **Grade-Specific Regulations:** The regulations governing Area adult hockey leagues are tailored to align with specific Grades. This alignment ensures that the application of these Regulations varies appropriately across different Grades, reflecting the standards and expectations at each level of play. England Hockey League is Grade 1
- 1.7 EH shall own the broadcasting rights to all matches played in the League, including its playoff and qualifying tournaments, be they, terrestrial, satellite, cable, or internet streaming. All other broadcast coverage may be permitted with the prior approval of EH.
- 1.8 **Betting**
- 1.8.1 No person or affiliated body that is for the time-being participating in the League and/or is otherwise concerned in officiating over any match played in the League, or in the administration of the League, shall, either directly or indirectly, bet, or instruct, permit or enable any person or body to bet on the result, progress, or conduct of a League fixture.
- 1.8.2 No such person or affiliated body shall use, or provide to any other person or body, any information relating to the League which the person or affiliated body has by virtue of their position, and which is not publicly available for, or in relation to, betting.
- 1.8.3 Any breach of Regs 1.8.1 and/or 1.8.2 shall be considered a Misconduct Offence under the EH Disciplinary Regulations.

2 MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The operational management of the League will be by the EHCD. The EHCD may from time to time and when deemed by the EHCD to be necessary and/ or appropriate, make decisions in consultation with the NGP in accordance with its terms of reference which are at Appendix 11.
- 2.2 The League shall be managed in accordance with these Regulations as issued, and amended, from time to time by England Hockey.
- 2.3 Appeals against League decisions will be heard by the EHAP via the Appeals process (see Reg 16).
- 2.4 Any Liaison Officer requiring clarification on League Regulations should consult directly with EHCD..

3 ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

3.1 Clubs

3.1 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 1.3, together with any amendments that may be ratified by EH from time-to-time. If any matter arises which is not specifically covered under these regulations but which has a significant impact on the administration or outcome of the league including promotion, relegation or entry into any other competition (domestic or international) the EHCD in consultation with the NGP shall have jurisdiction to make a decision on the issue and impose any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose

3.1.2 For their teams to be eligible to participate in the League clubs must, by the Due Date, have:

3.1.2.1 Completed their membership to England Hockey (and where relevant Hockey Wales),
Including any payments.

3.1.2.2 Paid League entry fees.

3.1.2.3 Paid any fines or monies outstanding to England Hockey, Area and/or Sub-Area.

3.1.3 Each participating club must appoint a Liaison Officer and 2nd contact for each gender of team participating in the League and advise EHCD of these by the Due Date. The Liaison Officer and 2nd contact should be available to the EHCD, and other teams as required by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Liaison Officer and 2nd contact must be advised to EHCD, via, and for use in, the GMS and by the date specified. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via the GMS.

3.1.4 By agreeing to be a Liaison Officer and/or 2nd contact, and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Liaison Officer and 2nd contact consent to receiving information from EHCD and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the EHCD and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.

3.1.5 Each participating club is expected to have a representative from their club at any meeting called by the EHCD. These will ordinarily be online but may be physical meetings. In addition, each club shall respond to requests for information by the EHCD, NPUA or TAP by the Due Date.

3.1.6 Any club that wins a perpetual trophy must arrange for it to be returned at the club's cost to EHCD by 1st February, unless otherwise agreed by EHCD. Failure to do this will result in a fine of £150, EHCD 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.

3.1.7 Premier Divisions clubs must comply with the media requirements as set out in Appendix 9.

4 THE COMPETITION

4.1 Structure

1. There are Women's and Open/Men's categories of the League and each will consist of seven Divisions:

Step 1 - Premier,

Step 2 - Division One North & Division One South (collectively referred to as 'Division One'),

Step 3- Conference East, Conference Midlands, Conference North and Conference West (collectively referred to as the 'Conferences').

Each Division shall consist of ten teams except that the Premier Division shall consist of twelve teams.

2. Each team in Division One North & Division One South and each of the Conferences will play all other teams in its respective Division on a home and away basis on the dates specified by EHCD.

4.1.1 The formation of Division One and the Conferences shall be decided annually by EHCD.

4.1.2 The Premier Division will be played in three Stages - Regular League Season Stage 1 (Stage 1), Regular League Season Stage 2 ("Stage 2") and Finals & Relegation Stage 3 (sub-divided into Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals Weekend / Relegation Play-offs) as follows

4.1.2.1 Regular League Season Stage 1.

4.1.2.1.1 Each team will play each other once on the dates specified by EH; each team will play either five or six home matches and five or six away matches as determined by EHCD and will accrue points as per 4.2 below.

4.1.2.1.2 All points, deductions, goals scored and goals conceded from Stage 1 will carry forward to Stage 2 as per 4.1.2.2 below

4.1.2.2 Regular League Season Stage 2

4.1.2.2.1 Teams ranked 1-6 (referred to as Top 6) at the end of Stage 1 shall play each other once either home or away on the dates specified by EH.

4.1.2.2.2 Teams ranked 7-12 (referred to as Lower 6) at the end of Stage 1 shall play each other once either home or away on the dates specified by EH.

4.1.2.2.3 Teams in Top 6 and Lower 6 will accrue points as per 4.2 below in addition to all points, deductions, goals scored and goals conceded from Stage 1.

4.1.2.2.4 Where possible teams who had five home matches in Stage 1 will have three home matches in Stage 2 and teams who had six home matches in Stage 1 will have two home matches in Stage 2. Also where possible teams will play each other at the reverse venue from Stage 1 in Stage 2. Where these are not possible preference will be given to teams based on positions at the end of Stage 1.

4.1.3 Finals & Relegation Stage 3

4.1.3.1 Finals

No points or results from Stages 1 or 2 will be carried forward to Stage 3 Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals or Finals.

4.1.3.1.2 Quarter Finals

Teams ranked 1-8 at the end of Stage 2 will participate in quarter final ties on a Home & Away basis based on their rankings at the end of Regular League Season Stage 2. 1v8, 2v7, 3v6, 4v5. The first match will be played at the home venue of the lower ranked team in each tie; the second match will be played at the home venue of the higher ranked team. The team with the most goals over the two matches will qualify for the semi- finals. In the event of teams being level on goals at the end of the second match the tie will be determined by a shoot-out competition to be played in accordance with Appendix 10, and the winner of the shoot-out competition will progress to the semi-finals.

4.1.3.1.3 The winners of quarter finals will play in the following semi-finals.

Winner 1v8 v Winner 4v5, Winner 2v7 v Winner 3v6 and the winners of the semi-finals shall play in the Final and the losers of the semi- finals shall play in the 3rd place play off at the finals weekend ("Finals Weekend") on the dates, times and venues specified by EHCD. All single match ties. The winner of the Final will be determined Premier Division Champions.

4.1.3.1.4 Further regulations will be issued by EHCD in respect of Finals Weekend. The variances to FIH Rules of Hockey, 5.1, 8.2 and 13.3 as shown in Appendix 3 will not apply to matches at Finals Weekend.

4.1.3.2 **Relegation Play-offs.** All points, deductions, goals scored and goals conceded from Regular League Season Stage 1 and Stage 2, as per 4.2 below, will carry forward to the Relegation Play-offs.

4.1.3.2.1 Teams ranked 9-12 at the end of Regular League Season Stage 2 will participate in the Relegation Play-offs Teams in the Relegation Play-offs shall play each other once either home or away on the dates specified by EH. Teams ranked 9-10 will play two home matches and teams ranked 11-12 will play one home match.

4.2 Scoring Systems

4.2.1 Teams shall be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss.

4.2.2 In the event of teams being equal on points at the end of the season or Stage in the Premier Division, places within a Division shall be determined by each of the following factors, in the order shown:

- 4.2.2.1 Highest goal difference;
- 4.2.2.2 Highest number of goals scored;
- 4.2.2.3 Highest number of matches won;
- 4.2.2.4 Aggregate result of the matches between the teams concerned and, if also equal, away goals taking precedence over home goals.

- 4.2.2.5 If teams are still equal, they will share the position except when it determines a promotion, relegation, or play-off, or further progression between Phases in the Premier Division in which case a further match between the teams involved will be arranged with match arrangements organised by EHCD.

4.3 Walkovers

A team that fails to honour more than one match during the season will be withdrawn from the League and all previous results will be void. The EHCD will consider the circumstances in which a fixture is not fulfilled before implementing any sanction.

4.4 Teams from the same club and Divisions

Teams from the same club may not play in the same Division or Parallel Divisions of the League

4.5 Promotion & Relegation

4.5.1 Standard promotion and relegation are as shown but may be varied by EHCD in line with Regulations 0 below.

Scenario	Promotion & Relegation Criteria
Premier Division (A) & Division One North (B1) and South (B2))	Bottom two teams in A relegated – those teams finishing 11th and 12th at the end of the Relegation Play-offs. Top team in both B1 and B2 promoted
Division One North (B1) and South (B2) & Conference East (C1), Midlands (C2), North (C3), West (C4)	Bottom two teams in both B1 and B2 relegated Top team in each of C1, C2, C3, C4 promoted
Conference East (C1), Midlands (C2), North (C3), West (C4) & 8 Area Premier Divisions	Bottom two teams in each of C1, C2, C3, C4 relegated Top team in each of the 8 Area Premier Divisions promoted

4.5.2 If the relegation of a team means there would be more than one team from the same club at the same Step (see Regulation 4.4), the team with the lowest ranking from the club in the lower Division will be relegated irrespective of finishing position. Any additional place will be filled by the highest placed team in the relevant Division who would otherwise have been relegated

4.5.3 If the promotion of a team means there would be more than one team from the same club at the same Step, the promotion will not go ahead. Any additional place will be filled by the next highest placed team below the team that cannot be promoted in the relevant Division.

4.5.4 Any additional places will be filled in the following order:

4.5.4.1 The highest placed team in the relevant Division who would otherwise have been relegated;

4.5.4.2 The next highest placed team, below the team that cannot be promoted, in the relevant Division;

4.5.5 Where additional promotion(s) or reprieve(s) from relegation are required due to any variance from the League structure (Reg 4.1) this will be determined by EHCD, with places determined in the order shown in 4.5.4. Where this involves consideration across Parallel Divisions the PPM method will be used to determine any outcome required.

4.6 EuroHockey Club Championships Qualification⁵.

EH will have a designated number of places in the EuroHockey Club Competitions (EHCC) and the ranking of teams for participation in EHCC for the following season as per EuroHockey designation will be as below

4.6.1 1st – Premier Division Champions

4.6.2 2nd – The team finishing first at the conclusion of Stage 2

4.6.3 3rd – the team which is runner-up in the Final

4.6.4 4th – the team winning the 3rd place play-off in the Final (if played)

4.6.5.1 If the team finishing first in Stage 2 is also Premier Division Champions, then the runner-up in the Final will be EH's second ranked team, the winner of the 3rd place play-off will be EH's third ranked team, and the loser of the 3rd place play-off will be the fourth ranked team.

4.6.5.2 If the team finishing first in Stage 2 is runner-up in the Final, then the winner of the 3rd place play-off will be EH's third ranked team, and the loser of the 3rd place play-off will be the fourth ranked team

5 FIXTURES

5.1 Fixture Scheduling

5.1.1 EHCD will issue fixtures with their scheduled dates

5.1.2 Clubs may agree to move a fixture to within 3 days of the scheduled date. This should be done by the due date as advised by EHCD and is subject to the approval of EHCD. If a match is moved to a designated reserve slip date under this regulation, EH retain the right to change the match back to the original date if the slip date is subsequently required. Clubs are to note the guidance issued by England Hockey on Faith and Fixtures when considering requests for rescheduling a fixture.

5.2 Fixture Management

5.2.1 Each team shall provide, using the GMS, by 1 September, the proposed time and venue for each of its home matches.

5.2.2 Any change to this information must be notified to EHCD and to the Liaison Officer of the opposing team and any appointed umpires and match official at least 16 days prior to the match.

5.2.3 Any changes within this number of days is by exception only and must be notified to EHCD and agreed by EHCD and NPUA. In this event any changes must be communicated to opponents, umpires and the Match Official AND confirmed back by email or message no later than 2000 hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match.

5.2.4 EHCD reserves the right to decline any change if it represents a significant or unnecessary variation from previously notified details and the opposition do not agree to the change.

5.2.5 The Home team must contact their opponents, both Umpires and the Match Official to confirm arrangements by 2000hrs five days prior to the match

6 MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Pitches & Facilities

6.1.1 All League matches must be played on artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey. EHCD reserves the right to not allow a specific pitch to be used for League matches if it deems it unsuitable.

6.1.2 For all League matches, a broken line must be marked 5 metres from the outside edge of the circle. Each line is to be 30 cm in length with a gap between each line of 3 metres starting with a solid line at the centre of the top of the circle.

6.1.3 Clubs must undertake a risk assessment for venues they use, this is usually an insurance requirement, and all clubs must be insured. Advice on risk assessments as part of the Planning Safe Hockey guide can be found here: <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>

6.1.4 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that pitch facilities, including, floodlights, watering system, markings, goals and goal nets are satisfactory and that all other requirements in this Regulation are met prior to a match. Immediately prior to the commencement of a match, or once a match has started, the decision on whether it should be postponed or abandoned is determined by the umpires in consultation with any EH Match Official. Safety of players shall be a key factor in any decision making.

6.1.5 If the pitch is deemed unsuitable by the umpires, they may direct that the match be postponed. EHCD reserves the right to determine the suitability of facilities in line with the Planning Safe Hockey guidance.

6.1.6 Every effort must be made to find a suitable replacement pitch if a team's regular pitch is unfit.

6.1.7 Home League teams must provide a designated bench area on the side of the pitch (at least 2 metres away from any spectator area) 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 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 within 2m of the designated bench area. Dugouts for both teams and for the umpires and match official are required, subject to dispensation from EHCD, which may be granted in exceptional circumstances.

6.2 Pitch Bookings

6.2.1 Pitch bookings must be of a minimum duration:

- Premier Division and Division One – 2 hours
- Conference – 1 hour 45 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.

6.2.3 On the last weekend of matches in a division, pitch bookings in that division must be an additional 30 minutes longer; this must be scheduled before the pre-match familiarisation time to ensure that the over-run of any previous game does not impact on the start time of the match.

6.3 Start times and floodlights

6.3.1 Match start times in all Divisions except Open/Men's Premier Division shall be between the following times:

Time – Sep & Oct, Mar & Apr	Time – Nov-Feb	Under floodlights at a minimum of 350 lux
11:30 – 15:00hrs	11:30 – 14:30hrs	18:00hrs at the latest

6.3.2 Matches may be played earlier or later than the times shown if both teams, EHCD and NPUA agree.

6.3.3 Consideration should be given to opposition travel when scheduling fixtures

6.3.4 The home team may set a start time in a window between 14:30 hrs and 17:00 hrs on a Saturday without the agreement of the away team, provided that

6.3.4.1 The home club's floodlights exceed an average maintained output of 350 lux

6.3.4.2 The distance the away team is travelling is less than 100 miles one way; and/or,

6.3.4.3 The away team is not involved in a League match or has players participating in Talent Academy or EAGS activity, the following day

6.3.5 Match start times in the Open/Men's Premier Division shall be between the following times.

Saturdays - 16:30 - 18:30, Sundays - 13:00 – 15:00. Matches may be played earlier or later than the times shown if both teams, EHCD, and NPUA agree.

6.3.6 On the last scheduled round of matches in Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Premier Division and all Divisions of the League the start time of all matches shall be as determined by the EHCD

Open/Men's Premier Division – 18:00 hrs. All other Divisions 14:00 hrs.

6.4 Starting the Match

6.4.1 If the delay is caused by late arrival of players, where a team has a minimum of 7 players available to start the match, and the match would no longer be able to fit within the allocated time slot, then the match should start.

6.5 Changing Facilities

Home teams must provide: a toilet on site and separate changing for both teams and for umpires at the pitch venue (teams and umpires to have exclusive use for 1 hour prior to and after match) *. Home teams must always ensure they have no advantage over away teams in terms of room access and times.

(*Subject to dispensation from EHCD in exceptional circumstances)

6.6 Hospitality

6.6.1 Requirement for home teams:

Pre- and post-match hospitality to be made available to visiting teams, Umpires, any Umpire Support personnel officially appointed by NPUA, and Match Official, plus any additional Match Officials officially appointed by TAP (e.g. trainee Match Officials and/or Match Official assessors).

6.6.2 Away team, Umpires and Match Official 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.

6.7 Balls

Home teams must provide a sufficient quantity of good quality hockey match balls, which must be of the same type and colour and suitable for the surface on which the match is to be played. The colour of the match ball(s) shall be white. If a home team wishes to play with any other colour ball, then it must apply to EHCD for approval to do this. Any application must be made at least 10 days in advance of the first match where this shall apply. If the match ball is approved to be a colour other than white, then the home team must notify all teams in their division of this (including the colour of the ball) once approval has been granted. If EHCD approval has not been given to the use of a non-white ball and there is any dispute as to colour, the Rules of Hockey will apply.

6.8 Stewards

6.8.1 Teams will provide a designated area for spectators away from the designated bench area provided under 6.1.7 above and that shall not impede the safe movement of players, umpires or officials; where possible this should not be within 2 metres of the sideline

6.8.2 Home teams must provide stewards, or have an official responsible for spectator control pitch side, for all home matches whose primary function will be to ensure spectator behaviour does not breach the EH Code of Conduct; this person shall not be the team manager. The phone number of this person must be provided to any appointed Match Official before the game.

6.9 Ice & pitch cleaning materials

Home teams must ensure a separate supply of ice pitch side at each bench; a further small supply of ice will be available for the separate use of the umpires. The home team will also provide and, if required, utilise the means to clean any blood spillage or secretions.

6.10 Banners

Clubs must display, when requested, any banner or advertising specified by the EHCD that is supplied by either EH or a sponsor

6.11 Conduct

The Team Manager is responsible for the proper conduct of all players and officials named on the team-sheet and any other associated team personnel, eg Videographer. A Coach or Assistant Coach on the team bench, unless a designated first aider, may not enter the field of play during playing time, except to assist with a serious injury. Vocal communication by team officials and/or players on the team bench must not in any way be directed at the players of the opposing team, the Umpires, or the Match Official.

6.12 On-field injuries

If any person from the team bench and/or doctor or other medically qualified person attending the match is required to enter the field of play to attend to a player, other than a goalkeeper, that player must leave the field of play and return to the team bench area for a minimum of two minutes. The two-minute period will be managed by the Match Official on duty. The player required to leave the field may be substituted, subject to the provisions of the Rules of Hockey.

6.13 Ball Patrol

6.13.1 For matches in the Premier Division, home teams must provide a ball patrol of a minimum of four people. The ball patrol should be pitch side not less than 5 minutes before the scheduled start time of the match and their presence notified to the Match Official.

6.13.2 It is recommended that Division One and Conference Division teams provide a ball patrol of a minimum of four people. If a home team wishes to provide a ball patrol, they may do so without the permission of the away team provided that they have advised the away team of their intention to do so when contacting them with match details under Regulation 5.2.5 above.

6.14 Video Analysis for the purposes of performance analysis

6.14.1 All home teams must either allow their opposition access to the same videoing facilities as the home side, or, if they are unable to provide access to the same videoing facilities, and if requested, provide a copy of their footage to the opposition.

6.14.2 There shall be no audible coaching or communications from the video facility

6.14.3 Any third-party team must request permission, in writing, from the home club to video a match, for the purposes of performance analysis and it is at the discretion of the home club to permit this or otherwise.

6.14.4 Any team videoing a match for the purposes of performance analysis should, by request from the NPUA umpires appointed to the match, make a copy of the footage obtained available for the purposes of the umpires' performance analysis.

6.14.5 Premier Division teams must upload full match footage from most appropriate available angle & of good quality (as determined by EHCD) onto the designated platform for all home matches by latest 5.00pm on the Sunday (or sooner) following a Saturday match, or by latest 12.00 pm on the Monday following a Sunday match.(or sooner).

If any teams play a league match on a weekday

For any evening fixtures then that match footage must be uploaded by 12.00pm of the following day of when the match took place.

7 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – REGISTRATION

7.1 General Eligibility

7.1.1 **Club Registration:** To be eligible to play in the League, a player must be registered with their Club in the GMS to play Leagues hockey.

7.1.1.1 **New Players:** Players who have not previously registered on GMS must create a new GMS record and affiliate with their new club.

7.1.1.2 **Existing Players:** Players with a previous League hockey record must use their existing GMS record, unless:

- (i) Before playing in their first fixture EHCD permits a different registration to be used by the player.
- (ii) The player turns 18 and, with GMS Support, creates a new GMS record, merging their old junior record (registered to a parent/guardian).

7.1.1.3 **Returning players (see 7.7.1 below):** A player who has previously been released by a club to play in another country and wishes to return to England and Wales must log in to their GMS account and submit a request to join either their former club or an alternative club within England and Wales.

7.1.2 **Participation in Other Competitions:** After playing their first match in any one season, a player must not play for another Club in a Leagues match in England and Wales (excluding matches organised under the authority of BUCS, intra-university competition, or dedicated Masters' or Junior leagues); or domestic competition in any another country. Playing for another club whilst registered for a League club means that a player renders themselves ineligible to play for that League club. (Subject to Reg 7.5.3. below).

7.1.3 Multiple Registrations: Players may be registered with multiple Clubs for different competitions (e.g., EHL, EH Indoor, Age Competitions) and must comply with all relevant eligibility regulations for each different competition. Players are only eligible for one club at a time for Leagues' competition. To change the club for which a player is eligible, a transfer is required.

7.2 Age Requirements

7.2.1 Premier Division Matches: a player must be aged 15 or above on the day of the match.

7.2.2 Division One & Conference Matches: a player must be aged 13 or above on the day of the match.

7.3 Playing Categories

7.3.1 Players shall play in the relevant competition as determined by England Hockey Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy.

7.4 Nationality

7.4.1 No Objection Certificate A player whose Home National Association is not EH, Scottish Hockey or Welsh Hockey is ineligible for registration in the League unless they hold a current No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from their Home National Association for the purposes of the EH Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events Regulations. Evidence of this must be provided to EHCD.

7.4.2 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)

7.4.3 Players who do not hold a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland passport (UK Passport) or a Republic of Ireland passport (RoI passport). A team shall not name in its squad for any match more than three players who do not

7.4.3.1 hold a UK or RoI Passport; or,

7.4.3.2 have a permanent right of abode, or indefinite leave to remain, as defined by Sections 1 and 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 (as amended from time to time); or,

7.4.3.3 hold a current valid Ancestry Visa or Family of a Settled Person Visa for a right to remain in the United Kingdom; or,

7.4.3.4 have settled or pre-settled status in line with the EU Settlement Scheme.

7.4.3.5 have refugee status granted by the Home Office under the 1951 Refugee Convention

7.4.3.6 have sponsorship under the Homes for Ukrainians status granted by the Home Office

7.4.3.7 A player's GMS record must include their nationality and their status, where relevant, in respect of Reg 7.4.3.1 to 7.4.3.6 and evidence of this must be sent to EHCD.

7.5 Registration Deadlines

7.5.1 Weekly Deadlines: A player's registration must be completed 3 days prior to the match, (i.e. by midnight on a Wednesday for a Saturday or midnight Thursday for a Sunday) before they are eligible to play.

7.5.2 **Final Registration Date:**

A player may only transfer between clubs once during the season and this must be completed by the date below. A player may apply to EHCD for a second transfer and EHCD has the discretion to approve or otherwise such a transfer. For example, in a situation where a player has relocated or has had a change in personal circumstances. These deadlines also apply for a new registration (i.e. a player who has not played for another club in a Leagues match in England and Wales or a competitive match in any other country).

7.5.2.1 **To play in the Premier Division**

7.5.2.1.1 8th November - if the player is transferring from another Leagues club or if the player does not hold a UK passport.

7.5.2.1.2 31st January - if the player holds a UK passport, has not played in the Leagues for a different club during the current season, has not previously played senior or U21 international hockey for a country other than England, Scotland or Wales, and is transferring from a club or team in a domestic competition in any other country than England or Wales.

7.5.2.2 **To play in Division One or Conference:** 31st January

7.5.3 **Participation in domestic competitions outside of Europe, October-February**

7.5.3.1. In exception to Reg 7.1.2, & 7.5.2.1, players will be eligible to play for the League having participated in any of the following competitions during the same season:

- Australia Hockey One League
- Hockey India League
- Any other non-European domestic competition as determined by EHCD provided that either Regulation 7.5.3.2 or 7.5.3.3 applies.

7.5.3.2 if the player holds a UK passport and does not participate for a different club in a Leagues match on or before **28 November**, has not previously played senior or U21 international hockey for a country other than England, Scotland or Wales, and is otherwise eligible to participate in the League. or

7.5.3.3 if the player holds a passport from another country other than UK, and has participated in a League match for the same club on or before **28 November** and otherwise eligible to participate in the League

7.6 **Transfers Between Clubs**

7.6.1 **Transfer Requests:** To transfer from one Club to another a player must use GMS to make the transfer request.

Both the Clubs involved in the transfer must approve the request via GMS (for clubs in England and Wales).

If either Club does not approve the request, EHCD should be approached for a decision if not approved 10 days after the request is raised.

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 info).

EHCD may arbitrate if refusal is unreasonable.

7.6.2 **Transfer Deadline:** A player may transfer between Clubs participating in the Leagues only once during the period from the start of the season to **31st January**

Players may apply to the EHCD for additional transfers. EHCD has discretion to approve or deny such transfers.

7.7 **Players Moving to play in another country**

7.7.1 Any player transferring to a club in a country outside the jurisdiction of GMS (England and Wales) must obtain a release through GMS from their current club(s) prior to joining the new club.

8 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – TEAM SELECTION

8.1 Aims

The aims of Team Selection are

8.1.1 For clubs to have reasonable flexibility in managing player selection, enabling players to be able to play where possible and not be “unselectable” due to the League Regulations

8.1.2 For a club’s League teams to be selected in hierarchical order and be composed of players that reflects their level of ability within their club based on their availability on any one day and not being selected at a lower level than usual for the purpose of strengthening a lower team.

8.2 General

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

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

8.2.3 **Club Responsibility:** Clubs are expected to select teams on merit

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

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

8.2.6 **Exceptions: Any player eligibility exception requires a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) – refer to Regulation 8.5 below**

8.3 Movement of Players

8.3.1 **Selection for Higher-Ranked Teams in different match weeks:** Selection for Higher-Ranked Teams: Players can be selected for a team ranked higher than their usual team without restriction.

8.3.2 **Selection for Lower-Ranked Teams in different match weeks:**

8.3.2.1 Restrictions apply to selecting players for teams ranked lower than their usual team for the purpose of strengthening those teams

8.3.2.2 Clubs must not “drop” players for the purpose of strengthening a lower-ranked team by selecting players who normally complete at a higher level.

8.3.2.3 In this context, to “drop” a player refers to the act of selecting or reassigning a player from a higher-ranked team to a lower-ranked team temporarily, typically for a specific match

8.3.3 **Selection for Higher-Ranked or Lower-Ranked Teams in the same Matchweek including Match-week when a Team has more than one Fixture:** A team can only select players who do not play for any other team in that Matchweek. However, where a player is selected to participate in matches for more than one team in the same Matchweek, a prior Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) approval shall be required.

8.3.4 **Matchweek when a Higher-Ranked Team (Premier Division teams from Sep to Dec, Division One and Conference teams from Sep to Apr) has no Fixture:**

In match weeks when a team has League fixture but higher-ranked teams in their Club do not.

8.3.4.1 The team can only select players who have played at least 50% of their matches in the season to date for that team or a lower-ranked team.

8.3.5 **i. Matchweek when a Higher-Ranked Premier Division Team has no Fixture (Jan-Apr) and ii The Final Four Matches for a 2nd XI of a club with a team in the Premier Division:**

For each team in the Premier Division EHCD will determine 16 1st XI squad players, including 1 goalkeeper, who are ineligible to participate for their club in league matches for lower XIs during the period January- April. This will be done by the second Friday in January and will take into account:

8.3.5.1 Selection during the period September-November and

8.3.5.2 Nominations by clubs and any supporting information, to be supplied prior to the deadline.

8.3.5.3 Any player who is not included in the 16 1st XI squad players will be eligible to participate in league matches for 2nd XIs in their club unless determined otherwise by EHCD.

8.3.5.4 EHCD will advise relevant teams in other Divisions of teams' 1st XI squad players.

8.3.5.5 Final Four Matches (Division One and Conference teams): For the final four League matches that a team plays all players must have played a minimum of 50% of their matches for either that team or a lower-ranked team. (NB* EHCD reserve the right to use the principles in Reg 8.3.5 to determine the eligibility of players via SXPs for clubs with a 1st XI in Division One and a 2nd XI in Conference for their last four matches of the season).

8.4 Doubling Up

Definition: Doubling up refers to a player participating in two Adult League fixtures for different teams within the same Matchweek (including EHL & Area League fixtures) for different teams. This includes when one fixture is scheduled on Saturday and another on the Sunday

8.4.1 A player participating for two different league teams for the same club in the same Matchweek is deemed to be doubling up and requires SXP approval. Regulation 8.3.1 does not override this requirement.

Eligibility shall be assessed using the actual date on which the fixture is played.

Any team requiring a player to double up will be responsible for obtaining the necessary SXP approval. Failure to do so will result in that team being penalised in accordance with Appendix 5, Standard Tariffs and Fines, Regulation 8.

8.5 Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)

8.5.1 Clubs may request an SXP for player exemption, which, if approved by the EHCD, will exempt that player from designated eligibility regulations (ie any of Reg 8.3, 8.4 above) for a designated period. Such requests require a clear and detailed explanation of the circumstances in which the SXP is being requested.

8.5.2 SXP requests are limited to genuine circumstances, such as those provided as examples in Appendix 3.

8.5.3 EHCD reviews and approves SXPs based on fairness and necessity.

8.5.4 The weekly deadline before which SXP requests must be received from Clubs to be considered is 9.00 am on the Friday prior to a match.

8.5.5 EHCD will advise all teams within the relevant division/s where SXPs are granted.

9 TEAMS, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

9.1 Match Sheets

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

9.2 Players

A player whose name appears on the match sheet showing those players eligible to play in a match will be deemed to have played in that match.

9.3 Team Officials

Each team may have a maximum of four team officials who are permitted to be in the bench area and a qualified medical doctor if available. One of the bench officials must be a team manager who is not participating in the match as a player. The role of any official is to be included within the match sheet. Team Officials must be aged 18 years or above on the day of the fixture.

9.4 Deadline For Submission of Information

9.4.1 All players with correct shirt numbers and any team officials participating in a match must be uploaded onto the team sheet at least one hour before the match.

9.4.2 Both captains & both umpires and the Match Official must be able to view both team sheets at least one hour before the match. Teams must notify the Match Official of their starting line-up at least 10 minutes before the match

9.4.3 The home team and away team must both confirm the score (or if the match is Postponed or Abandoned inform EHCD, for GMS to be updated) as soon as possible but no later than 30 minutes after the match.

9.4.5 Both teams must confirm full details of goals and cards no later than 1 hour after the match,

9.4.6 Any errors or omissions must be reported to EHCD by teams or Match Official immediately.

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

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

10 DRESS

10.1 The two teams must wear uniform shirts and knee length socks that distinguish them from each other and the umpires, and 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)

10.2 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 and the umpires.

10.3 Clubs must have different colours for Home and Away games. Therefore, away team should carry a change of kit in the event of a clash.

10.4 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 and/or Match Official, clash with the opposition's corresponding item of clothing (shirt and socks)

10.5 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.

10.6 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.

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

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

11 UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

11.1 The NPUA is responsible for the appointment of Umpires to League matches. TAP is responsible for the appointment of EH Match Officials and their duties and responsibilities in relation to these Regulations are shown in Appendix 7.

11.2 If an Umpire fails to fulfil an appointment, the Match Official shall endeavour to find another Umpire to enable the match to be played. Any replacement Umpire must be at least an active Level 2 Registered Umpire. If no replacement can be found the fixture must be postponed and re-arranged.

11.3 If TAP does not appoint a EH Match Official the home team is responsible for providing a Home Appointed Match Official, whose details must be included on their GMS teamsheet. See Appendix 7 for their duties and responsibilities

11.4 No person shall umpire and play in the same division of the League during the same season

11.5 There can be no appeal or complaint against any decision (or non-decision) of an umpire on the field of play or a Match Official during a match.

11.6 Any issues regarding umpiring or match officiating shall be referred to the relevant appointing

body, NPUA or TAP

- 11.7 All clubs must complete an Umpires report as determined by NPUA and feedback to TAP on EH appointed Match Officials

12 DISCIPLINE

12.1 Conduct

12.1.1 Scope:

12.1.1.1 This Regulation shall apply to all participants, including players, team officials and spectators, in all levels of competitions.

12.1.1.2 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:

12.1.3.1 Clubs are responsible for regulating the behaviour of their players, officials, members and spectators, in compliance with the EH Code of Conduct.

12.1.3.2 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.

12.1.3.3 Clubs must document and communicate their internal procedures to ensure consistency and transparency.

12.1.3.4 Clubs are encouraged to implement educational or preventive measures to promote good conduct, sportsmanship and respect among their participants and spectators.

12.2 Yellow/Red Cards

12.2.1 Player Responsibilities and Club Accountability:

12.2.1.1 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.

12.2.1.2 Clubs are responsible for applying suspensions.

12.2.2 Suspension Thresholds:

12.2.2.1 Players shall be subject to match suspensions for yellow cards accumulated throughout the season in League matches. The following suspensions apply to individuals:

- Four yellow cards in a season = 1 match suspension;
- Two additional yellow cards in the same season (i.e., six in total) = 1 further match suspension;
- Each additional yellow card thereafter in the same season = 1 further match suspension.

12.2.3 Application of Suspensions:

12.2.3.1 The Club of any player due to receive a suspension must contact EHCD immediately.

12.2.3.2 Clubs must ensure timely communication with EHCD regarding any suspensions.

12.2.3.4 The suspension is to be applied for all League games, starting from the date of the next match of the player's usual team, unless determined otherwise by the EHCD. The player may not be named as a team official on any date when the suspension applies.

12.2.3.5 If that match is postponed, EHCD will confirm the suspension date.

12.2.4 Red Cards:

12.2.4.1 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.

12.2.4.2 If the red card

- (i) consisted of two separate, but the same, Minor Offences
(as defined under the EH Disciplinary Regulations) for which a yellow card was awarded
for the first offence, and
- (ii) has no further period of suspension under the EH Disciplinary Regulations,

it shall be counted as both a second yellow card and a red card, for the purposes of accumulation and suspension, all of which should be recorded as above.

12.2.5 Bench Yellow Cards:

12.2.5.1 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.

12.2.5.2 For the purposes of card accumulation and suspensions the yellow card is recorded against the player or team official who received it, not the player who served the suspension.

12.2.6 Bench Red Cards:

12.2.6.1 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.

12.2.6.2 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.

12.2.6.3 For the purposes of card accumulation and suspensions the red card is recorded against the player who received it, not the player serving the suspension.

12.2.7 Carry-over 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

Unless postponed due to weather or travel as below, a team may only postpone a match if they are playing a higher priority fixture on the date of the match, which includes EHF Club competition. (See Appendix 8 for link to Priority list for coming season). Re-arrangements of fixtures due to participation in EHF Club competition will be made by EHCD.

13.2 General Postponement and Abandonment Rules

13.2.1 Decision Making Authority:

Immediately prior to the commencement of a match, or once a match has started, the decision on whether it should be postponed or abandoned is determined by the umpires. Safety of players and umpires shall be a key factor in any decision making

13.2.2 Reporting to EHCD:

EHCD should be informed of the postponement or abandonment immediately so that they can update GMS.

13.2.3 Post-Abandonment Procedure:

In the event of a match having to be abandoned, the EHCD will decide on the action to be taken after receiving a report from the Umpires, Match Official and teams. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture, dependent on the circumstances at the time of abandonment.

13.3 Rearrangement Procedures

13.3.1 Setting A New Date:

13.3.1.1 Match originally scheduled in September-December - the match must be replayed on the first designated league reserve date when both teams do not have a higher priority fixture, unless otherwise agreed by both teams and the EHCD (see Appendix 8 for league reserve dates for the current season).

13.3.1.2 Match originally scheduled January-April - the match must be replayed on the first designated league reserve date when both teams do not have a higher priority fixture or may be played prior to the first designated league reserve date if agreed by both teams and EHCD (see Appendix 8 for league reserve dates for the current season)

13.4 Procedure for Weather and Travel Issues

13.4.1 Home Team Responsibility: The home team must:

Confirm the latest acceptable notification time for cancellation with the visiting team.

Inspect the pitch before the visiting team's departure time, using a realistic view and the Met Office as a reference.

Notify the visiting team, umpires, match official and EHCD immediately if the pitch is unfit and/or likely to be so at the time of the match to confirm the postponement of the match.

EHCD will confirm the postponement of the match or otherwise.

13.4.2 **Away Team Inspection:** The away team has the right to inspect the ground at their own cost before a postponement decision is reached.

13.4.3 **On-the-Day Decision:** Once the teams and umpires have arrived, Regulation 13.2 applies.

13.4.4 Reporting and Consequences:

If the procedures are not followed and the pitch is found unfit upon arrival, umpires, match official and teams must submit a report for EHCD who will take action as it deems appropriate.

13.4.5 Travel Issues: The away team must

Check the Met Office, Highways England and/or Highways Wales for travel conditions 24-48 hours in advance.

Notify the home team, umpires, match official and EHCD immediately if the guidance is not travel and this guidance is that this will not change prior to the intended departure time.

- EHCD will confirm the postponement of the match or otherwise.

13.4.6 **Timely Notifications:** Matches should be postponed in sufficient time to avoid unnecessary travel expenses.

14 FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE OR FORFEITURE OF A MATCH

14.1 If a team fails to honour a fixture, or forfeits a match, it shall be penalised, under this Regulation, using the penalties in Appendix 4 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 EHCD may impose in line with Breach of Regulations & Penalties.

14.1.1 A team that fails to play due to shortage of players is deemed to have failed to honour the fixture and penalties applied.

14.1.2 Failure to Honour a fixture includes not completing the fixture unless the umpires agree to abandon the game because of, for example, problems with pitch, the weather, danger to players or a medical emergency.

15 BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

15.1 The provisions contained in these regulations are without prejudice to anything contained in the EH Code of Conduct, but any club or team or individual found to be in breach of these regulations may be subject to further penalties, as may be determined by the EHCD, in addition to any penalty imposed by any EH Disciplinary Body.

15.2 For breaches of any or all of these regulations, and/or the EH Code of Conduct, the EHCD 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, the EHCD may acting in consultation with the NGP impose any penalty, including, but not limited to, awarding a match to the opposition, fines and suspension of players, and may require teams to play matches away from their home venue. These may be applied within the current and/or subsequent season

- 15.3 When imposing any penalty, the EHCD shall have regard to any recommendation that may have been made by any relevant Disciplinary Body under the provisions of any regulation included in the EH Code of Conduct.
- 15.4 The standard tariff of penalties for breach of regulations can be seen in Appendix 5.
- 15.5 Any club or team that believes that there has been a breach of the regulations in a match, must report the alleged breach to EHCD no later than 3 days after the date of the match in which the alleged breach has taken place. The report must include all relevant details and proof of the breach. Reports received outside of this time limit will not be considered by EHCD.

16 APPEAL PROCEDURE

16.1 Making an Appeal

- 16.2 There shall be no right of appeal against the decision of an umpire or appointed Match Official.
- 16.3 Clubs and teams have the right to appeal against a decision of the EHCD as set out in this Regulation other than a decision not to accept a report that fails to comply with the requirements of Regulation 16.4 above.

The parties to any Appeal will be the Club or teams that lodge the appeal (Appellant) and EH (Respondent).

- 16.4 An Appeal can only be sought against a decision of the EHCD on one or more of the following grounds:
- (a) the decision of is based on an error of fact or could not have reasonably been reached by the EHCD when faced with the evidence before it;
 - (b) there was serious injustice because of a procedural or other irregularity in the decision making proceeds;
 - (c) significant and relevant new evidence has come to light which was not available before the EHCD decision was made and could not have reasonably been obtained earlier but, had it been available, may have caused the EHCD to reach a materially different decision; or
 - (d) any sanction imposed is manifestly unreasonable in the light of the EHCD decision.

16.5 Scope of an appeal

- 16.5.1 An Appeal shall be by way of a review only and not by way of a rehearing.
- 16.5.2 The Appeal Panel will decide whether the original decision or sanction imposed by the EHCD can be reviewed (without rehearing all the evidence).
- 16.5.3 The Appeal Panel shall give the parties the right to be heard whether orally or in writing and, if orally, to be represented. Where the Appellant is a Club, it may have one or two (2) of its officer's present or one officer and a representative at an Oral hearing. Where the Appellant is a team, it may have one team member and a representative present at an Oral hearing.

16.6 Appeal Forms

- 16.6.1 To commence an Appeal, the Appellant must complete an Appeal Form (in the form set out in Appendix 6) and send it to the EHCD, by e-mail, within three (3) days of the date on which the decision against which an appeal is lodged was issued to the Appellant. The Appeal Form must:
- 16.6.1.1 identify the decision and sanction appealed against, and the grounds for the Appeal as set out in Regulation 16.4

16.6.1.2 state whether the Appeal is in respect of the whole of a decision or only the sanction imposed;

16.6.1.3 state whether an oral Hearing is requested and, if so, why an oral hearing is both proportionate and necessary; and

16.6.1.4 include the Appellant's address or e-mail address for service of any documents;

16.6.1.5 be accompanied by a payment of £100 (Appeal Fee):

16.6.1.6 If the Appeal Form does not comply with all the requirements set out in Regulation 16.4 (including time limitations and payment of the appropriate Appeal Fee), that Appeal Form shall be null and void and shall not form the basis of a valid Appeal. Any Appeal Fee paid shall be returned in full.

16.6.1.7 Any other club that may be directly affected by an Appeal shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be notified of the Appeal and subsequently the outcome of the Appeal.

16.6.1.8 Upon conclusion of the Appeal, the Appeal Panel may, at its sole discretion, direct that all or part of the relevant Appeal Fee is refunded.

16.6.1.9 The grounds of an Appeal shall not be amended after submission of an Appeal Form except as agreed by the Chair of the Appeal Panel.

16.6.1.10 Make-up of the Appeal Panel

16.6.1.11 The relevant Appeal Panel shall be the England Hockey Appeal Panel (EHAP) and shall be convened (in consultation with the Chair) and administered by the England Hockey Disciplinary Lead (EHDL).

16.7 Appeal Notices

16.7.1 Within three (3) days or as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of an Appeal Form, the EHDL as secretary to the EHAP shall send to the parties, and the Chair of the relevant Appeal Panel a copy of the Appeal Form and any accompanying evidence. The EHDL shall also set out:

- (a) the individuals, specifically identifying the Chair, who will constitute the relevant Appeal Panel; and
- (e) an outline of the grounds for the Appeal.

16.8 Appeal Procedure

16.8.1 Within seven (7) days or as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of an Appeal Notice, the Chair of the EHAP shall consider whether the Appeal Notice properly identifies a basis with a reasonable prospect of success for contending that one or more of the grounds for an Appeal set out in Regulation 9.2.4 are present and, if so, whether the Appeal should be heard by way of an oral Hearing or determined by way of a paper Hearing, and shall notify the parties of their decision in writing. In determining whether the Appeal should be heard by way of an oral Hearing, the Chair of the relevant Appeal Panel shall take into account:

- (a) the nature of the decision subject to appeal;
- (b) the severity of the sanction imposed by EHCD;
- (c) whether the Appellant has requested an oral Hearing in the Appeal Form (which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall not be determinative); and
- (d) whether, in all the circumstances, an oral Hearing is proportionate and/or will assist in the fair, just and timely determination of the Appeal.

- 16.8.2 If the Chair of the EHAP determines that the Appeal has no reasonable prospect of success, or has been made frivolously, vexatiously or maliciously, or fails to meet the requirements required to bring an Appeal under these Regulations they may direct that the Appeal should be dismissed without further consideration. The decision of the Chair of the EHAP shall be final in this instance.
- 16.8.3 In the event that the Chair decides that the Appeal should be heard by way of an oral Hearing, they shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal and the matter will proceed in line with Appendix 12.
- 16.8.4 Power to stay, suspend or vary a Decision or Sanction pending Appeal
- The Chair of the EHAP may stay, suspend or vary any decision or sanction pending determination of the Appeal, at their discretion. Any order to stay, suspend or vary any decision or sanction pending determination of the Appeal shall be notified to all relevant parties in writing as soon as practicable.

16.9 Appeals with no oral Hearing

- 16.9.1 Where the Appeal is to be heard by way of a paper Hearing (i.e. on the basis of the written evidence only), as soon as reasonably practical after the receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the EHAP shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal, which may include
- (a) the provision of supplemental submissions by the Appellant and Replies to submissions by the Respondent
 - (b) notifying any other club that may be directly affected by the appeal of the Appeal and subsequently the outcome of the Appeal.
 - (c) inviting or permitting any club that may be affected by the Appeal to submit written evidence and/or submissions in support of or against the appeal
- 16.9.2 If, on receipt of the Appeal Submissions and Reply Submissions, the EHAP decides that the Appeal should be dealt with by way of an oral Hearing (for example if it becomes apparent that the findings made on the basis of the evidence are disputed and an oral Hearing is likely to assist the determination of the Appeal), the EHAP may in its discretion direct that the Appeal should be heard by way of an oral Hearing and the procedure set out in Appendix 12 shall apply.

16.10 Procedure following an Appeal Decision

- 16.10.1 The written Decision of the EHAP including reasons, shall be completed by the Chair of the EHAP within seven (7) days of making its decision or as soon as reasonably practicable and sent to the EHDL.
- 16.10.2 The EHDL shall notify the parties to the Appeal of the EHAP decision and any club referred to in Reg 16.9.1 (c) no later than 48 hours after receiving the decision and will notify the reasons no later than 48 hours after receiving them.
- 16.10.3 EH is entitled to publish the decision of the EHAP in such a manner as it considers appropriate after the EHDL has notified the parties. Parties to an Appeal Hearing are deemed to have consented to such publication.
- 16.10.4 The Decision of the EHAP is final.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – LEAGUE TITLES & DIVISIONS

The League is called the England Hockey League.

Divisions are known as:

England Hockey League Open/Men's Premier Division,
England Hockey League Open/Men's Division One North
England Hockey League Open/Men's Division One South
England Hockey League Open/Men's Conference East
England Hockey League Open/Men's Conference Midlands
England Hockey League Open/Men's Conference North
England Hockey League Open/Men's Conference West

England Hockey League Women's Premier Division,
England Hockey League Women's Division One North
England Hockey League Women's Division One South
England Hockey League Women's Conference East
England Hockey League Women's Conference Midlands
England Hockey League Women's Conference North
England Hockey League Women's Conference West

England Hockey League may be abbreviated to EHL and where appropriate the gender not used

Division One North & Division One South may be collectively referred to as 'Division One'
Conference East, Conference Midlands, Conference North and Conference West may be collectively referred to as 'Conferences'

APPENDIX 2 – England Hockey Policies / Rules / Regulations

All England Hockey policies, rules and regulations shall apply to matches in the League. These may be revised and or supplemented from time to time by England Hockey but include:

- FIH Rules of Hockey (with any variations as determined by EH and as shown in Appendix 2)
- EH Code of Conduct
- EH Disciplinary Regulations
- EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey
- EH Privacy Policy
- EH Equality Policy
- EH Guidance on Faith and Fixtures
- EH Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy
- UK Anti-Doping Rules
- EH Anti-Corruption Policy
- EH League Sponsorship Policy
- EH Safe Hockey Policy
- EH Participation in Hockey for non-UK Passport Holders & International Sportsperson Visas

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 2 – VARIANCES TO FIH RULES OF HOCKEY

The Rules of Hockey 2026 shall apply with the exception of Rules 1.9, 5.1, 13.3 and 14, which shall be varied as follows:

Rule 1.9

Flag-posts between 1.20 and 1.50 metres in height are placed at each corner of the field – these are not required.

Rule 5.1

All League Including Quarter Finals Matches

A match consists of four quarters of 17 minutes 30 seconds, with an interval of 2 minutes between quarter 1 and 2 and between quarter 3 and 4, and a half-time interval of 5-10 minutes (to be agreed before the match starts) between quarter 2 and 3.

Rule 8.2

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

Rule 13.3

a. When an initial penalty corner is awarded, time is not stopped (unless done so by the umpire), however the umpire shall time a period of 40 seconds (inter alia to permit defenders to put on protective gear) before allowing the penalty corner to commence. The engaged Umpire shall advise both the defence and the attackers as the time approaches zero. After 40 seconds, or sooner, if both teams are ready the Umpire shall re-start play by blowing the whistle and the ball shall be injected immediately or very shortly thereafter.

In the event that a team is not ready the engaged Umpire is to determine whether the delay is intentional, or in the case of the defending team, if the delay is due to players finding and putting on their full protective equipment. The priority for the Umpires is player safety and welfare, and therefore if more time is required for all defenders to be ready and fully protected, this should be given, without penalty.

If, however, the engaged Umpire is of the view that there is an intentional delay resulting in a team not being ready within the aforesaid 40 seconds, the Umpire is to identify and issue a personal penalty (i.e. a green card) to a player who is responsible for the delay, with an increased personal penalty (i.e. a yellow card) for repeated offences. If this player is a defender, the defending team defends the particular Penalty Corner with one player fewer.

For any offence of this rule by a defending goalkeeper, the defending team defends the penalty corner with one fewer player: ie the corner is defended by one fewer player than before this incident. The defending team nominates which defender will be subject to a personal penalty.

b. If a suspended player's period of suspension ends during the taking of a penalty corner the player cannot return until the penalty corner, or any subsequent penalty corner in the same sequence, has been completed.

Rule 14

Personal Penalties - Suspensions

- 1 Umpires shall have the authority to suspend any player or official from the team bench for indiscipline, whether temporarily (green or yellow card) or permanently (red card). This will require the relevant team to withdraw a player from the pitch for the duration of the suspension.
- 2 If a field player receives a green or yellow card, the Umpires stop the match (but not necessarily the time) to issue the card. If time has been stopped, the Umpires re-start it immediately after issuing the card.
- 3 If a goalkeeper receives a green card, the Umpires stop time and re-start it immediately after that player has left the field of play.

- 4 The offending player leaves the field immediately. If they interfere with play on their way to the designated suspension area the Umpire may further penalise the player in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.
- 5 The timing of the temporary suspension starts when the player or official is seated in the designated area.
- 6 The suspended player or official may not participate in the match (whether by engaging in coaching or supporting or otherwise) during the period of their suspension.
- 7 The offending player is permitted to resume play when the Umpire who suspended them or appointed Match Official indicates that the period of suspension has been completed unless this occurs during the taking of a penalty corner in which case the player cannot return until the penalty corner has been completed, or any additional penalty corners in the same sequence, has/have been completed.
- 8 If the offending player is a goalkeeper, the Umpires stop the time at the next stoppage of play to enable that player to resume play.
- 9 Where appointed, a Match Official may undertake timing duties on behalf of Umpires in line with Appendix 6.

APPENDIX 3 – TEAM SELECTION GUIDANCE

The guidelines outlined in this reference ensure a comprehensive framework for player selection while allowing for necessary exceptions under appropriate circumstances.

Clubs can maintain fairness, competition integrity and equal opportunities in player eligibility and team selection by complying with Team Selection.

1 SELECTION NOTES

1.1 Objective:

The Team Selection framework aims to ensure fairness, competition integrity, and equal opportunities in player eligibility and team selection for all participating clubs.

The framework provides clubs with reasonable flexibility while maintaining guidelines to ensure fairness and prevent unfair advantages.

1.2 Player Selection Hierarchy

Clubs are expected to select teams on merit.

Players should not be selected at a lower level than their usual team for the purpose of strengthening a lower-ranked team.

2 SELECTION EXEMPTION NOTES

2.1 A Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) can be provided for a specific time period by EHCD at their discretion to manage specific scenarios.

2.2 Each application will be considered on its merits in line with Reg 8.5 and reference to a scenario in this Appendix does not mean that a SXP will be granted.

2.3 The remainder of this Appendix offers examples of when an SXP is required. The examples are for illustrative purposes to assist teams and is not an exhaustive list. If you have any doubt about whether an SXP may be required or not you should contact the EHCD for guidance.

Examples of when an SXP is required

The following examples illustrate circumstances where exemptions will or may apply.

These scenarios are not exhaustive but serve as guidelines for when a Selection Exemption Pass should be requested from EHCD.

- **Doubling up** (see Glossary definition) – any doubling up **will always** require a SXP

The team that requires any player to double up will be the team responsible for requesting the SXP approval failure to do this will mean that team will be penalised in line with Appendix 5 Standard Tariffs and Fines Regulation 8, for instance

- **Player returning from injury after a few weeks**, for instance

A regular 1st team player wants to return by playing in the 2nd team.

- **Player who for whatever reason has not played for a number of weeks or has not participated in a minimum of 50% of their team's League matches or the matches of a lower team**, for instance

A player played early in the season but did not play again until the last four weeks, and it can be demonstrated that the current level is appropriate for the player.

A player regularly covered for injuries or unavailability in a higher team.

A player was "dropped" by a higher team, playing for the 1st team in 11 matches before Christmas and solely in the 2nd team for 5 matches after Christmas at the time of the relevant match.

A player not selected by a higher team where they have played the majority of matches, in line with club selection, but not for the purposes of strengthening a lower team.

- **Team playing twice in a Matchweek**, for instance
 - When a team has a rearranged fixture as well as a scheduled fixture or two scheduled fixtures. A player who usually plays for the 2s may play for the 2s on a Saturday and the 1s on a Sunday but only if the 1s also played on the Saturday and have players injured in that game. Or there is unavailability for the Sunday fixture.
- **Examples of emergency issues** when a retrospective request for a SXP may be appropriate
 - A 1st team goalkeeper gets injured during warm-up, and the 4th team goalkeeper, who played earlier in the day, is available as a replacement.
 - A club has multiple injured or unavailable goalkeepers, and their regular 4th team goalkeeper is selected for the 1st team as cover but intends to return to the 4th team on the next match day.

APPENDIX 4 – STANDARD PENALTIES & TARIFFS OF FINES

- 1 Please refer to Regulation 15 - Breach of Regulations & Penalties.
- 2 Breaches
 - Stages - Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 below refer to an individual breach and the process giving the opportunity to rectify this.
 - Repeat Breaches – 1st Occurrence, 2nd Occurrence, 3rd Occurrence, below refer to the same Regulation being breached on one or more occasions. Penalties may be doubled for repeat breaches.
 - 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 EHCD. 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 EHCD.
 - **If not paid within 28 days, fines may be doubled.**

REGULATION: 3. ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
3.1.2 Completed membership of England Hockey (and, where relevant, Hockey Wales) by the Due Date, including any League Fees and o/s Fines.	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. Fine	All Club fixtures awarded as Walkovers until completed. Fine	Stage 2 - T1 Stage 3 - T2
3.1.3 Failure to provide Liaison Officer details by the Due Date	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline	Fine		T1
3.1.5 Representation from club at any meeting called by the EHCD	Fine	N/A	N/A	T1
3.1.5 Response to requests for information by the EHCD, NPUA or TAP, by the Due Date	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	Fine	N/A	T1
3.1.6 Return of perpetual trophy by the Due Date	£150 fine			T3
3.1.7 Premier Division non-compliance with the media requirements as set out in Appendix 9.	Fine	Fine	Fine	T3

REGULATION: 5. FIXTURES

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
5.2 Provision of time and venue for each of its home matches by the Due Date - subject to any variation discretion of EHCD	Reminder that this needs to be completed with a new deadline	If new deadline not met. Fine	N/A	T1
5.2.3 Late or no notification of change of details	Fine	Fine	Fine	T1

REGULATION: 6. MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
6.1 & 6.5 Provision of Pitch & Facilities and Changing facilities in line with Regulation and no exemption granted	Fine	Fine	Fine	T1
6.7 – 6.14 Failure to comply with any Regulations	Premier Division - Fine Division One & Conferences - Warning	Fine	Fine or penalty as determined by EHCD	T1
6.6 Hospitality requested or confirmed and not taken	Reimburse opposition.	Reimburse opposition. Fine	Reimburse opposition. Fine	T1

REGULATION: 7. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – REGISTRATION

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
7. Fielding an ineligible player in a match.	i. Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 1 point deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player ii. In exception to above If a breach of 7.1.1.2 and/or 7.6.1 the penalty will be a fine and the player will be suspended from all leagues hockey for a period equivalent to the number of matches played since the first infringement to a maximum of three games or until the registration is correctly completed whichever is longer <u>unless</u> EHCD determine that the player has joined a new club where their previous club was unaware of or had not agreed to the transfer, in which case the penalty in i. above will apply.	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 2 points deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 3 points deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	T1

REGULATION: 8. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – TEAM SELECTION

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
8. Not complying with principles of team selection. Includes playing without approved SXP	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 1 point deduction and one point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 2 point deduction and two points deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine, plus 3 point deduction and three points deducted for each ineligible player	T1

REGULATION: 9. TEAM, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
9.3 No team manager	Fine	Fine and 1 point deduction.	Fine and 2 point deduction	T3
9.4.1 Team late in uploading all players and any team officials participating in a match onto the match sheet on the GMS by specified time.	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	Fine	Fine and 1 point deduction.	T1
9.4.3 Team late to confirm score on the GMS by specified time.	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	Fine	Fine and 1 point deduction.	T1
9.4.4 Team late to confirm details of goals, cards, and injuries on the GMS Timeline by specified time.	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	Fine	Fine and 1 point deduction.	T1
9. Falsifying information on match sheet including incorrectly recording or omitting information on match sheet	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine plus 1 point deduction. EHCD to determine if team to be relegated at end of Season or points deducted at start of next season.	N/A	N/A	T3

REGULATION: 10. DRESS

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
10. Uniform kit, additional clothing, numbers	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1

REGULATION: 11. UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
11.4 No Home Appointed Match Official where required	Fine	Fine	Fine	T1
11.7 Failure to complete an Umpire's report as determined by NPUA or feedback to TAP on EH Match Officials by the Due Date.	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1

REGULATION: 12. DISCIPLINE

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
12.2.3 Suspended player missing incorrect match	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. Fine	T1
12.2.4 Fielding an ineligible player in a match due to suspension	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Liaison Officer plus 1 point deduction if deliberate. Fine Liaison Officer	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Liaison Officer plus 1 point deduction if deliberate. Fine Liaison Officer	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Liaison Officer plus 2 point deduction if deliberate. Fine Liaison Officer	T1

REGULATION: 13. POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
13. Failure to comply with regulation	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	T1

REGULATION: 14. FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE OR FORFEITURE OF A MATCH

SUB-SECTION	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH	FINE
14. Failure to honour a fixture	Fine and Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 1 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined by EHCD.	Team withdrawn from league unless deemed in exceptional circumstances. Fine and Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 2 points deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 2 points and 0-5 as determined by EHCD.		T1 plus, additional costs to opposition if applicable. i.e. pitch hire and teas costs

APPENDIX 5 – APPEAL NOTICE TEMPLATE

LEAGUE APPEAL NOTICE

To be sent to EHCD pursuant to Regulation 0

Appellant (name of Club and or team)	
Name of Person submitting Appeal Notice	
Position within Club	
Email	
Phone Number	
Decision being appealed and sanction appealed against, and the grounds for the Appeal as set out in Regulation 16.	
Date of Notification of Decision	
Is the Appeal in respect of the whole of a decision or only the sanction imposed?	
Is an oral Hearing requested and, if so, why this is both proportionate and necessary	
Short reason for Appeal	

The club/team confirms that

- 1 it wishes to Appeal the decision above and is doing so within 3 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 EH Bank Account (Details to follow).
- 3 it agrees to submit the full details of its appeal within 7 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 above.
- 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 TAP may appoint a Match Official (MO) to league matches with duties and responsibilities as below

2 MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 The MO shall check that players and team officials present correspond with information listed on a Clubs' team sheet and officials are in line with Regulation 9.3. Only those listed may enter the designated bench area.
- 2.2 The MO shall record all goals including scorer and type of goal, and all cards during the match.
- 2.3 The MO shall time the suspension applicable for the issue of any green or yellow cards by the Umpire. The period of suspension shall commence when the player has returned to the designated bench area. For the avoidance of doubt a player or team official who is temporarily suspended from play must sit calmly and quietly throughout the period of suspension and may not be involved in the match in any way. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to work with the MO to ensure that this is done.
- 2.4 The MO shall check that the record of the match as per Regulation 9.4 is agreed by both teams and umpires on the conclusion of the match.
- 2.5 The MO shall check that the record of the match is correctly submitted to the GMS by teams. Any variance of this shall be raised with the EHCD

3 POWERS OF SUSPENSION

- 3.1 The MO may direct any player or official to be removed from the designated bench area for indiscipline. This will involve the person concerned leaving the playing area, as directed by the MO, for the remainder of the match. Any serious instances involving either an individual or affiliated body MAY be reported as a Misconduct Offence under the EH Disciplinary Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt such action by the MO does not require the team concerned to withdraw a player from the pitch for the remainder of the match.
- 3.2 The MO may draw the attention of the Umpires to any incident of indiscipline by any player or official from the designated bench area. The Umpires may then impose such personal penalty as they think fit. If the Umpires permanently (red card) or temporarily (green or yellow card) suspend a player or official from the team bench, this will require the relevant team to withdraw a player from the pitch for the duration of the suspension.
- 3.3 Any person permanently suspended from the match under Regulations 12.1 or 12.2 may not enter the field of play or designated bench area until completion of the match, which shall include any period of cool down on the field of play after the match.

4 REPORTING

- 4.1 The MO shall report any significant variance to the League Regulations by either team to the EHCD

5 CLUB APPOINTED MATCH OFFICIALS

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

APPENDIX 8 – PRIORITY LIST & CALENDAR

The England Hockey calendar for 2026-27 may be found [here](#).

The 2026-27 England Hockey League calendar including league reserve dates is below. If a league reserve date is on an Area or EH Adult Super6s date that one or other of the teams are playing in the next available league reserve date will be used. If a team has already had a league fixture postponed to a league reserve date that is required, or a postponed fixture is postponed for a second (or subsequent) time the next available league reserve will be used (*nb Premier Division dates for February-May to be added by 1 October 2026*)

The dates referred to are the dates upon which matches should ordinarily be played; they do not reflect or change the core definition of Matchweek (see Glossary).

DATE	DATE	LEAGUE RESERVE DATE
Sat 19 Sep	WDI&C1	
Sun 20 Sep	MDI&C1	
Sat 26 Sep	MPrem1 WPrem1 WDI&C2	
Sun 27 Sep	MDI&C2	
Sat 03 Oct	MPrem2 WPrem2 WDI&C3	MDI&C1
Sun 04 Oct	MDI&C3	WDI&C1
Sat 10 Oct	MPrem3 WPrem3 WDI&C4	MDI&C2
Sun 11 Oct	MDI&C4	MPrem1 WPrem1 WDI&C2
Sat 17 Oct	MPrem4 WPrem4 WDI&C5	MDI&C3
Sun 18 Oct	MDI&C5	MPrem2 WPrem2 WDI&C3
Sat 24 Oct	MPrem5 WPrem5	
Sun 25 Oct	MPrem6 WPrem6	
Sat 31 Oct	MPrem7 WPrem7 WDI&C6	MDI&C4
Sun 01 Nov	MDI&C6	MPrem3&4 WPrem3&4 WDI&C4
Sat 07 Nov	MPrem8 WPrem8 WDI&C7	MDI&C5
Sun 08 Nov	MDI&C7	MPrem6&7 WPrem6&7 WDI&C5
Sat 14 Nov	MPrem9 WPrem9 WDI&C8	MDI&C6
Sun 15 Nov	MDI&C8	MPrem8&9 WPrem8&9 WDI&C6
Sat 21 Nov	MPrem10 WPrem10 WDI&C9	MDI&C7
Sun 22 Nov	MDI&C9	MPrem10 WPrem10 WDI&C7
Sat 28 Nov	MPrem11 WPrem11 WDI&C10	MDI&C8
Sun 29 Nov	MDI&C10	MPrem10i &11i WPrem10i &11i WDI&C8
Sat 06 Dec		MPrem11ii WPrem11ii MDI&C9 WD1&C9
Sun 07 Dec		
Sat 13 Dec		MD1&C10i WD1&C10i
Sun 14 Dec		
Sat 16 Jan		MD1&C10ii WD1&C10ii
Sun 17 Jan		
Sat 23 Jan		MD1&C10iii WD1&C10iii
Sun 24 Jan		
Sat 30 Jan	1 S6s Final prep WDI&C11 MDI&C11	
Sun 31 Jan	Super6s Final	
Sat 06 Feb	WDI&C12 MDI&C12	
Sun 07 Feb		
Sat 13 Feb		
Sun 14 Feb		
Sat 20 Feb	WDI&C13	MDI&C11&12i
Sun 21 Feb	MDI&C13	WDI&C11&12i
Sat 27 Feb	WDI&C14	MDI&C12ii
Sun 28 Feb	MDI&C14	WDI&C12ii
Sat 06 Mar	MPrem12 WPrem12 WDI&C15	MDI&C13
Sun 07 Mar	MDI&C15	WDI&C13
Sat 13 Mar	MPrem13 WPrem13 WDI&C16	MDI&C14
Sun 14 Mar	MDI&C16	MPrem12 WPrem12 WDI&C14
Sat 20 Mar	MPrem14 WPrem14 WDI&C17	MDI&C15&16
Sun 21 Mar	MDI&C17	MPrem13 WPrem13 WDI&C15&16
Sat 27 Mar	Easter	MDI&C17
Sun 28 Mar	Easter	MDI&C17
Sat 03 Apr	MPrem15 WPrem15 WDI&C18	MDI&C17
Sun 04 Apr	MDI&C18	MPrem14&15 WPrem14&15 WDI&C17
Sat 10 Apr	MPrem16 WPrem16	MDI&C18 WD1&C18
Sun 11 Apr		MPrem16 WPrem16
Sat 17 Apr	M&WPrem QF1 M&WPremRelegation1	
Sun 18 Apr	M&WPremRelegation2	MPrem QF1 WPrem QF1
Sat 24 Apr	M&WPrem QF2 M&WPremRelegation3	
Sun 25 Apr		MPremQF2 WPremQF2 M&WPremRelegation1,2,3i M&WPremRelegation3ii
Sat 01 May	EHL Finals Weekend	
Sun 02 May	EHL Finals Weekend	
Mon 03 May		

APPENDIX 9 – MEDIA REQUIREMENTS FOR PREMIER DIVISION TEAMS

1. Teams are required to supply the name and contact details of their media officer by the date specified. (this can be the same person as the liaison officer) who will be the first point of contact for EH Communications staff.
2. Teams are required to supply the details of their social media accounts, and any breakdown of what each is use for, if relevant, by the date specified.
3. Teams are required to supply a copy of their club logo suitable for use by EH and other teams on their media channels
4. Teams are required to use the league logo in all relevant media output relating to the league
5. Teams must ensure that their players and team officials respond to and support media requests from EH or any partner working with EH to provide official content for its media channels
6. Teams are required to supply a minimum of 6 hi-res action photos – 3 from Phase 1 and 3 from Phase 2/3 plus a hi-res squad photo at the start of Phase 1 for use rights free by EH for the promotion of the League.
7. Teams must use their social media channels to share and amplify EH media content relating to the league as requested by EH Communication staff.
8. Teams must use their social media channels to promote their matches and undertake the following, as a minimum on one or more of their social media channels
 - i. Match preview including opposition, venue, date & start time, link to live stream (if available) and match programme, in the week leading up to the match
 - ii. Squad list on the day or the day before the match
 - iii Start of match including names of umpires (home teams only)
 - iv. Half time score at half time (mandatory for the home team, desired for the away team)
 - v. Full time score at full time (mandatory for the home team, desired for the away team)
 - vi. Live updates of all goals and any incidents of note (desired for both teams)
 - vii. A post-match summary, on the day of the game or the day after. To include as a minimum – the result, your goal scorers, details of your next game
9. Teams must supply video clips of all goals – if available and not included on match footage supplied in line with Reg 6.15.5 – by Sunday at 5.00 pm (or sooner) to relevant EH partner.
10. Where a home team livestreams a match, away teams must comply with reasonable requests to assist, for example provision of teamsheet and starting XI and personnel to be available for post-match interviews.

APPENDIX 10 – SHOOTOUT REGULATIONS

In a shoot-out competition, five players from each team take a one-on-one shoot-out alternately against a goalkeeper from the other team as set out in this Regulation. The shoot-out competition comprises all series of shoot-outs required to determine a result.

The following sets out both the playing Rules and the procedures to be followed.

1. If the shoot-out competition takes place after the end of a match, the first shoot-out should take place within four minutes of the end of regulation playing time.
2. The respective Team Managers provide five players to take and one player to defend the shoot-outs from those on the Match Report except as excluded below. A player nominated to defend the shoot-outs can also be nominated to take a shoot-out. No substitutions / replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition other than as specified below.
3. A player who is still serving a disciplinary suspension by the Umpires (or Official where appointed) at the time the shoot-out competition takes place or has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition, cannot take part in that shoot-out competition. A player who has been temporarily suspended (green or yellow card) may take part in the shoot-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match.
4. The Umpires (or Match Official where appointed) will specify the method of timing shoot-outs taking account of the facilities available and the need to control time accurately.
5. The Umpires (or Match Official where appointed) will specify the goal to be used.
6. A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot-out.
All persons listed on the Match Report other than any player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition are permitted to enter the field of play outside the 23m area used for the shoot-out but must be at least 10 metres from the spot where the ball is placed at the start of the shoot-out.
7. The goalkeeper of the team taking a shoot-out shall wait on the back-line outside the circle.
8. A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.
9. Players taking a shoot-out and also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents are allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put back on their protective equipment.
10. Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper of the other team making a total of 10 shoot-outs.
11. Taking a shoot-out:
 - a) the goalkeeper starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts; the ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;
 - b) an attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;
 - c) an Umpire blows the whistle to start time;
 - d) an Umpire (or Match Official where appointed) starts the clock;
 - e) the attacker and the goalkeeper may then move in any direction;
 - f) the shoot-out is completed when:
 - i) 8 seconds has elapsed since the starting signal;
 - ii) a goal is scored;
 - iii) the attacker commits an offence;
 - iv) the goalkeeper commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle in which case the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper;
 - v) the goalkeeper commits an intentional offence inside or outside the circle, in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;
 - vi) the ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.
12. If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above, it can be taken and defended by any eligible player on the Match Report subject to the provisions of Articles 17, 18 and 19 of this Appendix.
13. The team scoring the most goals (or ahead by more goals than the other team has untaken shoot-outs available) is the winner.
14. A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot-out competition.
15. If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:

- a) that player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper, cannot be replaced;
 - b) the replacement for a suspended goalkeeper can only come from the five players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition:
 - i) the replacement goalkeeper is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper they are replacing was wearing;
 - ii) for taking their own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
 - c) any shoot-out due to be taken by a suspended player is forfeited; any goals scored by this player before being suspended count as a goal.
16. If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper is incapacitated:
- a) that goalkeeper may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded in this Appendix or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition;
 - b) the replacement goalkeeper:
 - i) is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper was wearing;
 - ii) if this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
17. If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded above or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition.
18. If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs:
- a) a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix;
 - b) the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;
 - c) the team whose player took the first shoot-out in a series defends the first shoot-out of the next series;
 - d) when one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot-outs, that team is the winner.
19. If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, additional series of shoot-outs are taken with the same players subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix:
- a) the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;
 - b) the team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.
20. Unless varied by these regulations, the Rules of Hockey apply during a shoot-out.

APPENDIX 11 – NATIONAL GAME PANEL

Introduction

1. **Purpose.** The National Game Panel (NGP) is a committee of the Board of England Hockey (EH Board) with delegated authority to deal with the administration and operation of the national game.
2. **Scope.** The national game is defined as the England Hockey Leagues (both open/men and women) and the national domestic competitions directly organised and delivered by England Hockey. It also includes elements of officiating and national policy that will need to be considered in conjunction with the Areas Standing Committee such as rules or standard regulations changes.
3. **Effective from.** The NGP is effective from September 2023 and will assume the responsibilities as set in these Terms of Reference.

AIMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4. **Aims.** The aims of the NGP are to bring together all those bodies responsible for delivering the national game to ensure that the rules and regulations of England Hockey (EH) are implemented and updated regularly, to provide insight and advice in order to address operational issues affecting the national game and to facilitate consistent implementation of EH Board strategic direction in operational delivery.
5. **Responsibilities.** Subject to Regulations made from time to time by the EH Board and any other reasonable requests by the EH Board, the responsibilities of the NGP include:
 - a. meet as required to consider those matters concerning the operational delivery and administration of the national game as directed by the members or by EH, reporting in writing the outcomes of such meetings to the EH Board, to the members through open and transparent reporting,
 - b. act as the body responsible for considering proposals for regulatory and policy amendments by member bodies and EH staff. Make recommendations to EH for the developing of rules and regulations that support the consistent delivery of the national game for approval by EH and communicate and implement any agreed changes.
 - c. support England Hockey Competitions Department (EHCD) in determining rulings relating to the national game.
 - d. engage with the Area Standing Committee (ASC) on those matters and considerations affecting the entirety of the domestic game,
 - e. promote, champion, and encourage Equality, Diversity and Inclusion across the sport.
 - f. other such activities as the EH Board may from time to time decide within the remit of the NGP.

MEMBERSHIP

6. **Membership.** The Membership of the NGP will be as follows:
 - a. The Chair of the Technical Appointing Panel ('TAP') or agreed alternate.
 - b. The Chair of the National Programme Umpiring Association ('NPUA') or agreed alternate.
 - c. A representative of the England Hockey Competitions Department ('EHCD');
 - d. Four Club Representatives from clubs who play in the England Hockey League ('EHL'), England Hockey Championships, England Hockey Masters' and/or Junior Championships.
 - e. EH Disciplinary Lead or agreed alternate.
 - f. A permanently appointed secretary from within EH staff.

7. The Executive Team of EH shall appoint a Chair for the NGP.
8. Four Club Representatives from those clubs performing within the EHL will be appointed by the EH Board annually at the end of the season following two existing Club Representatives stepping down via an application process as directed by the Chair of the NGP.

MEETINGS

9. **Frequency.** The NGP will meet twice a year, either virtually or in person as and when required.
10. **Agenda.** The agenda will be circulated to all members by the Secretary (as appointed by EH) following consultation from members on Agenda items circulated five days in advance.
11. **Minutes.** A synopsis of the minutes, noted by the Secretary, will be published on the EH website under the NGP once approved by the Chair as soon as reasonably practicable.
12. **Actions arising from minutes of any associated Committees or Functional Working Groups.** During the meeting, the NGP will consider the minutes of any associated committees or functional working groups and address any actions arising.

REVISIONS

13. The NGP can review and amend these Terms of Reference subject to the approval of the EH Board as and when is necessary and appropriate to do so.

APPENDIX 12 – APPEALS – ORAL HEARING

1. Unless otherwise expressly stated, these guidelines shall apply to Appeal Hearings.

Preparation for an oral hearing.

2. The Chair may issue directions relating to the procedural aspects in the period leading up to the Hearing in order to ensure proper and fair conduct of the Hearing. The EHDL shall notify the Panel members of any such directions. These may include but shall not be limited to procedure and timetable.
3. Notice of the Hearing must be sent by the EHDL to the Hearing Parties via a Hearing Notice at least twenty-eight (28) days before the date of the Hearing or sooner with the agreement of the parties, together with all supporting materials and (if applicable) copies of Witness statements. The Hearing Notice shall also name the individuals, specifically identifying the Chair, who will constitute the relevant Panel.
4. Unless the Chair instructs otherwise, at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the Hearing, each Hearing Party must provide the EHDL, via e-mail, details of all Witnesses they wish to call, together with copies of their written statements completed in accordance with paragraph 4 above and any other documentary evidence they propose to rely on at the Hearing.
5. It shall be the duty of the Hearing Parties to notify and arrange for the attendance of any Witnesses they may wish to call. The number of Witnesses allowed to give evidence will be at the discretion of the Chair, however they should be adequate enough to establish or defend a case without resulting in unreasonable duplication or time wasting.
6. Both Hearing Parties shall advise the EHDL, at least fourteen (14) days before the Hearing, if they will be using the services of anyone (legal, technical or otherwise) to present their case or advise them at the hearing. If either party has previously appointed a Representative, they are still required to advise if this individual will present their case for them at the hearing. The name and status of any Representative must be provided to the EHDL at the time of notification. The person who represents either Hearing Party may not also be a Witness.

8. The EHDL shall, at least seven (7) days before the Hearing, notify each of the Hearing Parties to the proceedings of the names of the other Hearing Party's Witnesses and the name and status of any Representative and anyone other than the Hearing Party who will be presenting a Hearing Parties' case or acting as an adviser.

Request for an adjournment of an oral hearing.

9. The Chair has discretion to adjourn the Hearing for a maximum of fourteen (14) days if at any time they think the interests of justice require it (e.g. to secure the attendance of a key Witness or to allow for additional evidence to be presented).
10. The Hearing Parties may request in writing an adjournment of the Hearing within seven (7) days of the date of the Hearing Notice. A detailed statement of the reasons for the request must be provided. The request must be sent to the EHDL. The EHAP Chair will consider the request and make a Decision that they, in their absolute discretion, shall consider fair and reasonable (although if any adjournment is ordered this should, normally, not exceed fourteen (14) days).
11. In making any order to adjourn, the Chair shall bear in mind not only the interests of the party seeking the adjournment but also the interests of any other parties including Witnesses, and the administrative implications.
12. The Chair will determine the date, time and place of any adjourned Hearing. The EHDL shall write to the Hearing Parties informing them of the adjournment and advising of the adjourned Hearing date and requesting a written acknowledgement via e-mail.
13. If the Appellant does not attend, or is not represented at any adjourned Hearing, the Panel will consider the case in their absence. The Chair has the discretion to order a further Hearing date if there are compelling reasons for non-attendance by either party.

Conduct of an oral hearing.

14. The procedure for the Hearing shall be flexible and informal, and shall be at the discretion of the Chair, who may make such decisions as necessary to ensure the orderly and effective conduct of the Hearing and provide for any reasonable adjustments to allow the Hearing Parties and Witnesses to take part properly, subject to the overriding requirement of fairness. The Chair will outline the basic procedure of the Hearing at the start of the Hearing.
15. The Panel may proceed to hear the case in the absence of any of the parties and Witnesses if due notice has been provided.
16. The Hearing Parties may rely on written representations made prior to the Hearing and/or appearance in person. Documents will be deemed to be authentic unless advance notice has been served requiring for them to be proved at the Hearing.
17. Hearings will take place remotely using Teams or some other suitable IT platform unless otherwise directed. All remotely convened hearings shall be recorded for EH's records. It should be clearly understood that travel or other expenses or fees will not be paid to either Hearing Party, their Representatives or Witnesses involved in the Hearing. This does not preclude the Panel from imposing Costs orders on either Hearing Party in respect of administrative costs.
18. The Panel shall decide any issue by a simple majority and no member of the Panel may abstain from voting.
19. The EHDL may record the EHAP proceedings. The proceedings may be audio or video recorded; the EHAP Chair will inform those involved in the Appeal Hearing about the recording at the start of the proceedings.
20. If the Panel feels it is necessary, bearing in mind all the circumstances surrounding the Hearing, the Panel may request EH to appoint an Independent Person (e.g. a respected senior official, lawyer or accountant) to act as adviser to the Panel. The cost of this may be taken into consideration in any award of Costs or be borne by EH.

