

Minutes of last meeting

7th May 2026



Meeting name	National Game Panel				
Venue	Teams				
Date	7 th May 2026	Start Time	17.00	End Time	18.00
Lead	Keith Carder (Chair) KC				
Attendance	Jo Thomas-Ellis (EH) JTE Nick Kendall (TBB) NK, Jo Pennycook (Disciplinary) JP, Christine Crossley (Sevenoaks) CC, Tony Jones (Surbiton) TJ. Donna Mills (Ipswich) DM Leigh Maasdrop (Old Georgians) LM, Sean Edwards (NPUA) SE				
Apologies	David Ellcock (NPUA) Annie Hairsine (TAP) Mike Kefford (Guildford)				
Welcome					
KC – Welcomed the group & opened the meeting with the below update					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The upcoming Pro League event which we are looking forward to delivering 12 days ‘of matches this year.• Tickets for the 2027 European Championships had gone on sale that day, with strong early sales reported.					
National Game Panel Future Membership					
KC - This is the second season of the current NGP structure.					
Existing club representatives will be contacted to confirm whether they wish to continue.					
A small number of new members will be sought to refresh and broaden representation.					
JTE to circulate continuation requests and explore new appointments.					

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Season appeals and regulatory challenges

GMS Registration Breaches

Over 20 players were identified as having incorrectly created new GMS records rather than transferring existing records (breach of Regulation 7.1.1.2).

The panel agreed sanctions should not impact league outcomes through points deductions due to administrative/system issues.

Resolution:

- Regulation revised so affected players served match suspensions instead of clubs receiving points deductions.
- Maximum sanction imposed: **2 matches**

Two Premier Division appeals were lodged (one men's, one women's). Both appeals were unsuccessful.

England Hockey to improve GMS safeguards and communication to prevent recurrence.

End-of-Season SXP Appeals

Two Premier Division clubs failed to request required SXPs for players moving between second and first teams during double-header weekend fixtures.

Initial penalties were applied to second teams, affecting:

Division One South & Conference East standings

Both clubs appealed successfully.

Key issue identified:

- Contradictory wording within EHL regulations around upward movement and SXP requirements.

EH will undertake a comprehensive regulation review and simplification to be undertaken over summer for NGP consultation.

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EHL Division Structures 2026/27

JTE presented proposed divisional allocations.

Men's Structure

Minimal changes required.

- **Oxford Hawks** move from Midlands to Conference West due to promotion/relegation balancing.

Women's Structure

More significant balancing required due to relegation of:

- Barnes
- Clifton Robinsons

Proposed allocation:

- **Barnes** → **Division One South**
- **Clifton Robinsons** → **Division One North**

Rationale:

- Travel impact considered manageable
- Avoids unnecessary movement of existing Div 1 South clubs
- Preserves divisional consistency where possible

Additional recommendation:

- **Nottingham University 2s** → **Conference Midlands**
- **Repton** → **Conference North**

Discussion focused on travel fairness and regional identity concerns.

Decision:

Division structures approved unanimously by the panel.

England Hockey to communicate confirmed structures to clubs now ASAP

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Super 6s Review

KC – Gave a brief overview to the group from the meeting that took place with all Super 6s Premier Division & Division One Teams updated on the challenges being faced with delivery of the finals in a large arena, group generally agreed that indoor is good for the sport and we should not lose sight of this

KC - Thanked the group for all their support, and proposed we would like to schedule more regular meetings for the group one preseason, one mid-season & one post-season

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date TBA