

SOUTH MASTERS LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2025-2026

The South Masters League Regulations 2025-2026 align with the Area Adult League Regulations 2025-2026 (Appendix A of the Area Regulations) and come into effect for London, South East and South Central Area Companies when approved by the Area Standing Committee under regulation 1.8 of the Area Regulations.

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

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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.

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

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 ALMC decision.

Area Appointed Umpire: The Umpire(s) or official(s) appointed to a match by the Area Officiating Committee.

Area: Unless the context requires otherwise, the Area Company that has adopted these Regulations and is one of the eight Area Companies (the Areas) that cooperate with the other seven Areas and England Hockey (EH) in the governance of hockey.

ASC: The Areas Standing Committee, where the 8 Area Companies meet nationally.

BUCS: British Universities and Colleges Sport.

Cascade Effect: The knock-on impact of additional relegations or reprieves (originating from NL interaction or other adjustments) on promotion/relegation numbers in lower Step

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

Club Appointed Umpire: The Umpire or Match Official appointed by a Club to a match, whether affiliated to that Club or temporarily on loan from another Club.

Club Team Limit: The maximum number of teams that one club is permitted to field in the same Division, as defined in Regulation 4.4.

Development Teams: Teams that are given player selection flexibility to gain league experience, develop new, young, or returning players' abilities or confidence and encourage the participation of new teams.

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

Doubling Up: When a player participates in two Adult or Masters League fixtures for their Club on the same match day (including Area League and NL fixtures), one of which is for their Regular Team.

Due Date: The date by which payment or response, as indicated in relevant communications or invoices, should be made.

EH: England Hockey, the National Governing Body for hockey in England.

EHAP: The England Hockey Appeal Panel.

EHCD: The EH Competitions Department.

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

EHDP: The England Hockey Disciplinary Panel.

FIH: The International Hockey Federation.

Further Appeal: An appeal, by the Appellant or EHCD, against a decision by the AAP.

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

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

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Higher Division: A Division positioned at a numerically lower (superior) Step in the Area League pyramid relative to another Division.

Ineligible Player: A player who, due to suspension or registration status cannot be selected.

League: The relevant South Masters League.

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

Liaison Officer: The main contact at a club for the ALMC.

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

Lower Division: A Division positioned at a numerically higher (inferior) Step in the Area League pyramid relative to another Division

Matchweek: Covers all matches taking place from Thursday to Wednesday.

Match Official: Individual appointed to the role either by the Area or provided by a club, whose duties and responsibilities are detailed in Appendix 7 of these Regulations.

MLA: Masters League Administrator.

MLDS: Master League Divisional Secretary.

MLC: Masters League Manager.

MMLC: Masters Management League Committee.

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.

Parallel Division: Two or more Divisions that feed into the same higher Step, whether at the same Step or at different Steps, where promotion from multiple divisions leads to the same destination Division.

PPM: Points Per Match: A calculation ($\text{Total Points} \div \text{Matches Played}$) used primarily to compare the performance records of teams across Parallel Divisions.

Principles: Principles of Team Selection.

Ranking: The hierarchical order of a Club's teams within the League pyramid structure, where a Club's highest-ranked team competes in the highest Division for which the Club is eligible, and subsequent teams are positioned in lower Divisions progressively according to their relative standing within the Club's team structure.

Regular Team: The team in which a player is usually selected, as determined by their playing appearances' record for the current season.

Reprieve: The cancellation of a team's relegation, typically due to a lack of relegation from a higher league or a vacancy arising.

Respondent: The party responding to an Appeal, the ALMC in the first instance.

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

Scheduled Fixture Date: The date a fixture is scheduled within the GMS at 8th September.

Step: The allocation of Divisions in a League pyramid structure. The highest Division is Step 1, the next highest is Step 2, etc. Multiple parallel Divisions can exist at any Step.

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

Team Contact: The individual from a team within a club responsible for liaising with their ALDS and using the GMS.

These Regulations: The Area Adult League Regulations, with references to specific Regulations within these as required.

Vacancy: An unfilled team slot within a Division after the initial application of standard promotion/relegation rules, requiring filling via Regulation 4.5.8 procedures.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 These regulations provide a structured, fair and consistent framework for the governance of England's hockey leagues. Adhering to these regulations ensures the integrity, standardisation and orderly conduct of competitions across all levels of play, promoting a fair and equitable competitive environment for all participants.
- 1.1.2 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.
 - ♦ **Plus Area Masters Leagues:** One tri-Area league administered by London Hockey Ltd.

1.2 Titles & Sponsorship

The official titles of the Leagues and Divisions are detailed in Appendix 1. All communications must refer to the Leagues and Divisions using these titles, including names of any Area or National sponsors.

1.3 Compliance With Policies

All England Hockey policies, rules and regulations, listed in Appendix 2, will apply to all matches within the Leagues.

1.4 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 3.

1.5 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.

2 MANAGEMENT

2.1 Overview Of Committee Structure

The management of the South Masters League is overseen by the Masters Management League Committee and roles organised to ensure effective governance and administration.

2.2 Leadership

- 2.2.1 The Chair of London Masters will be elected at the Area AGM.
- 2.2.2 Unless provided for in Regulations issued by the Board, the Chair of London Masters shall be chair of the MMLC.

2.3 Governance & Control

- 2.3.1 As a committee of the Area Company, the South Masters League is under the complete control of the Area Board of Directors.
- 2.3.2 The League may hold additional meetings for clubs as agreed with the Area Directors.
- 2.3.3 The League budget and entry fees are set at the Area AGM by the membership, with League accounts overseen by the Area Finance Director.

2.4 Committee Appointments & Diversity

- 2.4.1 The MMLC members are proposed by the Masters League Chair (MLC) and appointed by the Area Directors.
- 2.4.2 The Area Directors will expect the MMLC to be diverse in composition and open to attracting new volunteers.
- 2.4.3 Any club representative roles on the MMLC are elected at the Area AGM.

2.5 Composition Of The MMLC

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

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

2.6 Allocation Of Roles

The League will allocate roles within its members as necessary to perform its functions effectively and will assign titles to these roles in accordance with guidelines from the Board.

2.7 Compliance With Regulations

The League will be managed in accordance with the South Masters League Regulations and the Area Adult League Regulations issued periodically by England Hockey. The Directors will issue necessary Regulations to ensure consistent administration across different Areas.

2.8 Review & Appeals

- 2.8.1 MMLC decisions may be reviewed by the Area Directors, and significant league issues should be reported to them and the Area Management Committee.
- 2.8.2 Appeals against MMLC decisions should follow the procedure set out in Regulation 16.

2.9 Umpire Decisions

The MMLC will not adjudicate on decisions made by umpires or appointed match officials during matches. Similarly, umpires will not adjudicate on League Regulations.

2.10 Clarification of Regulations

Team administrators requiring clarification on League Regulations should consult directly with the relevant MLM or Administrator.

2.11 Grading Of Divisions

- 2.11.1 The League is responsible for determining the Grades of their Divisions using the provided table as guidance. The relevant requirements for participant eligibility, competition, and matchday administration will inform this process.
- 2.11.2 The Area Leagues Working Group (ALWG) will conduct an annual moderation to ensure consistent Grade application across Leagues.

Grade	Divisions Included in Each Grade
1	England Hockey Leagues (Premier Division, Division 1 North and South, 4 Conferences)
2	Area Premier Divisions and any Divisions at the next Step
3	Area mid-level Divisions. Approximately the highest 50% of all Divisions below Grade 2 and above Grade 5
4	Area lower Divisions. Approximately the lowest 50% of all Divisions below Grade 2 and above Grade 5 South Masters League Open/Men O40 Premier South Masters Women O35 and London Women O35
5	(i) Area lowest Divisions. The Division(s) at the lowest Step in any Area League pyramid (i.e., where there is no lower Division that promotes teams to it); and (ii) Any other Divisions, in addition to above, as designated by the ALMC South Masters Open/Men O50 Premier and Open/Men O50 London and Open/Men O50 South South Masters Open/Men O60 Premier and Open/Men O60 South South Masters Women O45 and London Women O45

2.12 Annual Review

The ALWG will conduct an annual review of League Regulations at the end of each season and publish a new version by 31st July.

3 ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

3.1 Clubs

- 3.1.1 The League is open to teams from clubs who are members of the London, South Central and South East Areas.
- 3.1.2 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 any amendments that may be ratified by EH from time to time. Each club and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the relevant MMLC or the ALWG in relation to these Regulations or any matter not covered in these Regulations and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.
- 3.1.3 A new club, or a club formed by a merger between existing clubs, must advise the relevant MLM by 1st May.
- 3.1.4 For their teams to be eligible to participate in the League by the Due Date, Clubs must have:
- Completed their membership to England Hockey (and where relevant Hockey Wales), including any payments.
 - Paid League entry fees.
 - Paid any fines or monies outstanding to England Hockey, Area and/or Sub-Area.

3.2 Club Administration

- 3.2.1 Each participating club must appoint a Liaison Officer for each gender of team participating in the League. (An individual may cover both roles). The Liaison Officer should be available to the MMLC, and other teams as required by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Liaison Officer must be advised to the MLM, via or for use in the GMS and by the date specified. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via, or for use in, the GMS.

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- 3.2.2 By agreeing to be a Liaison Officer and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Liaison Officer consents to receiving information from the ALM and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the ALM and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.
- 3.2.3 Each participating club is expected to have a representative from their club at any meeting called by the MMLC. These will ordinarily be online but may be physical meetings. In addition, each club shall respond to requests for information by the MLM, MLDS or AOC by the Due Date.
- 3.2.4 Any club that wins a perpetual trophy must arrange for it to be returned at the club's cost to the MMLC by 1st February, unless otherwise agreed by the MMLC. Failure to do this will result in a fine of £150. MMLC will advise the club if the trophy is to be engraved or not engraved in advance of this. The cost of any additional engraving or a replacement if a trophy is misplaced by a club will be invoiced to the relevant club.

3.3 Team Entry

- 3.3.1 A club must enter its teams into a League by the designated date set by the MMLC.
- 3.3.2 Club Masters age group teams are expected to be independent of teams entered into Adult leagues.
- 3.3.3 A club wishing to field a new team in or move an existing team into a neighbouring Area League for a subsequent season must advise both Areas of this by 1st March of the current season. The proposed new League will confirm acceptance or otherwise of a new team by 1st May.
- 3.3.4 A club wishing to enter new teams or withdraw teams from the League, in its home Area, must do so by 1st May. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the MMLC.
- 3.3.5 If a Club withdraws a team during the season, the team withdrawn will remain in the League tables with all matches void and will occupy the lowest place. Teams withdrawn during the season would usually be placed in the bottom Division if allowed to re-join the League in the following season. Any teams in the club below the withdrawn team may not be eligible for promotion at the end of the season, at the discretion of the MMLC.
- 3.3.6 If a club wishes to withdraw a team between seasons, that team would normally be its lowest playing in the League; however, if the club wishes to withdraw a higher team the ALMC may agree, if the change can be accommodated without significant adverse effects on other clubs, and if the request is made before 1st May.
- 3.3.7 A club may request that a team that would otherwise be promoted remains in the same Division (or at the same Step) the following season by 1st May. The MMLC reserves the right to accept or decline this and if the former to determine how the place will be filled.
- 3.3.8 Clubs may request that a team or teams be placed in a higher or lower Division than their existing or starting one. New teams will usually be placed in the lowest Division. Such a request must be made before 1st May. The MMLC reserves the right to determine if a new placing can be accommodated and at which Step without significant adverse effects on other clubs.

3.4 Team Administration

- 3.4.1 Each participating team must appoint a Team Contact who should be available to the MMLC, and other teams as required by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Team Contact and the e-mail address and telephone number(s) of a second contact must be advised to the MLM or Administrator, via or for use in the GMS and by the date specified. An individual may be Team Contact for more than one team. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via or for use in the GMS.
- 3.4.2 By agreeing to be a Team Contact or second contact for a participating team, and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Team Contact and any other point of contact consents to receiving information from the MLM, Administrator and any other person or body involved in the

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proper administration of the League, and further consents to the MLM, and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.

3.5 Teams

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

4 THE COMPETITION

4.1 Structure

- 4.1.1 The League will be structured as determined by the MMLC. For each age group, it shall have a Premier Division and a pyramid structure beneath. Wherever possible it shall have a Division from London, South Central and South East feeding into the Premier Division
- 4.1.2 Divisions in Leagues will usually be made up of 12 teams. This may be varied by the MMLC, for example, due to the geographic spread of teams at a specific Step or Steps, or where a team withdraws and is not replaced.
- 4.1.3 Men's Divisions shall ordinarily be played on Saturdays. Women's Divisions shall ordinarily be played on Sundays.
- 4.1.4 The formation of any parallel Divisions below the Premier Division shall be decided annually by the MMLC. These should be 'geographically balanced' Divisions and are Divisions at the same Step within a League that feed into a higher Step.
- 4.1.5 The MMLC shall decide which Divisions are at which Grade in line with Regulation 2.11.
- 4.1.6 Any significant changes to the League pyramids or the Grades of Divisions will be reviewed and agreed annually.

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, places within a Division shall be determined by each of the following factors, in the order shown:
 - (a) Highest goal difference;
 - (b) Highest number of goals scored;
 - (c) Highest number of matches won;
 - (d) Aggregate result of the matches between the teams concerned (and, if also equal, away goals taking precedence over home goals);
 - (e) If teams are still equal, they will share the position except when it determines a promotion, relegation, or play-off, in which case a further match between the teams involved will be arranged with match arrangements organised by the ALMC.

4.3 Walkovers

- 4.3.1 A team that fails to honour more than the number of matches during the season as detailed below maybe withdrawn from the League and all previous results will be void. The MMLC will consider the circumstances before implementing the sanction.
 - ♦ Grade 2 – 1
 - ♦ Grade 3 – 3
 - ♦ Grade 4 – 4
 - ♦ Grade 5 – 4 but at the discretion of the MMLC.

4.4 Teams From The Same Club & Divisions

- 4.4.1 The maximum number of teams from the same club who may play in the same Division at any Grade is as follows:
- ♦ Grade 2 – 2
 - ♦ Grade 3 – 2
 - ♦ Grade 4 – 3 unless exceptional circumstances as agreed by the MMLC
 - ♦ Grade 5 – unlimited

4.5 Promotion & Relegation

- 4.5.1 This Regulation governs the promotion and relegation of teams between Divisions and Steps within the League pyramid structure at the conclusion of each Season. It also details the process for accommodating team movements resulting from promotion to, or relegation from, the National League (NL).
- 4.5.2 Where illustrative examples are provided within this Regulation, they are intended solely for clarification and do not form part of the binding rules.
- 4.5.3 The standard promotion and relegation of teams between Divisions at the end of the Season shall operate according to Regulation 4.5.3(a) below, and any variations that are agreed by the MMLC.

(a) Standard Promotion & Relegation

Scenario	Relegations from Higher Division(s)	Promotions from Lower Division(s)
1 Higher Division (A) 1 Lower Division (B)	Bottom two teams in Division A	Top two teams in Division B
1 Higher Division (A) 2 Parallel Lower Divisions (B1, B2)*	Bottom two teams in Division A	Top team in both of Division B1 and Division B2

** Similar ratio for 2 Higher/4 Lower and 4 Higher/8 Lower*

- 4.5.4 Discretionary Variations: For Divisions competing at Grades 2 to 5, the MMLC has discretion to implement alternative promotion and relegation arrangements.
- (a) If any variation from the Standard Arrangements (Regulation 4.5.3(a)) is to be applied, the MMLC must notify all teams participating in the affected Divisions before the start of the relevant Season.
- 4.5.5 To avoid the impact of additional relegations and inclusion of new teams, the MMLC may, at its discretion, determine to increase the size of a Division(s) for the following season and revise promotion and relegation arrangements for the subsequent season to rebalance the Divisions.
- 4.5.6 If the relegation of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a division (see Regulation 4.4), adjustments to the Divisions will be at the discretion of the MMLC.
- 4.5.7 If the promotion of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a Division, the promotion will be at the discretion of the MMLC.

5 FIXTURES

5.1 Fixture Scheduling

- 5.1.1 The ALMC will issue fixtures with their scheduled dates.
- 5.1.2 Fixtures should be played on the prescribed dates.
- 5.1.3 Clubs must have a good reason to request rearranging a fixture to the nearest slip date such as bad weather or player international duty (see separate guidance). Any changes should be identified prior to the start of the league and fixtures rearranged prior to the start of the League season. This is subject to the approval of the MMLC.
- 5.1.4 Teams which enter the EH Championships played on Sundays, are expected to play 'double headers' in a match weekend. No rearrangement of Saturday league fixtures will be permitted unless expressly agreed by the MMLC.
- 5.1.5 Clubs should note the guidance issued by England Hockey on Faith and Fixtures when considering requests for rescheduling a fixture
- 5.1.6 Matches taking place from Thursday to Wednesday are considered to be in the same Matchweek.

5.2 Fixture Management

- 5.2.1 Each team shall enter the proposed time and venue for each of its home matches into the GMS by the dates below.
 - (a) All pre-Christmas matches by 8th September.
 - (b) All post-Christmas matches by 1st December.
 - (c) The MMLC may allow for shorter notice periods in Grade 3, 4 and 5 at their discretion.
- 5.2.2 Once on the GMS, Clubs must contact the Team Contact of the opposing team, and the MLM or administrator, as directed, to inform them of ANY change to this information, as soon as GMS is changed.
- 5.2.3 To change time or venue within 21 days of the match, clubs need agreement of the opposition, ALM or ALDS, and any umpires appointed to the match.
- 5.2.4 Home teams must contact the opposition between 10 and 21 days before the fixture to confirm the match details specified by the MMLC.
 - (a) Home teams must ensure confirmation of receipt by the away team.
 - (b) After receipt has been confirmed, any changes to time or venue are to be by exception only, and must be agreed by both teams, the MLM and administrator and any umpires appointed to the match. Changes must be agreed AND confirmed no later than 2000 hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match.
- 5.2.5 The League 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.

6 MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Pitches & Facilities

- 6.1.1 All League matches must be played on artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey. The MMLC, in consultation with England Hockey, reserve the right to not allow a specific pitch to be used for League matches if it deems it unsuitable.
- 6.1.2 Clubs must undertake a risk assessment for venues they use., This is usually an insurance requirement, and all clubs must be insured. Advice on risk assessments as part of the Planning Safe Hockey guide can be found here: <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>

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- 6.1.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that pitch facilities, including markings, goals and goal nets are satisfactory and that all other requirements in this Regulation are met prior to a match.
- 6.1.4 If the pitch is deemed unsuitable by the umpires, in consultation with team captains, they may direct that the match be postponed. The MMLC reserves the right to determine the suitability of facilities in line with the Planning Safe Hockey guidance. Postponement and/or abandonment are covered in Regulation 13.
- 6.1.5 Home League teams must provide a designated bench area on the side of the pitch (preferably away from any spectator area and not within 5 metres of any spectator area in any event) either side of the centre line and extending no further than the 23 metre lines, for the use of players and team officials only. Each team shall be allocated a section of the area, i.e., from the centre line to one of the 23 metre lines. Substitutes and officials on the team sheet must remain in the vicinity of their section of the designated bench area (unless warming up/down) and no other persons are allowed in the designated bench area. At Grades 4 and 5 this may be varied with discretion for other persons to be within, or participants to leave the area if agreed by the opposition and umpires.
- ♦ Grade 2 – Chairs or benches for both teams and umpires (Subject to dispensation from the ALMC in exceptional circumstances)
 - ♦ Grade 3 – Designated bench area
 - ♦ Grade 4 – Designated bench area
 - ♦ Grade 5 – Designated bench area

6.2 Pitch Bookings

- 6.2.1 Pitch bookings must be of a minimum duration:
Grade 2 and below – 1 hour 30 minutes
- 6.2.2 For any match, teams may agree to a shorter window than that shown as long as this does not impact the match being completed.

6.3 Start Times & Floodlights

- 6.3.1 Match start times shall be between the following times:

Grade	Earliest Start	Latest Start	Latest Start Under Lights
1	11:30	15:00	16:30
2	11:30	15:00	16:30
3	10:00	15:00	17:30
4	10:00	15:00	17:30
5	10:00	15:00	17:30

- 6.3.2 Matches may be played earlier or later than the times shown if both teams, the ALDS, and any Area Appointing Umpire to the match, agree.
- 6.3.3 Consideration should be given to opposition travel when scheduling fixtures, and the ALDS has the right to request that a home team changes its proposed fixture times.
- 6.3.4 If a team venue has suitable floodlights the start time may be later (as shown above under “Latest Start Under Lights”).
See: <https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>

6.4 Starting The Match

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

- 6.4.2 If the delay is caused by the late arrival of players, where a team has at least 7 players available to start the match, and further delay would mean that a normal-length match could no longer be completed within the allocated time slot, then the match should start.

6.5 Changing Facilities

Home teams must provide the following. Home teams must always ensure they have no advantage over away teams in terms of room access and times.

- ♦ Grade 2 – Shared for teams and for Area Appointed Umpires at pitch venue*
- ♦ Grade 3 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off-site
- ♦ Grade 4 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off-site
- ♦ Grade 5 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off-site

(*Subject to dispensation from ALMC in exceptional circumstances)

6.6 Hospitality

- 6.6.1 Home teams are required to make post-match hospitality available to visiting teams and Area Appointed Umpires.

(a) Away team and umpires must confirm if they do not wish to receive any offered hospitality by 2000 hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match. Away team is liable for any costs incurred if they notify that they do not require hospitality after this time or if it is not taken on the day.

- 6.6.2 Clubs who do not intend to provide post-match hospitality must seek ALMC approval, before the start of the season, with justification. If the ALMC allows a Home team not to provide hospitality for the season, they should inform all of their opposition teams before their first game. Away teams may reciprocate or not.

7 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – REGISTRATION

7.1 General Eligibility

- (a) **Club Registration:** To be eligible to play in the League, a player must be registered with their Club in the GMS. This applies to MO40 Premier, MO50 Premier, London and South, MO60 Premier, WO35 Premier and London and WO45 Premier and London. It is highly recommended that MO60 South are also registered on the GMS and match sheets are
- (b) **New Players:** Players who have not played for another club in a League match in England must create a new GMS record and affiliate with their new club.
- (c) **Existing Players:** Players with a previous League hockey record must use their existing GMS record, unless:
- (i) **Multiple Registrations:** Players may be registered with multiple Clubs for different competitions (e.g., Area Adult or Masters Saturday League, Women's Sunday Masters League, EH Indoor, EH Age Championships and must comply with all relevant eligibility regulations for each different competition.

- 7.1.1 **Participation in Other Competitions:** After playing their first match in any one season, a player must not play for another Club in competitions outside of England and Wales.

7.2 Age Requirements

- 7.2.1 **Age qualification:** The date for qualification will be up to December 31st in any given calendar year (i.e. for the 2025-26 season is 1st January to 31st December 2026).

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

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

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

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

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

7.3 Competition Categories

Players shall play in the relevant category as determined by England Hockey Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy, and must only play in one category, during a season, unless approved by the ALMC.

7.4 Players Living Partially Away From Home

Dual Registration: At Grade 3 and below, players living partially away from home (e.g., university students or individuals working away from home for significant periods) may register for more than one Club and play for either Club, but only one Club per Matchweek.

- ♦ This is permitted only if the two Clubs are in different League Areas and the principles of Team Selection are followed to reflect player ability.
- ♦ Requires the approval of ALMC before they can play, once dual registered .

7.5 No Objection Certificate (NOC)

International Players: Players who have played senior or junior (U21) international hockey in the past three seasons, whose Home National Association is not EH, Scottish Hockey or Welsh Hockey, must hold a current No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from their Home National Association to be eligible to participate in League hockey.

- ♦ Evidence of the NOC must be provided to the relevant ALMC.

7.6 Registration Deadlines

7.6.1 **Weekly Deadlines:** A player's registration must be completed prior to the match before they are eligible to play.

7.6.2 Final Registration Date:

- (a) A new player (players who have not played for another club in a League match) must register by 1st February.
- (b) Players may apply to the MMLC for late registration. The MMLC has discretion to approve or deny late registrations.

7.7 Transfers Between Clubs

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

- (a) Both the Clubs involved in the transfer must approve the request online.
- (b) If either Club does not approve the request, the MMLC should be approached for decision if not approved 10 days after the request is raised.
- (c) A Club may refuse a request if there is a valid reason (financial or otherwise) to do so. (e.g. return of kit, equipment, electronic info, access to information).
- (d) The MMLC may arbitrate if refusal is unreasonable.

7.7.2 **Transfer Deadline:** A player may transfer between Clubs participating in the Leagues only once during the period from the start of the season to 1st February.

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

7.8 Unassigned Players Moving Between Countries

Moving Outside GMS: Players moving to a Club outside of GMS (i.e., outside England and Wales) must request to become unassigned via GMS.

- ♦ The existing Club must approve the move.
- ♦ An unassigned player can play in another country.
- ♦ An unassigned player returning to England and Wales must have both their previous and new Club approve the move via GMS.

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
 - (a) their availability on any one day; and
 - (b) 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 and excludes Junior Hockey. Masters team selection is age group oriented and as per Appendix 4. Only the current season is relevant for player eligibility.
 - 8.2.3 **Club Responsibility:**
 - (a) Clubs are expected to select teams on merit.
 - (b) The requirement to select players for teams in hierarchical order still applies when a Club has multiple teams playing at the same Step and/or in the same Division.
 - 8.2.4 **Authority:** The MMLC can determine at any time whether a Club is in breach of the Aims of Masters Team Selection.
 - 8.2.5 **Selection Data:** The MMLC 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 8.6 below.
- ### 8.3 Movement Of Players
- 8.3.1 **Selection for Higher-Ranked Teams:** Selection for Higher-Ranked Teams: Players can be selected for a team ranked higher than their Regular Team without restriction.
 - 8.3.2 **Selection for Lower-Ranked Teams:**
 - (a) Restrictions apply to selecting players for teams ranked lower than their Regular Team for the purpose of strengthening those teams.
 - (b) Clubs must not “drop” players to strengthen a lower-ranked team by selecting players who normally complete at a higher level.
 - (c) 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 Eligibility Summary: The table below summarises weekly player eligibility guidelines.

Grade	Movement of a player	
	Up	Down
1	Unrestricted	Maximum 1 team
2		
3		Maximum 2 teams
4		
5		

8.3.4 If a Higher-Ranked Team has no Fixture or Does Not Play its Scheduled Fixture: In a Matchweek where a team has a League fixture but any higher-ranked teams in their Club do not:

- (a) The team can only select players who have made at least 50% of their playing appearances for either that team or a lower-ranked team – refer to the definition of Regular Team.
- (b) Regulation 8.3.3 does not apply in such a Matchweek.

8.3.5 If a Team has more than one Fixture: In a Matchweek where a team has more than one fixture i.e. a team has both a scheduled League fixture and a rearranged fixture, on Saturday and Sunday, for example:

- (a) For the rearranged match, the team can only select players who have made at least 50% of their playing appearances for either that team or a lower-ranked team – refer to the definition of Regular Team.
- (b) Regulation 8.3.3 does not apply in such a Matchweek.

8.3.6 Final Four matches:

- ♦ **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.

8.4 Doubling Up

8.4.1 Definition: Doubling up refers to a player participating in two Adult League fixtures within the same Matchweek, one of which is for their Regular Team, including NL and Area League fixtures. This includes when one fixture is scheduled on Saturday and another on the Sunday, for example, which might be due to the rearrangement of a postponed or abandoned game.

8.4.2 Conditions For Doubling Up:

- (a) **Permitted at Grades 4 and 5 only** to ensure that matches take place.
- (b) Permitted only as a last resort to cover player shortage.
- (c) **Not permitted across clubs in Masters Leagues unless agreed by match day teams and the MMLC.**
- (d) Generally allowed for the lowest or second-lowest ranked teams only, and no more than two teams apart in the Club's hierarchy of teams.
- (e) Maximum of 13 players for the lower-ranked team for whom players are doubling up.
- (f) A maximum of three players can double up, including the goalkeeper.
- (g) Each player can only play in two games per matchday
- (h) Excludes designated Development Teams.

8.5 Player Eligibility For Doubling Up

8.5.1 Outfield Players:

- (a) No doubling up permitted by players from higher-ranked teams that played for a higher-ranked team on the previous match day.
- (b) No Club-wide restriction on the total number of players doubling up, provided that one match is for each player's Regular Team.

8.5.2 Goalkeepers (GK):

- (a) GK doubling up as a GK is limited to lower teams within two ranks of their Regular Team, as shown in the Doubling Up Summary table in Regulation 8.5.4 below and subject to the conditions stated in Regulation 8.4.2 above.
- (b) A GK, whose Regular Team plays in Grade 3 may double up for a Grade 4 or 5 team only with an approved SXP.
- (c) A regular GK may play once as GK - i.e. for the whole game in full GK kit - and once as an outfield player on the same match day.

8.5.3 Specific GK Rules:

- (a) If the GK is doubling up as a GK in the lower-ranked team: no overall player limit for the lower team unless other outfield players also double up.
- (b) If the GK is doubling up as an outfield player in the lower-ranked team, that team cannot have more than 13 players selected for the match, refer to Regulation 8.4.2.
- (c) In exceptional circumstances, such as a late injury to the GK selected, a GK can double up as a GK for a higher team within two ranks of their Regular Team **without a pre-approved SXP**. However, it is expected that Clubs will have the appropriate number of GKs to fulfil their fixtures without the need for GKs to double up.
- (d) If a Regular Grade 3 GK doubles up by playing outfield at Grade 4 or 5, no SXP is required.

8.5.4 Doubling Up Summary: The eligibility of players doubling up is summarised in the table below for illustrative purposes.

Grade of Player's Regular Team's Fixture	Grade of Player's Other Fixture				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
2	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless SXP approved*
3	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal. Refer to 8.5.2	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal. Refer to 8.5.2
4	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal. Refer to 8.5.2	Maximum 3 players per team	Maximum 3 players per team
5	Not permitted	Not permitted unless SXP approved*	Not permitted unless one of the games is in goal. Refer to 8.5.2	Maximum 3 players per team	Maximum 3 players per team

* in exceptional circumstances

- ♦ If a Club believes that a particular doubling up scenario is justified, a Selection Exemption Pass can be requested in advance.

8.6 Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)

Not required for Masters

8.6.1 Clubs may request an SXP for exemption of a player from specific selection Regulations.

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- (a) All such requests require a clear and detailed explanation of the specific circumstances.
- (b) The ALMC reviews the SXP request and – if approved by the ALMC, the SXP will exempt that player for a specified period.
- (c) SXP requests are limited to genuine circumstances, such as the illustrative examples in Appendix 4.

8.6.2 The ALMC will set a weekly deadline by which SXP requests must be received from Clubs to be considered. The deadline will be communicated to Clubs by the ALMC before the start of the season.

9 TEAMS, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

9.1 Match Sheets

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

9.2 Players

9.2.1 Only players whose names appear on the team sheet shall be permitted to play in that match.

9.2.2 A player whose name appears on the match sheet, will be deemed to have played in that match.

9.3 Team Officials

All Grades - Each team may have a maximum of three team officials who are permitted to be in the bench area and a qualified medical doctor if available. The role of any official is to be included within the match sheet.

9.4 Deadline For Submission Of Information

9.4.1 The team sheet must be completed on the GMS before the match starts. This includes:

- ♦ the names of all players, and the number of the shirt the player is wearing;
- ♦ the identities of the captains and goalkeepers;
- ♦ the names of both umpires (umpires appointed by the away team added by their Team Contact);
- ♦ the name of a Match Official, if appointed;
- ♦ the names of any team officials participating in the match.

The MMLC/MLM has discretion to allow names to be added after the match, at Grades 4 and 5.

9.4.2 Both captains and both umpires must be able to view both team sheets before the match starts.

9.4.3 The home team and away team must both confirm the score (or, if the match is not played, inform the MMLC, see Regulations 13 and 14) as soon as possible but no later than as below:

- ♦ Grade 2-5 – 2000 hrs on the day of the match

9.4.4 Both teams must confirm full details of goals, cards, with estimated times if exact times not recorded during the game.

- ♦ Grades 2-5 - 2000 hrs on the day of the match – Goal scorers, Green, Yellow and Red Cards
- ♦ Injuries should be reported after review of EH Injury reporting guidelines:

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

10 DRESS

10.1 Expectations

Standard kit regulations should be the aspiration at all Grades. It is accepted however that at some Grades these may not be achievable, and variance is accepted in line with Regulation 15.

10.2 Overview

10.2.1 The two teams must wear shirts and knee length socks that distinguish them from each other and the umpires, in accordance with publicised team colours.

- 10.2.2 Field players shall wear shorts, skirts or skorts in accordance with team colours shown on the team sheet (NB: players from the same team do not have to wear the same type of item as other players in their team).
- 10.3 Colour Clashes
- 10.3.1 If there is a colour clash between teams' shirts and/or socks, the away team must wear an alternative colour that distinguishes them from their opponents.
- 10.3.2 Clubs must have different colours for Home and Away games. Therefore, away team should carry a change of kit in the event of a clash.
- 10.3.3 Additional Clothing - Any additional clothing (e.g., cycle shorts, leggings, or long-sleeved under-shirts) should be of the same colour as the corresponding item of clothing shown on the Team Sheet but if not, it must not, in the opinion of the umpires, clash with the opposition's corresponding item of clothing (shirt and socks)
- 10.3.4 Goalkeepers must wear shirts that distinguish them from both teams' field players and the umpires and must wear protective equipment as specified in the current Rules of Hockey.
- 10.4 Additional Requirements
- 10.4.1 Players must wear shirts individually numbered on the back with the number allocated on the Team Sheet. All numbers shall be no less than 8" (20cm) in height and shall contrast with the colour of the shirt.
- 10.4.2 Turbans, Hijabs (or other agreed head coverings) should be plain or match the shirt in line with club colours on the team sheet. For all head coverings, they must not:
- ♦ 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 Appointments

- 11.1.1 The responsibility of appointing competent umpires to matches falls to the Area Officiating Committee, Welsh Hockey Umpires Association or Club as appropriate.
- 11.1.2 If a fixture has Area Appointed umpires, the Club must confirm venue, start time and any other match-related information, at least 3 days before the Fixture.
- 11.1.3 Where Clubs are responsible for appointing to a match, the home club must appoint both umpires, except in the cases below:
- (a) Where a Club believes it will not be able to provide two umpires, it MUST contact its opposition to inform them of the fact and ask them to provide one umpire at each meeting between the teams. This must be done at least 14 days before the FIRST fixture between the teams;
 - (b) The away club has contacted the home club to say it intends to appoint an umpire for the match. This umpire must be confirmed as being qualified to the Level of Accreditation required by Regulation 11.5. This must be done at least 5 days before the match. The home club is not allowed to decline. The away team is then responsible for appointing an umpire, unless and until both teams agree otherwise.

11.2 GMS Reporting

Both umpires must be recorded on the GMS team sheet.

11.3 Match Officials

Areas may require clubs to appoint a Match Official to matches at Grade 2, or the appointing bodies above may appoint a Match Official. The duties and responsibilities in relation to these Regulations are shown in Appendix 7.

11.4 EHO Membership

All umpires must be registered members of the England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club. An unregistered umpire can complete their registration up to 24 hours after the relevant fixture has been completed, using this link: <https://secure.whotheumpire.com/signup.php/>

11.5 Umpire Requirements

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

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Level of accreditation required	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed
Acceptable minimum accreditation (where agreed by the ALMC)	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed	No formal accreditation required. Refer to 11.7
Who conducts appointments	NPUA	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Clubs	Clubs
Can umpires be switched at half time?	No	No	No	No (unless agreed by the ALMC and the opposition captain)	Yes

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

11.6 Replacement Of Appointed Umpires

11.6.1 If at any match an appointed umpire is unable to officiate, whether through late withdrawal, non-appearance of an independently appointed Umpire or injured during a match, every effort must be made by both clubs to provide an umpire accredited to the above acceptable level of accreditation as minimum for the relevant grade of competition.

11.6.2 Clubs must endeavour to use a club umpire before the use of players involved in the match, but in the absence of one or both club umpires, the club that has not provided an umpire in accordance with its obligations shall withdraw one player from their side and that player shall act as umpire. If there are not two club umpires available to officiate, then the match may only be played as a League match if both captains so agree.

11.6.3 If, under Regulations 11.6.1 or 11.6.2 - an umpire is found (either club umpire or player) but is not accredited to the required standard, if both captains agree the match can still be played as a league match. Once the captains have agreed the game may proceed, the result of the match will be valid.

NOTE: Wherever reasonably possible the emphasis should be on reaching agreement and playing the match.

- 11.6.4 In the event that no suitable umpire is found, or captains do not agree:
- (a) If the original umpire was appointed by the Area Officiating Committee or if an umpire injured during the match, then the match must be postponed and replayed in line with League Regulations.
 - (b) No penalty awarded in this circumstance.
 - (c) If an umpire is found but is not accredited to the required level, and both captains do not agree, then the League fixture must be postponed and played in line with League Regulations.
 - (d) In all circumstances, even when an agreed umpire is found, where the original umpire should have been supplied by one or other of the teams, then the appropriate penalty may be applied to the team who failed to supply an umpire of the appropriate level.

11.7 Unqualified Umpires

The MMLC may permit umpires to cover Grade 5 matches without a Level 1 qualification, as long as they are deemed a competent umpire for Grade 5 competition, the umpire will need to demonstrate (through their performance) the following competencies:

- ♦ Understanding of the rules having completed The Online Rules Test
- ♦ The ability to keep the match safe
- ♦ To make decisions fairly, with a sense of justice and integrity
- ♦ To umpire the match with their colleague cooperatively, for the benefit of the players.
- ♦ To allow the match to flow for the benefit of the player experience.

11.8 Feedback

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

12 DISCIPLINE

12.1 Conduct

12.1.1 Scope:

- (a) This Regulation shall apply to all participants, including players, team officials and spectators, in all levels of competitions.
- (b) This Regulation extends to behaviour toward League officials.

12.1.2 Conduct Violations:

Serious disorderly, abusive, offensive, or improper behaviour may include, but is not limited to, physical or verbal altercations, discriminatory language, or actions, threatening or intimidating behaviour, and actions that bring the game into disrepute.

12.1.3 Club Responsibilities:

- (a) Clubs are responsible for regulating the behaviour of their players, officials, members, and spectators, in compliance with the EH Code of Conduct.
- (b) By participating in the League, Clubs confirm they have established a comprehensive internal disciplinary procedure. This procedure must address:
 - ♦ Serious disorderly, abusive, offensive or improper behaviour by any individual associated with the Club;
 - ♦ Behaviour before, during and after any League match;
 - ♦ Conduct in person or on social media.

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- (c) Clubs must document and communicate their internal procedures to ensure consistency and transparency.
- (d) Clubs are encouraged to implement educational or preventive measures to promote good conduct, sportsmanship and respect among their participants and spectators.

12.1.4 The team manager is responsible for the conduct of all team officials, and any club officials not in the spectator area, during a match. The captain assumes that responsibility if there is no team manager.

12.2 Yellow/Red Cards

12.2.1 Player Responsibilities and Club Accountability:

- (a) Players will face incremental match suspensions for yellow cards accrued during the season in League matches. Yellow cards must be recorded in GMS to ensure accuracy.
- (b) Clubs are responsible for applying suspensions.

12.2.2 Suspension Thresholds:

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

- ♦ 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:

- (a) The Club of any player due to receive a suspension must contact the relevant ALDS immediately.
- (b) Clubs must ensure timely communication with the ALMC regarding any suspensions.
- (c) The suspension is to be applied for all League games, starting from the date of the next match of the player's Regular Team, unless determined otherwise by the ALMC.
- (d) If that match is postponed, the ALDS will confirm the suspension date, which will normally be the next league match(es) that the team plays.

12.2.4 Red Cards:

- (a) If a player receives a red card, any yellow card(s) issued to the same player in the same match must still be recorded in GMS.
- (b) If the red card is a Minor Offences red card as defined under the EH Disciplinary Regulations, it shall be recorded as two yellow cards and a red card, for the purposes of accumulation and suspension as recorded above.

12.2.5 Bench Yellow Cards:

- (a) If a player or team official from the bench receives a yellow card, a player must be removed from play for the duration of the suspension, and it must be the captain if they are on the field at the time.
- (b) For the purposes of card accumulation and suspensions, the yellow card is recorded against the player or team official who received it, not the player who served the suspension.

12.2.6 Bench Red Cards:

- (a) If a player or team official from the bench receives a red card, the team must withdraw a player from the field for the remainder of the match.
- (b) The withdrawn player may continue to be substituted on and off the pitch during the suspension, but the team must play with one fewer player.
- (c) For the purposes of card accumulation and suspensions, the red card is recorded against the player who received it, not the player serving the suspension.

12.2.7 Carryover of Suspensions: Suspensions for yellow cards under this regulation do not carry over from one season to the next.

12.2.8 Ineligible Players: Failure to suspend a player under this regulation will be treated as playing an ineligible player.

13 POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

13.1 Priority

Matches may only be postponed for pitch conditions, weather, travel issues, or if a team is playing a higher priority fixture.

13.2 General Postponement & Abandonment Rules

13.2.1 Decision-Making Authority:

- ♦ Immediately before or during a match, an accredited and assessed umpire has the authority to decide on postponement or abandonment due to safety concerns.
- ♦ If unassessed umpires are officiating, team captains will make the decision; if one captain deems the pitch unsafe, the match must be postponed.
- ♦ The MMLC can apply sanctions if an inappropriate decision is made.
- ♦ The safety of players and umpires must be the key factor in the decision to postpone or abandon the match.

13.2.2 Reporting to MMLC: The MLDS and the MLA should be informed of the postponement or abandonment, at the time of the decision and no later than 20:00 on the day of the match, so that they can update GMS.

13.2.3 Post-Abandonment Procedure: In the event of a match having to be abandoned the MMLC will decide the appropriate action after receiving reports from umpires and teams. This may include rescheduling the fixture.

13.3 Rearrangement Procedures

13.3.1 Setting A New Date:

- (a) A new date for postponed or abandoned matches must be agreed within 10 days. Masters teams should offer two fair dates using League Reserve or Bye dates where possible. Midweek dates can also be offered.
- (b) All Masters matches must be replayed within the time frame of the prescribed league season.
- (c) The MMLC may set a block fixture move date, if a large number of Fixtures need rearranging, and Fixtures should be played no later than this date.

13.3.2 Agreement and Discretion:

- (a) Both teams and the MMLC must agree to a postponement, unless due to weather.
- (b) If teams disagree, the MMLC will decide
- (c) If teams cannot agree on a date, the MMLC will set a reasonable date. Failure to play on this date is treated as a failure to honour the fixture.

13.4 Procedure For Weather & Travel Issues

13.4.1 Home Team Responsibility: The home team must

- (a) Confirm the latest acceptable notification time for cancellation with the visiting team.
- (b) Inspect the pitch before the visiting team's departure time, using a realistic view and the Met Office as a reference.
- (c) Notify the visiting team, umpires, match officials and ALDS immediately if the pitch is unfit.

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

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

13.4.4 Reporting and Consequences:

- (a) If the procedures are not followed and the pitch is found unfit upon arrival, umpires and teams must submit a report for MMLC review.

(b) Matches should be rearranged in accordance with Regulations 13.3.1 and 13.3.2.

13.4.5 Travel Issues: The away team must

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

(b) Postpone the match if travel is not advised, notifying the home team and MLDS and MLA.

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 5 and Regulation 4.3. This is subject to any remission or further penalty, for example points deduction, revision of score or fine, requirement that the fixture be played, that the MMLC may impose in line with Breach Of Regulations & Penalties.

14.1.1 A team that fails to play due to a shortage of players is deemed to have failed to honour the fixture and penalties applied, subject to review by the MMLC.

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

14.1.3 The relevant MLDS and MLA should be informed of the forfeiture, by the forfeiting team, at the time of the decision and no later than the scheduled time of the match, so that they can update GMS.

□ Teams SHOULD NOT update the GMS themselves.

15 BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

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

15.2 For breaches of any or all of these Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Conduct, the ALMC shall apply the standard tariff of penalties set out in Appendix 5 save that, in exceptional circumstances or when there is no standard tariff provided for, the MMLC may impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, the deduction of points, fines and suspension of players, and may require teams to play matches away from their home venue. These may be applied within the current and/or subsequent season.

15.3 When imposing any penalty, the MMLC 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 Any club or team that believes that there has been a breach of the regulations in a match by their opposition, has 7 days from that match to report it to the MLM and MMLC. Any such report must include all relevant details and proof of the breach.

16 APPEALS

16.1 Scope Of Appeals

16.1.1 Decisions made by an umpire or appointed Match Official during a game are final and cannot be appealed under any circumstances.

- 16.1.2 The following parties may file an appeal against a decision of the MMLC under the procedures outlined in this section:
- (a) Clubs directly affected by an MMLC decision
 - (b) Teams directly affected by an MMLC decision
- 16.1.3 An appeal will be allowed where the decision of the MMLC was:
- (a) **Based on an error of fact** or could not have reasonably been reached by the MMLC when faced with the evidence before it; or
 - (b) **Unjust due to procedural irregularity:** There was serious injustice because of a procedural or other irregularity in the proceedings followed by the MMLC (e.g., failure to follow the regulations); or
 - (c) **New evidence available:** Significant and relevant new evidence has come to light which was not available before the MMLC decision was made and could not have reasonably been obtained earlier but, had it been available, may have caused the MMLC to reach a materially different decision; or
 - (d) **Manifestly unreasonable sanction:** The sanction imposed is manifestly unreasonable in light of the relevant MMLC decision.
- 16.2 Appeal Against an MMLC Decision
- An initial Appeal must be submitted using the process described in Appendix 6. This will be first to the London Area Appeal Panel (AAP).
- 16.3 Further Appeal to the EH Appeal Panel
- 16.3.1 Following a decision of the AAP, either the Appellant, Respondent, or the EHCD may request permission for a Further Appeal to be heard by the EH Appeal Panel (EHAP).
- 16.3.2 Permission for a Further Appeal shall only be granted if the Chair of the EHAP determines (in their sole discretion) that:
- (a) The Decision of the AAP is **based on an error of fact** or could not have reasonably been reached by the AAP when faced with the evidence before it; or
 - (b) **Unjust due to procedural irregularity:** There was serious injustice because of a procedural or other irregularity in the AAP proceedings;
and
 - ♦ The proposed Further Appeal has a reasonable prospect of success.
- 16.3.3 The procedure for a Further Appeal is described in Appendix 6.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – LEAGUE TITLES & DIVISIONS

See <https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events> for details.

The League shall be named the South Masters League and comprise:

South Masters Open/Men O40 Premier
South Masters Open/Men O50 Premier and Open/Men O50 London and Open/Men O50 South
South Masters Open/Men O60 Premier and Open/Men O60 South
South Masters Women O35 and London Women O35
South Masters Women O45 and London Women O45

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 3)
- ♦ 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 Transgender Participation Policy
- ♦ UK Anti-Doping Rules
- ♦ EH Anti-Corruption Policy
- ♦ EH League Sponsorship Policy
- ♦ EH Trans and Non-Binary Participation Policy
- ♦ EH Safe Hockey Policy

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

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

APPENDIX 3 – VARIANCES TO FIH RULES OF HOCKEY

The Rules of Hockey 2022 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 Area Adult and Masters League Matches

A match consists of two halves of **35 minutes** with a half-time interval of 5-10 minutes (to be agreed before the match starts).

For 2025-26 it is optional that Adult Premier Division games may be four quarters of 17 minutes 30 seconds, with no stoppage for short corners. To be implemented if requested by the Home team.

Rule 13.3

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

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

Rule 14

Personal Penalties - Suspensions

- 1 Umpires shall have the authority to suspend any player or official from the team bench for indiscipline, whether temporarily (green or yellow card) or permanently (red card). This will require the relevant team to withdraw a player from the pitch for the duration of the suspension.
- 2 If a field player receives a green or yellow card, the Umpires stop the match (but not necessarily the time) to issue the card. If time has been stopped, the Umpires re-start it immediately after issuing the card.
- 3 If a goalkeeper receives a green card, the Umpires stop time and re-start it immediately after that player has left the field of play.
- 4 The offending player leaves the field immediately. If they interfere with play on their way to the designated suspension area the Umpire may further penalise the player in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.
- 5 The timing of the temporary suspension starts when the player or official is seated in the designated area.
- 6 The suspended player or official may not participate in the match (whether by engaging in coaching or supporting or otherwise) during the period of their suspension.
- 7 The offending player is permitted to resume play when the Umpire who suspended them or appointed Match Official indicates that the period of suspension has been completed unless this occurs during the taking of a penalty corner in which case the player cannot return until the penalty corner has been completed, or any additional penalty corners in the same sequence, has/have been completed.
- 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 7.

APPENDIX 4 – PLAYER 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 MASTERS SELECTION NOTES

1.1 Objective

- 1.1.1 The Team Selection framework aims to ensure fairness, competition integrity, and equal opportunities in player eligibility and team selection for all participating clubs.
- 1.1.2 The framework provides clubs with reasonable flexibility while maintaining guidelines to ensure fairness and prevent unfair advantages.

1.2 Player Selection Hierarchy

- 1.2.1 Clubs are expected to generally select teams on merit within age group bands.

1.3 Doubling Up Restrictions

- 1.3.1 Doubling up, defined as playing in multiple teams on the same matchday, is generally not permitted except in specific cases as described in Regulation 8.4.
- 1.3.2 Any exception to the doubling up restrictions requires a Selection Exemption Pass, which is granted on a case-by-case basis for situations not covered by the general guidelines.
- 1.1.3 Doubling up defined as playing in multiple teams within adult and/or masters leagues on the same matchday, is generally not permitted except in specific cases. This includes across Masters clubs. Any exception to the doubling up restrictions for a Masters match will require permission from the MLDC and or MMLC which may be granted on a case-by-case basis for situations not covered by these general guidelines.

2 SELECTION EXEMPTION NOTES

No Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) will be required for Masters.

- 2.1.3 At the ALDC's discretion a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) can be granted for a specific time period to manage specific scenarios.
- 2.1.4 A club can request a retrospective exemption in the case of an emergency.
- 2.1.5 Clubs are encouraged to request SXPs in advance, though they may be considered retrospectively in cases where injuries occur close to the match start time, such as during warm-up.
- 2.2 The doubling up restrictions vary by Grade. Any doubling up may require an SXP.
- 2.2.3 Grade 1
 - 2.2.3.1.1 No doubling up is permitted except in very specific circumstances that will always require an SXP:
 - 2.2.3.1.1.1 If a Grade 1 GK plays outfield in a lower-ranked team to help with numbers an SXP is required.
 - 2.2.3.1.2 If both the 1st team (1s) and 2nd team (2s) play in the NL, and a 1s player is injured immediately before the game a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) is required for a 2s player to play for the 1s as cover. A 1s player cannot double up for 2s.
- 2.2.4 Grade 2
 - 2.2.4.1 No doubling up is permitted except in exceptional circumstances for a goalkeeper with an SXP.
 - 2.2.4.2 Grade 2 players may double up only in the following cases:

- 2.2.4.2.1 If a Regular Grade 2 GK needs to cover as GK at Grade 1 due to exceptional GK availability or injury issues, an SXP is required from England Hockey.
- 2.2.4.2.2 If a Regular Grade 2 GK needs to cover as GK at Grade 2 or 3 due to exceptional GK availability issues or injury issues, an SXP is required.

2.2.5 Grade 3

- 2.2.5.1 No doubling up is permitted except for a goalkeeper with an SXP.
- 2.2.5.2 Grade 3 players cannot double up at Grades 1–3, except in the following situations:
 - 2.2.5.2.1 If a Regular Grade 3 GK needs to play as GK at Grades 2–5 due to exceptional GK availability issues or injury issues, an SXP is required.
 - 2.2.5.2.2 If a Regular Grade 3 GK doubles up playing outfield at Grade 4 or 5, no SXP is required.
- 2.2.5.3 A Grade 3 outfield player cannot double up outfield for any Grade 4 or Grade 5 team.

2.2.6 Grades 4 & 5

- 2.2.6.1 Doubling up is permitted subject to the conditions stated in Regulation 8.4.2 “Conditions For Doubling Up”.
- 2.2.6.2 No specific SXP requirements apply to doubling up at Grade 4 and Grade 5.

2.3 Examples of Possible Exemptions

The following examples illustrate possible circumstances where exemptions may apply beyond the doubling up restrictions outlined in 3.2 above. These scenarios are not exhaustive but serve as guidelines for when a Selection Exemption might be considered by the ALMC.

2.3.3 Player returning from injury after a few weeks

- (a) A regular Grade 2 1st team player wants to return by playing in the Grade 3 3rd team.
- (b) A regular Grade 3 3rd team player wants to return by playing in the Grade 5 5th team.

2.3.4 Player 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

- (a) 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.
- (b) A player regularly covered for injuries or unavailability in a higher team.
- (c) 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.
- (d) A player not selected by a higher team, which has been their Regular Team, in line with club selection, but not for the purposes of strengthening a lower team.

2.3.5 Doubling up players from a team higher than a club's lowest or second-lowest ranked team. This may be required if both lowest-ranked teams are away, match times clash, or subsequent doubling up is not in ascending team order

- (a) A mid-ranked team has significant unavailability, and players doubling up genuinely come from lower-ranked teams.
- (b) A low-ranked team has significant unavailability and requires more than three players to double up to field a team.
- (c) A player doubling up is genuinely from a lower-ranked team with a difference of more than two, such as a regular 6th team player playing for the 3rd team.
- (d) Doubling up players from higher Grades, such as a club with one team at Grade 2 and another team at Grade 5 without any other teams, or if the club has three teams with the highest at Grades 2 or 3 and that team is at home with one of the others.

2.3.6 Team has a rearranged fixture on Sunday having already played on Saturday

- 2.3.6.1 This example covers the occasion when a team has a rearranged fixture on Sunday having already played on Saturday. This is typically due to postponement of a scheduled fixture due to bad weather.

- 2.3.6.2NB: This explanation does NOT apply in the event that the team's fixture was moved from Saturday to

Sunday on the same weekend, i.e., in the same Matchweek.

(a) Teams playing on the Saturday must select teams that comply with the usual selection Regulations.

(b) Player eligibility for the rearranged Sunday fixture

(i) Who can play?

- ♦ Players for whom that team is their Regular Team.
- ♦ Players normally selected for lower teams in the club's hierarchy.
- ♦ The selection of any such players does not constitute doubling up in the same Matchweek.

(ii) Who cannot play?

- ♦ Players whose Regular Team is a higher team in the club's hierarchy, including those who played for that team on the Saturday, unless they have a Selection Exemption Pass *granted in advance of the Sunday fixture*.

2.3.7 Examples of emergency issues

(a) 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.

APPENDIX 5 – 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.
- 3 Fines
 - ♦ There are recommended amounts for fines, Tariff 1, T1 - £25, Tariff 2, T2 - £50, Tariff 3, T3 - £100
 - ♦ Note waiving of a fine is at the discretion of the ALMC
 - ♦ Where a fine is applied it will be doubled for repeat offences
 - ♦ Payment of fines is within 28 days unless an alternative date is set by the ALMC.
 - ♦ If not paid within 28 days, fines may be doubled.

REGULATION 3: ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
3.1.4 Completed membership of England Hockey (and, where relevant, Hockey Wales) by the Due Date, including any League Fees and o/s Fines.	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline	If new deadline not met. Warning that it must be completed prior to the next match. T1 Fine	All Club fixtures awarded as Walkovers until completed. T2 Fine
3.2.1 Failure to provide Liaison Officer details by the start of the season	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline	T1 Fine	
3.2.3 Representation from club at any meeting called by the ALMC	2-5	T1 Fine	N/A	N/A
3.2.3 Response to requests for information by the ALM, ALDS or AOC by the due date	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	T1 Fine	N/A
3.3.1 Response to requests for team entry information	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	Final deadline and Fine	Team(s) not entered
3.3.5 Withdrawal of a team during the season.	2-3	T3 Fine	N/A	N/A
	4-5	Warning regarding re-entry following season		
3.4.1 & 3.4.2 Failure to provide official's details visible in GMS by the start of the season	2-5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	T1 Fine	N/A

REGULATION 5: FIXTURES

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
5.2 Provision of time and venue for each of its home matches by deadline - subject to any variation discretion of the ALMC	2-5	Reminder that this needs to be completed with a new deadline	If new deadline not met. T1 Fine	N/A
5.2.2& 5.2.3 Late or no notification of change of details	2-5	Warning Stage 2 if it leads to match not taking place on specified date	T1 Fine	T 2 Fine

REGULATION 6: MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
6.1 & 6.5 Provision of Pitch & Facilities and Changing facilities in line with Regulation and no effort to mitigate	2-5	Warning	Warning	T1 Fine
6.6 Failure to supply hospitality	2	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine
	3-5		Warning	
6.6 Hospitality requested or confirmed and not taken	2-5	Reimburse opposition.	Reimburse opposition. T1 Fine	Reimburse opposition. T2 Fine

REGULATION 7: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – REGISTRATION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
7 Fielding an ineligible player in a match.	2-4	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T1 Fine, plus 1 point deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T2 Fine, plus 2 points deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 Fine, plus 3 points deduction and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player
	5	Warning for maladministration. 1 point deducted for each ineligible each player if negligent, e.g. not received or transfer approval. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T2 Fine for maladministration. 1 point deducted for each ineligible player if negligent, e.g. not received or transfer approval. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T3 Fine and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player if negligent, e.g. not received or transfer approval. In addition, match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).
7.7 Transfer or Registration process not followed by player	2-5	If a player has bypassed the Transfer process by making a new Registration, when identified, the player shall receive a suspension for the number of games played whilst ineligible		

REGULATION 8: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – TEAM SELECTION

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
8 Not complying with principles of team selection. (May be playing without approved SXP)	2-3	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T1 Fine, plus 1 point deduction and one point for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T2 Fine, plus 2 point deduction and two points for each ineligible player	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 Fine, plus 3 point deduction and three points for each ineligible player
	4	T1 Fine and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T2 Fine and 1 point deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T3 Fine and 2 points deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC).
	5	Warning 1 point may be deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T1 Fine and 1 point may be deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T2 Fine and 2 points may be deducted for each ineligible player. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).
8.4 Doubling up a player contrary to Regulations	2-5	T1 Fine and 1 point may be deducted for each ineligible player in lower team. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T2 Fine and 2 points may be deducted for each ineligible player in lower team. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).	T3 Fine and 3 points may be deducted for each ineligible player in lower team. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined by ALMC).

REGULATION 9: TEAM, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
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.	2-5	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction.
9.4.3 Team late to confirm score on the GMS by specified time.	2-5	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction.
9.4.4 Team late to confirm details of goals, cards, and injuries on the GMS Timeline by specified time.	2-5	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction.
9.4.4 Team not reporting yellow and red cards on the GMS Timeline by specified time.	2-5	Warning, new deadline to complete GMS Stage 2 if not completed.	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction.
9 Falsifying information on match sheet, including incorrectly recording or omitting information on match sheet	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 Fine plus 1 point deduction. ALMC to determine if team to be relegated at end of Season or points deducted at start of next season.	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 Fine plus 1 point deduction. ALMC to determine if team to be relegated at end of Season or points deducted at start of next season.	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). T3 Fine plus 1 point deduction. ALMC to determine if team to be relegated at end of Season or points deducted at start of next season.

REGULATION 10: DRESS

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
10 Uniform kit, additional clothing, numbers	2	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine, for significant non-compliance
	3-4		T1 Fine for significant non-compliance	T1 Fine, for significant and persistent non-compliance
	5		Warning	

REGULATION 11: UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
11 Failure to supply umpire of appropriate level	2	T1 Fine	1 point deduction from match and T1 Fine	1 point deduction from match and T2 Fine. ALMC to determine if match is to be replayed
	3-4	Warning		
	5	N/A	Warning	1 point deduction from match and T1 Fine
11.1.2 If a Fixture has Area Appointed umpires appointed, the Club must confirm Venue and Start Time and any other match related information, at least 3 days before the Fixture.	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine
11.2 Both Umpires must be recorded on GMS Team Sheet	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine and 1 point deduction
11.4 Failure of umpire to register as member of England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club	2-5	Warning	Warning	T1 Fine
11.8.3 Failing to complete umpire report (Only for Area Appointed Umpires)	2	T1 Fine	T2 Fine	T3 Fine

REGULATION 12: DISCIPLINE

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
12.2.3(a) Failure to inform ALDS of pending suspension	2.5	T1 Fine	T2 Fine	T3 Fine
12.2.3(c) Suspended player missing incorrect match*	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. T1 Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. T2 Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team. T3 Fine
12.2.4 Fielding an ineligible player in a match due to suspension**	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning plus 1 point deduction if deliberate. T1 Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning plus 1 point deduction if deliberate. T2 Fine	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning plus 2 point deduction if deliberate. T3 Fine

Notes:

* Yellow card totting up count

** Red Card Suspension

REGULATION 13: POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
13 Failure to comply with regulation	2-5	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. T1 Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. T2 Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. T13 Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses
13.2.2 Not informing ALDS by deadline	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine
13.3.1(a) Rearrangement not agreed within regulation days	2-5	Warning, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture	T1 Fine, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture	T2 Fine, ALDS to set date of rearranged fixture
13.3.1(b) Rearrangement date not within regulation days	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine

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

SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3rd BREACH
14 Failure to honour a fixture	2	T2 Fine 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 ALMC.	T2 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 ALMC.	T3 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 ALMC.
	3-4	T1 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 ALMC.	T2 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 ALMC.	T2 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 ALMC.
	2-4	Additional Penalty: points deduction for lower teams in these grades, where the forfeiting team's lower teams are also within these grades (and their game is played) then the point(s) deduction applied above may also be applied to that lower team. If the lower team plays then the result will stand but there may be point(s) deduction, whatever the score.		
	5	Warning 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 ALMC.	Further Warning 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 ALMC.	Further Warning 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 ALMC.
		No penalty applied to any lower teams which play (subject to standard Team Selection & Player Eligibility)]		
14 Failure to honour a fixture in the last four scheduled fixtures of the season	2-4	All above deducted penalty points will be doubled	All above deducted penalty points will be doubled	All above deducted penalty points will be doubled
14.1.3 Failure to notify ALDS by deadline	2-5	Warning	T1 Fine	T2 Fine

Notes

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

APPENDIX 6 – APPEAL PROCEDURE

1 INITIAL APPEAL AGAINST AN MMLC DECISION

1.1 Submission Of Appeal Notice

- 1.1.1 All appeals must be submitted using the Appeal Notice form (Appendix 6), clearly marked for the attention of the Area Appeal Panel (AAP).
- 1.1.2 The AAP must receive the Appeal Notice no later than five (5) days after the Appellant is notified of the decision being appealed.
- 1.1.3 The Appeal Notice must be sent by email to the AAP's email address.

1.2 Appeal Deposit

- 1.2.1 A deposit of £100 must accompany all Appeals.
- 1.2.2 The deposit must be paid no later than seven (7) days after the Appellant is notified of the decision being Appealed.
- 1.2.3 This deposit will be returned, all or in part, if the Appeal is successful.
- 1.2.4 Additional Costs:
 - (a) Oral hearings may incur costs (e.g., venue, panel expenses), payable by the appellant if directed by the AAP.
 - (b) Costs are assessed and communicated at the decision stage.

1.3 Submission Of Full Appeal

- 1.3.1 The complete appeal documentation must include:
 - (a) Copies of all relevant documents
 - (b) Written statements of any witnesses upon which the Appellant intends to rely
 - (c) A detailed explanation of the grounds for appeal, specifying which of the grounds in section 16.1.3 apply
- 1.3.2 The full appeal submission must be received by the AAP not later than 14 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision being appealed.
- 1.3.3 All documentation must be submitted via email to the ALMC for forwarding to the AAP.

2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 The Appellant (Club/Team)

- 2.1.1 To submit all required documentation within specified deadlines;
- 2.1.2 To provide clear and factual information supporting the grounds for Appeal;
- 2.1.3 To pay the required deposit within the specified timeframe;
- 2.1.4 To attend any hearings as directed by the AAP Chair.

2.2 The Respondent (MMLC)

- 2.2.1 To receive and forward appeal materials to the AAP;
- 2.2.2 To appoint a representative to respond to the Appeal;
- 2.2.3 To provide all documentation related to the original decision;
- 2.2.4 To notify other clubs directly affected by the Appeal.

2.3 The AAP Chair

- 2.3.1 To issue directions for the further conduct of the appeal as soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of the Appeal Notice;
- 2.3.2 To determine whether to stay, suspend, or vary any penalty that is the subject of an appeal pending determination;
- 2.3.3 To consider extensions for appeal deadlines in exceptional circumstances (such decisions shall be final);
- 2.3.4 To decide whether an oral hearing is necessary;
- 2.3.5 To ensure all interested parties are notified of the appeal and its outcome.

2.4 AAP Members

- 2.4.1 To review appeal materials and make decisions based on evidence;
- 2.4.2 To maintain impartiality and adhere to league regulations.

2.5 Panel Composition

- 2.5.1 The AAP will consist of at least three members, including the AAP Chair.
- 2.5.2 Panel members must have no direct interest in the matter being appealed.
- 2.5.3 At least one panel member should have experience in dispute resolution.

2.6 Affected Clubs

- 2.6.1 Any club that may be directly affected by an appeal:
 - (a) May submit written evidence and submissions when invited by the AAP Chair
 - (b) Must be notified promptly of any appeal that directly affects them
 - (c) Must be informed of the outcome of any appeal that directly affects them

3 APPEAL REVIEW PROCESS

3.1 Scope of Review

- 3.1.1 Every Appeal will be limited to a review of the decision of the MMLC unless the AAP considers that in the circumstances it would be in the interests of justice to treat the Appeal as a re-hearing of the matter.
- 3.1.2 The AAP will not generally consider new evidence that was not presented to the MMLC unless the criteria in section 16.1.3(c) are satisfied (evidence could not have reasonably been obtained earlier and may have caused a materially different decision).

3.2 Hearing Format

- 3.2.1 Unless the Chair of the AAP directs otherwise, all appeals will be dealt with in writing by email.
- 3.2.2 The Appellant may request an oral hearing, in which case the Chair of the AAP may direct that an oral hearing is to be held.
- 3.2.3 If an oral hearing is directed:
 - ♦ All oral hearings will be held by video conferencing means unless exceptional circumstances require an in-person hearing
 - ♦ All parties will be given reasonable notice of the hearing date
 - ♦ The AAP Chair will issue specific directions regarding the conduct of the hearing

3.3 Decision-Making Criteria

The AAP will consider:

- (a) Whether the grounds for appeal specified in section 16.1.3 have been established
- (b) The evidence presented by all parties

- (c) Whether the MMLC's decision was based on an error of fact or was unreasonable given the evidence
- (d) Whether significant procedural errors occurred during the MMLC's process
- (e) Whether any new evidence meets the criteria for consideration
- (f) The proportionality and reasonableness of any sanction imposed

3.4 Timelines for the Appeal Process

- 3.4.1 Appeal Notice submission: within 5 calendar days of MMLC decision notification.
- 3.4.2 Deposit payment: within 7 calendar days of MMLC decision notification.
- 3.4.3 Full Appeal submission: within 14 calendar days of MMLC decision notification.
- 3.4.4 AAP Panel formation: within 5 calendar days of receiving the full appeal.
- 3.4.5 AAP review & hearing:
 - (a) Written appeals: Decision within 14 calendar days of panel formation.
 - (b) Oral hearings: Scheduled within 14 calendar days of panel formation, with a decision within 7 calendar days after the hearing.
- 3.4.6 Decision notification:
 - (a) Initial decision communicated within 48 hours of the AAP's ruling.
 - (b) Detailed written reasons provided within 7 calendar days (extendable by the AAP Chair).

4 APPEAL OUTCOMES

4.1 Potential Decisions

- 4.1.1 In making its decision the AAP may:
 - (a) **Dismiss the appeal** if it lacks merit or fails to meet eligibility criteria, upholding the original decision
 - (b) **Allow the appeal in full** and overturn the original decision
 - (c) **Allow the appeal in part** and modify the original decision
 - (d) **Refer the matter back to the MMLC** for reconsideration with specific directions
- 4.1.2 **Costs:** The appellant may be liable for costs if the appeal is unsuccessful.

4.2 Sanctions

- 4.2.1 If an Appeal is not allowed in full, the AAP may impose any sanction that the MMLC could have imposed.
- 4.2.2 The AAP may increase or decrease any sanction imposed by the MMLC.
- 4.2.3 If an oral hearing occurs, the AAP may order the appellant to pay all or part of the Appeal costs.

5 APPEAL OUTCOMES & COMMUNICATION OF DECISIONS

5.1 Notification Of Decision

The decision of the AAP shall be notified in writing to the parties to the Appeal within 48 hours of the decision being made.

5.2 Reasons For Decision

Succinct reasons for the decision shall be sent to the parties to the Appeal and the England Hockey Competition Department (EHCD) within 7 days of the decision.

5.3 Timeline Extensions

The Chair of the AAP may extend the timetable in paragraphs 6.1 & 6.2, if necessary.

5.4 Finality Of Decisions

Other than as provided for under Regulation 16.3, the decision of the AAP shall be final.

6 FURTHER APPEAL TO THE EH APPEAL PANEL

6.1 Process for Further Appeal

- 6.1.1 The Request must be in writing in a document headed "Further Appeal Request".
- 6.1.2 A Request for permission for a Further Appeal must be submitted within 14 days of the AAP's decision notification.
- 6.1.3 The Request must be sent to the England Hockey Competitions Department (EHCD) marked for the attention of, and to be forwarded to, the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel.
- 6.1.4 The Request must be copied to the MMLC and the AAP.
- 6.1.5 The Request must include a summary of the facts and matters relied upon by the Appellant to satisfy the requirements for permission for a Further Appeal.

6.2 Documentation Requirements

- 6.2.1 Within 7 days of receipt of the Further Appeal Request, the AAP shall send:
 - (a) A hard copy bundle of all documents that were before the AAP to the EHCD, marked for the attention of the Chair of the EH Appeal Panel
 - (b) Electronic copies of the same documents as an attachment to an email

6.3 Further Appeal Deposit

- 6.3.1 A deposit of £100 must accompany all Further Appeal Requests.
- 6.3.2 The deposit must be paid to England Hockey within 14 days of the AAP's decision notification.
- 6.3.3 The deposit will be refunded, in whole or in part, if the Further Appeal is successful.
- 6.3.4 Additional Costs:
 - (a) Oral hearings may incur costs (e.g., venue, panel expenses), payable by the appellant if directed by the EHAP.
 - (b) Costs are assessed and communicated at the decision stage.

6.4 Further Appeal Decision Process

- 6.4.1 The Chair of the EHAP will review the Request as soon as reasonably practical and notify all parties of their decision promptly.
 - (a) If permission for a further appeal is granted, the Chair is not required to give reasons.
 - (b) If permission is refused, the notification shall include succinct reasons for that decision.
 - (c) If permission is granted, the Further Appeal Request shall become the Appeal Notice for the purposes of the Further Appeal.
- 6.4.2 The decision of the Chair of the EHAP shall be final.

6.5 Hearing Format

- 6.5.1 The Chair of the EHAP shall issue directions for the further conduct of the hearing as soon as reasonably practical.
- 6.5.2 If permission for a Further Appeal is granted, such Appeal shall be either in writing or an oral hearing, subject to whatever is requested by the parties or directed by the Chair of the EHAP (whose decision will be final).
- 6.5.3 All oral hearings will be held by video conferencing means.

6.6 Potential Outcomes of Further Appeal

- 6.6.1 In making its decision the EHAP may:
 - (a) **Dismiss the appeal** if it lacks merit or fails to meet eligibility criteria, upholding the original decision

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(b) **Allow the appeal in full** and overturn the original decision

(c) **Allow the appeal in part** and modify the original decision

6.6.2 **Costs:** The appellant may be liable for costs if the appeal is unsuccessful.

6.7 Final Decision

6.7.1 The decision of the Chair of the EHAP will be notified in writing to the EHCD, the AAP, the MMLC, and the original Appellant.

6.7.2 The decision of the EHAP shall be final and binding on all parties.

7 AREA LEAGUE APPEAL NOTICE

To be sent to the MMLC pursuant to Regulation 16

Appellant (name of Club and or team)	
Areas League and Division (if relevant)	
Name of Person submitting Appeal Notice	
Position with Club	
Email	
Phone Number	
Decision being Appealed	
Date of Notification of Decision	
Short reason for Appeal	

The club/team confirms that

- 1 it wishes to Appeal the decision above and is doing so within 5 days of the Date of Notification of Decision.
- 2 it will pay the deposit of £100 within 7 days of the Date of Notification of Decision to the Area Bank Account.
- 3 it agrees to submit the full details of its appeal within 14 days of the Date of Notification of Decision
- 4 it understands it will forfeit the right to Appeal if it does not comply with 2. or 3.
- 5 it may withdraw its appeal prior to submission of the full details and the deposit will be returned.

Signed	
Print Name	
Position with Club	
Date	

APPENDIX 7 – DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPOINTED MATCH OFFICIALS

- 1** **The AOC or Club 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 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 MMLC.
- 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**

The MO shall report any significant variance to the League Regulations by either team to the MMLC.
- 5** **CLUB APPOINTED MATCH OFFICIALS**

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