

MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUES

Update May 2026



MIDLANDS
HOCKEY



midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions

With the season over, this update starts setting the scene for the 2026-27 season. I thank Clubs that have provided information to assist the League Committee in moving this forward.

Nick Haynes

Chair of Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee

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Contents:

- **Adult League Updates**
- **Important Dates**
- **Communication**
- **Umpire & Player Registration**
- **Adult Leagues Information**

ADULT LEAGUE UPDATES

Promotions & Relegations 2025/26

Please see a copy of the list of published Promotions & Relegations 2025/26 at the end of this newsletter. The list has been published on the midlands website: [Published Promotions & Relegations 2025/26](#)

Adult Leagues Divisions & Fixtures 2026/27

We are still on schedule to publish the following:

- **Divisions** – June
- **Fixtures** – July

Please see the 'Important Dates' section, below, for the League Fixture dates.

Outstanding Fees

Unfortunately, there are still Fine payments outstanding from last season. If these are not settled by the start of the season, then as per Regulation 3.1.4, NO team in the Club will receive any points from their games until paid. This is also true for any outstanding Midlands Invoices. Warnings will be issued.

Team Admin GMS Reminders Leaflet

Midlands Hockey have updated Team Admin GMS Reminder leaflets for use pitch side. The leaflets include deadline reminders for Team Sheets, Scores and Match Sheets (Timelines), as well as guidance for Development Teams. Please ensure copies of the leaflets are given to the relevant Captains, Team Contacts, and Club Admins, for them to keep in their kit bags and refer to as required.

Printed copies of the leaflets will be sent to all Clubs. Please complete the form below with the correct address details for your Club. The leaflets will be posted to Clubs for the start for the season.

- [Club postal address 2026/27 – Fill in form](#)

Regulations Update

Still to be approved by the Area Steering Committee, expected by the end of the month, but the 2026-27 Regulations contain a number of revisions, which are covered in the following short summary:

- **Player eligibility** sees a notable addition: Non-UK Passport Holders section (Regulation 7.5), who must comply with the Visa Eligibility Grid referenced in Appendix 2 under 'EH Participation in Hockey for non-UK Passport



- Holders'. This is a UK Government (HMRC) requirement. The old No Objection Certificate (NOC) regime has been removed entirely and replaced by this framework — the NOC definition has also been deleted from the Glossary.
- **Dual Registration** is expanded and tightened. Players must nominate a Primary Club and a Secondary Club, with the Primary Club retaining selection priority. Dual Registration is now not permitted in a team's final 4 matches, a transfer is required to change Primary Club, and ALMC approval does not persist beyond the end of the season.
 - **Regulation 8 Player Eligibility – Team Selection** has several changes:
 - The Doubling Up definition has shifted from 'same match day' to 'same Matchweek' — broadening the window over which eligibility is assessed.
 - 8.3 Movement Of Players has been revised – e.g., 8.3.4 'When a Higher-Ranked Team has no Fixture or Does Not Play its Scheduled Fixture', plus a clarification that prior-season data may be used in Week 1.
 - 8.4 Doubling Up has been tightened, with a few modifications. For example, the doubling up squad cap is reduced from 13 to 12 players. Note the checklist for circumstances that permit doubling up.
 - Regulation 8.4.1 revised: When considering eligibility of a player to double up the player is considered to have been selected to play for the higher team and is doubling up to play for the lower team.
 - 8.5 Player Eligibility For Doubling Up includes a revised table (8.5.4 Doubling Up Summary)
 - **Regulation 9:** match-sheet confirmation now explicitly covers goals and cards (not just the score), and hospital-treatment injuries must be reported by the match-sheet deadline.
 - **12.2 Yellow/Red Cards** introduces a new team-level Yellow Card penalty regime (Regulation 12.2.1(b)).
 - **Regulation 14 (Failure to Honour)** is restructured with a grade-by-grade penalty matrix, including a cascade penalty for clubs whose lower teams also forfeit.
 - Half-time is fixed at 5 minutes across Grades 2-5, and the playing quarters format becomes the default for Premier Divisions unless the home team advises otherwise (i.e., the notification direction has been inverted compared with 2025-26).
 - **Appeal deadlines tightened:** Promotion/relegation appeal window reduced from 7 to 5 days (4.5.10(b)); Further-Appeal Request window reduced from 14 to 5 days (Appendix 6, 6.1.2).

Forfeit Management

Last season we had **over 200 fixtures forfeit**; this is obviously an excessive number. This coming season we will be monitoring closer and will be challenging a team's continued entry in the Leagues if the number of regulation walkovers are breached.

Forfeit, Cancelled, or Postponed Fixtures

A reminder that if a Team is considering forfeiting, cancelling, or postponing, a fixture, the **Divisional Secretary (ALDS) MUST be notified** at the time of the decision; the ALDS will offer guidance on the actions needed. Failure to notify the ALDS at the time of the decision (before the fixture) is subject to a penalty fine (Reg. 14.1.3).

IF A FIXTURE IS POSTPONED:

- Contact the Divisional Secretary first, then ensure the opposition and any appointed umpires are informed.
- Agreement of the rearrangement must be made within 10 days.

An updated list of the ALDS will be published on the Adult League website pages before the start of the new season.

MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUES

Update May 2026



MIDLANDS
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IMPORTANT DATES

Midlands AGM - online

Date: Wednesday, 15 July 2026

Calling notice will be sent out during June.

All Clubs Preseason Meeting

Date: Thursday, 3 September 2026, 19:30

The All-Clubs Preseason Meeting will be held online on Thursday 3 September 2026 at 19:30. As per the Regulations attendance at the online **All Clubs Meeting is mandatory**. Fines will be issued to Clubs that do not have at least one representative present at the meeting. Meeting invites will be sent to all clubs during August, to the Liaison Officer emails provided by Clubs, please look out for it and confirm attendance ASAP.

League Dates 2026/27

To confirm the dates for next season:

- **League start** – Saturday 19 September 2026
 - No break week in October – League fixtures will be scheduled for Saturday 24 October 2026*
- Last fixtures before the winter break – Saturday 5 December 2026
- **New year start** – Saturday 9 January 2027
- Break week – Saturday 13 February 2027
- **Last fixture** – Saturday 20 March 2027

To minimise the impact of the earlier than usual League start date in September, University vs University fixtures will be scheduled for Saturday 19 September 2026 where possible.

* Teams that have entered the EH Championships and have a Competition fixture on 24 October will be permitted to rearrange the League fixture. League fixtures for grades 3-5, on Saturday 24 October, will be permitted to rearrange to Saturday 12 December 2026 only if agreed by both teams **before the season begins**, with a 1 September deadline for rearranging.

Dates to Remember

Event/deadline	Date
Midlands AGM, online	Wednesday 15 July 2026
All Clubs Meeting, online at 19:30	Thursday 3 September 2026
Deadline for rearranging fixtures, where permitted	Tuesday 1 September 2026
Pre-Christmas GMS fixture detail submission deadline	Tuesday 8 September 2026
Start of the Season	Saturday 19 September 2026
Post-Christmas GMS fixture detail submission deadline	Tuesday 1 December 2026
Last fixtures before winter break	Saturday 5 December 2026

MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUES

Update May 2026



midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions

**MIDLANDS
HOCKEY**

Event/deadline	Date
Midlands Indoor	Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 December 2026
League starts back	Saturday 9 January 2027
League break week	Saturday 13 February 2027
Last fixtures of the Season	Saturday 20 March 2027

COMMUNICATION

League Contacts for 2026/27

For all Division and Fixture related queries please contact the relevant Divisional Secretary in the first instance. A list of all League Officials can be found at the Midlands website and will be updated for the start of the new season.

Although we would love to be able to recognise everyone's names and email addresses, to help the League and to speed up responses, please include the following in all emails:

- Name, Role, Club (if club level email)
- Name, Role, Team, Division (if team level email)
- Name, Role, Team, Division, Date, Teams/Match details (if email is related to a specific match)

Club Contacts for 2026/27

Clubs informed the League of the **Liaison Officer** email addresses in the 2026/27 Teams submissions. These are the emails addresses that will be used for general League communications, normally from Nick Haynes, do please pass these messages down to at least your Team Captains.

Remember to **update your Club details on the EH Portal** if any of your Club Officials have changed, e.g. Chair, Treasurer, Secretary.

Team Contacts for 2026/27

For the start of the new season please ensure all Club Admin and Team Contact details are updated and viewable on GMS (email and phone number), and that the Team Contact(s) is the correct person to be contacted on the morning of a Fixture in case of problems. Team Contacts may need to check their GMS profile contact details to ensure they are not 'Hidden' (details below).

It is important that **ALL teams have at least one Team Contact with a phone number on view**, please check and update all teams before the start of the new season. Club Admins have GMS access to update the Team Contacts for their Club.

How to display your contact details on GMS:

- Log onto the GMS: gms.englishockey.co.uk
- Click on your name, top left, and select 'My profile'.
- In the 'Contacts – View' window click the pencil and paper icon to edit your profile.

MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUES

Update May 2026



MIDLANDS
HOCKEY



midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions

- Under your email address untick the 'Hide all' checkbox, then scroll down to tick 'Hide address' to hide your other contact details, this will leave just your email address on view.
- Scroll down to add your phone number (home, work, or mobile) and tick the relevant hide/show checkboxes, then choose the correct number to display in the 'Preferred phone' menu, probably 'Mobile', then scroll down and press 'Save'.
 - **The last step above is the most important to ensure the correct phone number is on view.**
- This should then leave your email address and phone number on view to opposition team contacts, Divisional Secretaries, and League admin.

UMPIRE & PLAYER REGISTRATION

Player Registration & Transfers

Please ensure all players are registered before the start of the season, as **completion of Team/Match Sheets for ALL League fixtures is compulsory**. As per the Regulations, fines will be issued for non-compliance.

Umpire Registration

All **umpires must register with EH Officiating** (Regulation 11.4). It's free and makes it easier for Team admins to select umpires when submitting Team Sheets. Registration is straightforward and easy to do.

To register on the GMS as an umpire simply:

- Go to the GMS login page: gms.englishockey.co.uk
- Click the link 'To register for GMS click **HERE**'.
- Choose the role option '**Officiating**'; EHO Bronze Membership is **free**. Ensure to use the same email address that is used for your player account (very important!), and the Umpire role will be linked to your account.

ADULT LEAGUES INFORMATION

Adult Leagues Online

Adult Leagues information can be found in many places online. The Adult League webpages on the Midlands Hockey website include information, guidance, regulations, contact details, as well as League honours and top scorers. The Adult League is also on Instagram and has an Adult Leagues group on Facebook.

- Website: [Midlands Hockey Adult Leagues & Competitions](https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions)
- Information and guidance: [Adult Leagues Regulations & Supporting Documents](#)
- Follow us on **Instagram** [Midlands Hockey Adult Leagues Instagram](#)
- Join our group on **Facebook** [Midlands Hockey Adult Leagues Facebook Group](#)

MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUE

PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS 2025/26



Open/Men's League

Midlands Open/Men's League			
DIVISION	PROMOTIONS	RELEGATIONS	
EHL	N/A	2 relegations	Stourport 1 University of Birmingham 2
Premier	Nottingham Trent University 1	3 relegations	Khalsa Leamington 1 Belper 1 West Bridgford 1
Division 1	Harborne 2 University of Nottingham 3	3 relegations	Loughborough Town 1 University of Warwick 1 Beacon 1
Division 2	Atherstone Adders 1 Hampton-in-Arden 1	5 relegations	Burton 1 West Bridgford 2 Cannock 1 Finchfield 1 Olton & West Warwickshire 2
3 West	Birmingham Kings 1 North Stafford 1	4 relegations	Redditch 1 Bromsgrove 1
3 East	Nottingham Trent University 2 Rugby & East Warwickshire 2		Sikh Union Nottingham 1 Khalsa Leamington 2
4 West	Harborne 3 Stafford 1	5 relegations	Stratford 2 Olton & West Warwickshire 3 Stourport 2
4 East	Beeston 4 Loughborough Students 5		Coventry & North Warwickshire 1 Loughborough Town 2
5 West	Bournville & Kings Heath 2 Droitwich Spa 1	9 relegations	Old Silhillians 2 Warwick 2 Lichfield 3 Worcester 2 Cannock 2
5 East	University of Nottingham 5 Rugby & East Warwickshire 3		Melton 1 Nottingham 1 Market Harborough 1 Nuneaton 1
6 North West	Telford & Wrekin 3 Leek 3	9 relegations	Old Wulfrunians 1 Stone 2 Stafford 2
6 North East	Ramgarhia (Derby) 1 West Bridgford 3		Burton 2 Leadenham 1
6 South West	Old Halesonians 2 Solihull Blossomfield 1		Redditch 2 Birmingham 1
6 South East	Khalsa Leamington 3 Leicester Westleigh 1		Warwick 3 Panthers (Leicester) 1

MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUE

PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS 2025/26



MIDLANDS
HOCKEY

Midlands Open/Men's League		
DIVISION	PROMOTIONS	RELEGATIONS
7 North West	Newport 2 Wolverhampton & Tettenhall 2	9 relegations
7 North East	Charnwood Forest 2 Derby 2	
7 South West	West Bromwich 1 West Bromwich 2	
7 South East	Sikh Union Coventry 2 University of Warwick 3	
8 North West	Oswestry 1 Bloxwich 3	6 relegations
8 North East	Beeston 8 Barton 3	
8 South West	Edgbaston 4 Droitwich Spa 2	
8 South East	Ashby 2 University of Warwick 4	
9 North West	Cannock 4 Leek 5	5 relegations
9 North East	North Notts 3 Beeston 9	
9 South West	Bromsgrove 5 Bournville & Kings Heath 5	
9 South East	Sikh Union Coventry 3 Towcestrians 3	
10 North West	Keele University 1 North Stafford 6 Market Drayton 2	0 relegations
10 North East	Ashbourne 1 West Bridgford 8	
10 Central	Beacon 5	
10 South West	Stratford 6 Edgbaston 7	
10 South East	Leicester City 3 Leicester Westleigh 4	

MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUE

PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS 2025/26



Women's League

Women's League			
DIVISION	PROMOTIONS	RELEGATIONS	
EHL	N/A	1 relegation	Cannock 1
Premier	University of Nottingham 2	2 relegations	Loughborough Town 1 Olton & West Warwickshire 2
Division 1	Loughborough Students 4 Nottingham Trent University 2	4 relegations	Stourport 2 Harborne 1 Bromsgrove 1 University of Nottingham 3
2 West	University of Birmingham 4 Bloxwich 1	8 relegations	Worcester 2 Lichfield 2 Bournville & Kings Heath 1 Old Silhillians 1
2 East	University of Nottingham 4 Beeston 3		Belper 2 Derby 1 Ashfield Aztecs 1 Khalsa Leamington 2
3 North West	Ashbourne 1 Shrewsbury 1	13 relegations	Tamworth 1 Lichfield 4 Stafford 2 Beacon 1
3 North East	West Bridgford 1 University of Nottingham 5		Derby 2 Newark 1 Belper 3
3 South West	University of Birmingham 5 Stratford 1		Harborne 2 Redditch 1 Sutton Coldfield 4
3 South East	Rugby & East Warwickshire 2 University of Warwick 1		Leicester City 3 Loughborough Town 3 Northampton Saints 2

Divisions 4 & 5 on page 4

MIDLANDS ADULT LEAGUE

PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS 2025/26



MIDLANDS
HOCKEY

Women's League		
DIVISION	PROMOTIONS	RELEGATIONS
4 North West	West Bridgford 2 Woodlands 1	Keele University Womens 1 Burton 2
4 North East	Nottingham Trent University 4 West Bridgford 3	Ashfield Aztecs 2 West Bridgford 4 Beeston 5
4 North Central	Bloxwich 2 Barton 1	Harborne 4 Bloxwich 3 Lichfield 5
4 South Central	Berkswell & Balsall Common 1 Bournville & Kings Heath 2	17 relegations Solihull Blossomfield 3 Bournville & Kings Heath 3 Old Silhillians 3 University of Warwick 3
4 South West	Shrewsbury 2 Bromsgrove 3	Old Halesonians 1 Shrewsbury 3
4 South East	Market Harborough 1 Wellingborough 1	Nuneaton 2 Towcestrians 4 Northampton Saints 3
5 West	Ludlow 1 Bridgnorth 2	0 relegations
5 East Central	Leicester 2 Leicester City 4	
5 North Central	Tamworth 2 Bloxwich 4	
5 North	Nottingham Players 1 North Notts 2	
5 North West	North Stafford 2 Market Drayton Ladies 1	
5 North East	Newark 2 Southwell Brincliffe United 2	
5 South	Warwick 3	
5 South West	Droitwich Spa 1 Bromsgrove 4	
5 South East	Earls Barton 1 Khalsa Leamington 4 Rugby & East Warwickshire 4	

Notes

There are some changes to the predicted relegations published in March, due to clubs/teams withdrawing or requesting movement down, creating some additional PPM* movement across the Leagues.

* See Regulation Glossary – PPM Points Per Match: A calculation (Total Points ÷ Matches Played) used primarily to compare the performance records of teams across Parallel Divisions.