EURO HOCKEY LEAGUE (EHL)
U14 Girls & Boys

The European Hockey Federation organises the EHL U14 Girls and Boys tournament for U14 teams over the Easter weekend of the senior EHL tournament.

The top 6 men's and women's nations in EHL are invited to have one representative in U14 competition.

Each country can decide which U14 team is represented and what qualification system (if any) they want to use for that.

England Hockey believes that this opportunity for a club, at the appropriate level, to attend the event with both senior and junior team(s) is the best determining factor in the first instance, rather than the result of a previous season's national competition.

Whilst there are England Hockey Under 14 national competitions, this is the first age group that plays 11-a-side and a strong Under-14 team in one year does not necessarily translate to a strong Under-14 team the following year. Furthermore, whilst competing to win is important in any competition, player development and experience are equally important at this age, and it is critical that the 'reward' for winning is appropriate and does not drive too great a focus on results. Fundamentally we do not feel this it is appropriate that our Under 14 competitions should be a qualification method for any European tournament.

The EHL U14 Competition is also part of the wider EHL competition and therefore is relevant to clubs with the opportunity to enter the EHL from finishing high enough in the relevant England Hockey League Premier Divisions. Representation at the EHL for a club over a number of years can therefore build a greater understanding of the expectations at this level both on and off the pitch. Continuity of representation at the event therefore has wider benefits to England's ability to send competitive EuroHockey League senior teams.

England Hockey will use the following criteria for this season and future seasons. Any change of policy will be communicated to clubs and may be linked increasingly linked to the Talent Strategy.

CRITERIA

1. Any qualifying teams must have participated in the Tier 1 Super League in the previous season.

2. Any club qualifying for the Euro Hockey League Mens KO12 or Womens KO12 shall have the opportunity for their relevant gender U14 team to participate in the Euro Hockey U14 tournament.

i. If more than one adult club qualifies in any gender, the U14 team of the club with the highest ranking of the two clubs in the previous season's U14 Super League shall have the opportunity to participate in the Euro Hockey U14 tournament.

ii If there is no qualifying club in one gender then a club that qualifies in the other gender shall have the opportunity for their other gender U14 team to participate in the Euro Hockey U14 tournament too.

iii If there is no qualifying club in either gender then a club that qualifies for any other European outdoor tournament in that season will have the opportunity to participate in the relevant gender Euro Hockey U14 tournament.

All the above is subject to the teams being of a level in line with 1 above.

3. If there are no qualifying teams in line with 2. above then the highest ranked U14 team in the relevant gender(s) from the previous season's U14 Super League shall be invited to participate in the Euro Hockey U14 tournament.

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