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1 MANAGEMENT

1.1 Principles

- 1.1.1 The Junior Competitions Framework (JCF) in England will comprise of competitions administered by: Area Junior Leagues & Competitions Committee (AJLCC), as seen in Appendix 1. For the purpose of these regulations this includes the following championships
- 1.1.1.1 U14 Tier 1 Championships
 - 1.1.1.2 U14 Tier 2 Championships
 - 1.1.1.3 U16 Tier 3 Championships
 - 1.1.1.4 U14 Tier 4 Championships
- 1.1.2 England Hockey (EH) Policies, as seen in Appendix 2, will apply to all matches within the JCF.
- 1.1.3 Each school, by its entry into and participation in JCF competitions along with each player, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by these Regulations, EH policies and any amendments that may be ratified by EH from time-to-time.
- 1.1.4 Any team administrator requiring clarification on Competition regulations should consult directly with their relevant AJLCC.

- 1.1.5 Should the Covid-19 pandemic cause disruption to any JCF competitions in accordance with EH Return to Play guidance, the Covid-19 Competition Provision, as seen in Appendix 3, will apply.

2 COMPETITIONS

2.1 Organisation

- 2.1.1 AJLCCs will be responsible for organising competitions within their Area in line with the JCF and will have discretion to structure tournaments, including any preliminary rounds at the relevant Tier based on entries received using standard formats and scoring systems.
- 2.1.2 For each individual competition each Area will determine one qualifier for the national finals to be organised by England Hockey Competitions Department:
- 2.1.3 The Rules of Hockey shall be those as in effect at the start of each season, except as any variations contained within these Regulations and in accordance with Appendix 4. The Rules shall include any: variations, supplementary guidance, interpretations, instructions, etc. as may be published by AJLCC from time to time.
- 2.1.4 Match length times will be in accordance with Appendix 5, unless set differently by AJLCC dependant on the competition.

2.2 Umpires

- 2.2.1 The responsibility for appointing competent umpires to each match falls to teams, unless informed in advance by a competition organiser who may pass responsibility to an appointing body.
- 2.2.2 Unless advised by AJLCC, or with the agreement of both teams, each team shall provide its own umpire for each match.
- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 The below outlines the requirements for umpires at each Tier of competition:

	Tier 1	All other Tiers
Desirable level of accreditation	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed
Acceptable level of accreditation	Level 1 Unassessed	No formal accreditation required

- 2.2.5 If an umpire is appointed but does not meet the acceptable level of accreditation, the game may only be played with the agreement of both teams. If the teams cannot reach an agreement 2.3.6 will apply.
- 2.2.6 Where teams are responsible for appointing their own umpires and one team is unable to do so, and the teams cannot reach an agreement on appointing the second umpire, the team unable to appoint will be deemed to have forfeited the game. If both teams are unable to appoint an umpire, lots will be drawn by the competition organiser to determine who forfeits the match.
- 2.2.7 Where a Young Umpire (Under 18) is appointed, the appointing school must ensure a qualified Adult Umpire is present throughout the duration of the match either on pitch or on the side-line to provide support to the young umpire.
- 2.2.8 The AJLCC not will adjudicate on decisions made by umpires in games. Likewise, umpires will not adjudicate on Competition regulations.

2.3 Scoring System

- 2.3.1 In tournaments teams shall be awarded: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss.
- 2.3.2 In the event of teams being equal on points at the end of the competition, or part thereof, places within a league, shall be determined by each of the following, in order:
- i. Highest goal difference. If still equal *Regulation ii applies.*
 - ii. Highest number of goals scored. If still equal *Regulation iii applies.*
 - iii. Highest number of matches won. If still equal *Regulation iv applies.*
 - iv. The result of the match(es) between the teams concerned, If still equal *Regulation v applies.*
 - v. If teams are still equal, a penalty stroke competition between the teams involved will be arranged by the relevant competition organiser.
- 2.3.3 Where knockout stages are held in the event of a match being drawn in normal time, a penalty stroke competition will be played in accordance with Appendix 6. The winner of the subsequent penalty stroke competition shall progress to the next round.

2.4 Failure to honour a fixture

- 2.4.1 A team which fails or is unable to honour a fixture:

- i. must notify the competition organiser immediately,
- ii. may be subject to financial penalty,
- iii. additionally, the AJLCC shall, at their discretion, have the right to ensure that a team which fails to honour a fixture reimburses other teams, officials, competition organiser, etc. for any expenses incurred in relation to the fixture
- iv. Will be deemed to have lost any game 5-0, subject to any further remission as determined by AJLCC...

3 TEAM ENTRIES

3.1 Entry Dates

3.1.1 A school must enter its teams into any Competitions by the designated date set by the AJLCC.

3.2 Eligibility

3.2.1 Area Competitions are open to all teams from schools who are:

- i. members of that Area, or
- ii. from a neighbouring Area with the agreement of both the member and neighbouring AJLCCs.

3.2.2 For their teams to be eligible to participate in JCF competitions schools must have completed and paid, by the due date, its membership to EH. In addition, it must have paid, by the due date, the following:

- i. competition entry fee
- ii. any monies outstanding to EH, Area and/or County/Sub-Area (CS-A).

In the event of any monies due being outstanding 14 days or more after a schools first match in any JCF competition, the AJLCC shall be entitled to remove any team(s) for which no payment has been received.

3.2.3 Schools may enter a maximum of one team into each of the competitions and may not include any team who has entered a higher Tier competition in that age group..

3.3 School & Team Administration

3.3.1 Each participating school must appoint a School Administrator and each participating team must have a named Team Administrator, both of whom must be available to competition officials and other teams at all times by the usual channels of communication.

3.3.2 An individual may be a School Administrator for their school and/or Team Administrator for more than one team.

3.3.3 To ensure continuity, any changes to a School administrator or Team administrator, or their details, must be updated to AJLCC immediately.

4 PLAYERS

4.1 Eligibility

4.1.1 Only boys may play in Boys' competitions and girls in Girls' competitions and all players must:

4.1.1.1 be on the school roll at the school at time of participation. (For the purposes of this competition a player on the school roll must not be attending another school in England or another country at the same time as participation)

4.1.1.2 be on the school roll at the start of the academic year in which the competition takes place. In exception to this a school may apply to AJLCC on behalf of a player who has joined the school since the start of the academic year and they will rule if the circumstances permit the player to be declared eligible.

4.1.1.3 not have represented more than one school in any one season. For the purposes of these regulations a season is defined as from 1 September in any one year to 31 August in the following year, both dates inclusive.

4.1.1.4 must meet the age criteria

Under 14 - born on or after 01/09/2007

Under 16 - born on or after 01/09/2005

Under 18 - born on or after 01/09/2003

unless they hold a EH Dispensation Certificate in respect of the age group in which they are participating.

4.2 Team Selection

4.2.1 Players shall not participate in more than one England Hockey Schools Championship competition in any one Season. This includes any Championship run on a national basis by England Hockey. (ie a player can only play for one team in one age group and at one tier). Save that they may play in the U13 In2Hockey championships and one U14 Championship. For the purpose of these regulations the U16 Tier 1 and Tier 2 Championships shall represent one competition and the U18 Tier 2 and Tier 3 Championships shall represent one competition.

4.2.2 In exception to the above a team may field a fully kitted goalkeeper who has played in a different age group if permission has been requested to and approved by AJLCC. Approval will be granted where AJLCC decide that exceptional circumstances exist.

4.3 Dress

- 4.3.1 Field players must wear uniform shirts and knee length socks.
- 4.3.2 All other sporting apparel worn should be in accordance with school colours shown on the team-sheet.
- 4.3.3 The second named (away) team shall wear shirts (or bibs) and socks that contrast with the home team.
- 4.3.4 Goalkeepers must wear shirts contrasting with those of both teams and must wear protective equipment as specified in the current Rules of Hockey.
- 4.3.5 Players shall wear shirts individually numbered on the back that match the numbers allocated on the team-sheet.

5 FIXTURE MANAGEMENT & MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Dates

- 5.1.1 AJLCC will issue fixtures with their scheduled dates. (In line where possible Provisional dates published in EH Priority & Centralised Calendar) and the match schedule.

5.2 Pitches & facilities

- 5.2.1 All competition matches must be played on artificial turf pitches. EHCD or AJLCCs in consultation with EH, reserve the right to not allow a specific pitch to be used for matches if it deems it unsuitable.
- 5.2.2 There must be a toilet on site at any venue used.

6 TEAMS, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

6.1 Teams

- 6.1.1 A team shall be entitled to nominate up to 16 players in its squad for each match. In a tournament this shall be from a squad of a maximum of 18 players.

6.2 Match sheets

- 6.2.1 Players and any team officials must be included on the match sheet provided by AJLCC.
- 6.2.2 By including a player onto the match sheet, the school confirms that each player listed is eligible to play and will be deemed to have played in the relevant competition.

7 POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

7.1 Priority

- 7.1.1 All matches in all competitions must be played on the scheduled date, or approved agreed revised date, unless a postponement or abandonment is caused by adverse weather or travel conditions. Other exceptional circumstances that cause a postponement or abandonment may be considered by the competition organiser.
- 7.1.2 If any match is rescheduled as a result of postponement or abandonment, the priority for players will be the originally scheduled activity on that date.

8 TROPHIES

Any school that wins a perpetual trophy must arrange for it to be returned at the school's cost to the AJLCC as directed. AJLCC 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 school will be invoiced to the relevant school.

9 BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

9.1 General

- 9.1.1 The provisions contained in these Regulations are without prejudice to anything contained in the EH Code of Ethics, but any school or team or individual found to be in breach of these Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as may be determined by the AJLCC, in addition to any penalty imposed by any EH Disciplinary Body.
- 9.1.2 For breaches of any or all of these Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Ethics, the EHCD or AJLCC shall, at its absolute discretion, have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, expulsion from a competition, the deduction of points, fines and suspension of players.
- 9.1.3 Any team who fields a player who is ineligible in line with Reg 4 or is in breach of EH Red Card and Matchday Misconduct Regulations & EH Disrepute Regulations, will be disqualified from the competition.
- 9.1.4 When imposing any penalty, the AJLCC 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 Ethics.

9.2 Appeal Procedure

- 9.2.1 There can be no appeal against the decision of an umpire.
- 9.2.2 Schools and teams have the right to appeal against a decision of the AJLCC as set out in this Regulation.
- 9.2.3 The Appeal to the Area Appeal Panel must be commenced by an Appeal Notice, as seen in Appendix 9, marked for the attention of the Area Appeal Panel sent to and received by the AJLCC not later than 3 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against. There must be annexed to the Appeal Notice copies of all documents, including the written statements of any witnesses upon which the Appellant intends to rely in the Appeal.
- 9.2.4 The Appeal Notice should be sent by email to the r AJLCC. A deposit of £100 must be sent within 7 days of the date of the sending of the Appeal Notice. This will be returned, all or in part, if the Appeal is successful. As soon as reasonably practical after receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the Area Appeal Panel shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal.
- 9.2.5 The Chair of the Area Appeal Panel may, upon the application in writing made by or on behalf of the Appellant, stay, suspend or vary any penalty that is the subject of an Appeal pending determination of the Appeal, and, in exceptional circumstances, may extend the time for appealing upon such terms, if any, as the Chair may think fit. The decision of the Chair shall be final.
- 9.2.6 Save where the Chair of the Area Appeal Panel directs otherwise, all Appeals will be dealt with in writing by email unless the Appellant requests an oral hearing, in which case the Chair of the Area Appeal Panel may direct an oral hearing.
- 9.2.7 As soon as reasonably practical after the receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the Area Appeal Panel shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal.
- 9.2.8 Any other school that may be directly affected by an Appeal shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be notified of the Appeal and subsequently the outcome of the Appeal.
- 9.2.9 Where there has been an oral hearing of an Appeal the decision of the Area Appeal Panel may include a direction that the Appellant shall pay all or part of the costs of the Appeal to be summarily assessed by the EH or Area Appeal Panel.
- 9.2.10 If an Appeal is not allowed in full, the Area Appeal Panel may impose any sanction that the Area could have imposed.
- 9.2.11 The decision of the Area Appeal Panel shall be final.

APPENDIX 1 – SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS FRAMEWORK

See document [here](#)

APPENDIX 2 – ENGLAND HOCKEY POLICIES

All England Hockey policies shall apply to matches in the Junior Competition Framework. 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 4)
- EH Code of Ethics
- EH Red Card and Matchday Misconduct Regulations & EH Disrepute Regulations
- EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey
- EH Privacy Policy
- EH Equality Policy
- EH Transgender Policy
- UK Anti-Doping Rules
- EH Anti-Corruption Policy
- EH League Sponsorship Policy
- EH Planning Safe Hockey

APPENDIX 3 – COVID-19 COMPETITION PROVISION

AJLCC reserve the right to revise competition regulations to ensure that they take into account the possible impact of Covid-19 and are compliant with any Government legislation and any associated England Hockey requirements relating to Covid-19.

AJLCC will determine any new format or dates of any competitions to endeavour to ensure that they can be concluded during the 2021-22 season.

APPENDIX 4 – VARIATIONS TO FIH RULES OF HOCKEY

The Rules of Hockey 2021 including all experimental rules 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

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

Rule 13.3

Time is **not** stopped after a penalty corner is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire). Note that this may affect the return to the pitch of a suspended player.

Rule 14

a. A temporarily suspended player cannot resume play during a penalty corner, only when it has been completed or another penalty corner is awarded.

b. If a temporarily suspended player is a goalkeeper the Umpires stop the time at the next stoppage of play to enable that player to resume play.

APPENDIX 5 – MATCH LENGTH TIMES

At U18, U16 and U14 level if playing full length games, teams should only play one full length match in one day, however teams in this and other age groups may play for a longer duration in a tournament or festival with shorter matches. Recommended times are as below.

Age Group	11 or 7 a-side	Max Time in a day*	Max No of games	Min Duration of games^	Duration of games for triangulars~	Max Duration of games
						(& Times for U14 U16 U18 T1 T2 one-off matches)
U18	11	2 hours	4 matches	15 mins e/w	25 mins e/w	35 mins e/w, ie full length game
U16	11	2 hours	4 matches	15 mins e/w	25 mins e/w	35 mins e/w, ie full length game
U14	11	2 hours	4 matches	15 mins e/w	20 mins e/w	35 mins e/w, ie full length game
U14	7	2 hours	6 matches	10 mins e/w	15 mins e/w	15 mins e/w
U13 & U12	7 or 6	1 hour 45 mins	7 matches	9 mins e/w, 15 mins 1/way	15 mins e/w	15 mins e/w
U11	7 or 6	1 hours 30 mins	9 matches	9 mins e/w, 10 mins 1/way	15 mins e/w	15 mins e/w
U10	7 or 6	1 hours 30 mins	9 matches	9 mins e/w, 10 mins 1/way	15 mins e/w	15 mins e/w
U8	7, 6 or 4	1 hours 15 mins	7 matches	7 mins e/w, 10 mins 1/way	10 mins e/w	10 mins e/w

*Max Time in a day - this is based on a tournament or festival style activity where teams have multiple games and breaks. Teams must have a break between games. If the Max Time in a day is used it is strongly recommended that the overall length of the activity is at least one and a half times as long, e.g. 2 hours play in 5 hours activity.

^Min Duration of games - these are recommended times for T1 and T2 activity, however organisers may vary these and shorten particularly for lower Tier activity and festivals.

~Triangulars – U16 and U18 T1 and T2

Recommend schedule. Matches 25 mins e/w.

0000 hrs - Match 1 – A v B

0130 hrs - Match 2 – B v C

0300 hrs - Match 3 – C v A

~Triangulars – U14 T1 and T2

Recommended schedule. Matches 20 mins e/w.

0000 hrs - Match 1 – A v B

0120 hrs - Match 2 – B v C

0240 hrs - Match 3 – C v A

APPENDIX 6 – PENALTY STROKE PROCEDURE

1. The Umpires shall together choose the goal to be used and the Captains shall toss to decide which team shall take the first penalty stroke.
2. Five different players from each of the teams, chosen from the players listed on the teamsheet, but excluding any player who has been permanently suspended from the game (red card), shall take a penalty stroke alternately against one and the same goalkeeper of the other team. Only if that goalkeeper is, in the opinion of the Umpires, incapacitated through injury, or is suspended, shall a team be permitted to substitute the goalkeeper during the course of a particular series in the stroke competition.
3. The team which has been awarded the higher number of goals shall be the winner.
4. In the event of an equal number of goals having been awarded, another series of penalty strokes shall be taken under the above conditions and with the same five players (subject to any incapacitated player being replaced or a suspended goalkeeper being substituted) but on a sudden death basis, that is, the team having been awarded the most goals after an equal number of strokes have been taken shall be the winner. The sequence in which the players take the strokes for their team need not be the same as in the previous series. The team manager has freedom of choice at the time of each stroke as to which of the five nominated players will take the stroke although must use all five nominated players per round. The team which has taken the first penalty stroke of a series shall not take the first penalty stroke of the following series (if any).

**APPENDIX 7 – FAIR SELECTION POLICY &
APPENDIX 8 - STANDARD TARIFF OF PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF REGULATIONS**

Not applicable

APPENDIX 9 – APPEAL NOTICE

AREA LEAGUE APPEAL NOTICE

To be sent to relevant AJLCC pursuant to Regulation 9.2

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

The School confirms that;

1. It wishes to Appeal the decision above and is doing so within 3 days of the date of notification of decision.
2. It agrees to pay the deposit of £100 within 7 days of the date of notification of decision.
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 School	
Date	