

Midlands Area Guidance for 2021/22 Adult League Regulations

After a collaborative effort of the 8 new Area Leagues, the 2021/22 Adult League Regulations have now been published.

As you could expect the 8 Areas brought a background of dozens of previously used Regional & County Rules. This season's Regulations are an attempt to bring together the best of those rules to produce a standard version that can be used by all 8 Areas, but they do allow Areas some flexibility in implementation. This set of guidelines shows where some of those flexibilities are being implemented for the Midlands Adult Leagues. If in doubt always consult the relevant ALDS.

Please note, where Level is shown on GMS it relates to Grade in the Regulations.

6.2 Pitch booking

All Saturday game Start Times during the season will be subject to the maximum extents of the regulations

i.e., Grade 2: - 11:30 – 16:30, Grades 3-5: - 10:00 – 17:30

If you HAVE to play outside of these times, seek agreement from your opposition and ALDS and inform appointed umpires or match officials.

6.6 Hospitality

Reminder that Home Team is expected to provide post-match hospitality to the opposition and any appointed umpire or match official, if unavailable let all parties know.

As an Away Team, if you do not take advantage of post-match hospitality and have not made the Home Team aware, by Wednesday at the latest, you are liable to be charged for any associated costs.

7.2 Age

There are several Development teams in the Midlands that have requested to play 12-year-old players. We will be flagging these teams as 'Development' and the opposition should recognise them as such and treat games with them as 'non-competitive'. Where a division solely contains these teams there will be no promotions up to a higher level. Where the teams are teams within a competitive division, then the results/scores of the matches involving 'Development' teams will not be included into any League Table calculations. See additional notes below.

7.6 Transfers & Deadlines

Prior to the start of the 2021/22 season, players joining a new club should just complete a player registration for the new club. If their old club have a reason to block the transfer for a reasonable cause, e.g., outstanding fees, they should inform the ALMC. Once the season starts players should use GMS to transfer.

10. Dress

The regulation specifies that away team should wear shirts and socks that contrast with the home team.

Many Midlands Clubs have traditionally worn white shirts and socks as the away team. The wearing of white away kits may of course continue (so long as it contrasts with the home team's colours), but it is not obligatory.

In addition, the regulation specifies that shirts should be numbered. This is an aspiration for all teams, but it is recognised that this may be costly and difficult for some teams in lower divisions and Midlands will be lenient in terms of compliance.

Any problems with clashes should be reported to the ALMC via your ALDS.

11. Umpires

Whilst it is an aspiration that all games have Level 1 Assessed umpires or higher, it is not realistic to expect the Midlands to be able to enforce this Level of accreditation on each grade for the 2021/22 season.

For this season we would look to seeing all games umpired to at least the minimum level i.e.

- Grade 2 - Level 1 Assessed (or higher)
- Grade 3 - Level 1 Assessed
- Grade 4 - Level 1 Unassessed,
- Grade 5 - No formal accreditation required

AOC will attempt to appoint for all Grade 2 games, Midlands Premier and Midlands 1 Divisions. Appointments to Grade 3 games will be dependent on umpire availability.

If no AOC umpires appointed, home teams are expected to provide both umpires, unless the away club requests to appoint an umpire.

If teams are unable to provide the level of umpires required, the captains should try to reach agreement to play the game, otherwise the ALDS will have the final say as to whether the league game is played as a non-league game.

It should be noted that if an umpire is not appointed by the AOC, then the club is deemed the appointing body for the management of any complaints.

13. Postponement or Abandonment

Slip dates are now included in the schedule, but if any games have to be re-arranged both home and away teams should agree a scheduled date as soon as possible, and the game played within three weeks of original scheduled dates, with the support of the ALDS. Remember to inform any umpires or officials about any changes.

APPENDIX 6 - STANDARD PENALTIES & TARIFFS OF FINES.

A reminder of the penalties for cancelling a match, especially with insufficient notice for a pitch booking or teas to be cancelled without charge.

15. Failure to honour a fixture

Conceded, 0-5 loss (unless ALMC require match to be played). Plus 1 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined. Fine T1 (£25) plus additional costs to opposition if applicable.

4.5 Promotion & Relegations

Below are the details of our expected Promotions and Relegations for all Divisions.

Relegations from EHL may require additional relegations in ALL divisions.

Men's Divisions

| Division | Promotions | Relegations | Notes |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Midland Men's Premier | One | Two | Promoted to EHL |
| Midland Men's Division 1 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's Division 2 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's Division 3 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's West 4 | One | Two | |
| Midland Men's East 4 | One | Two | |
| Midland Men's West 5 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's East 5 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's North West 6 | One | Two | |
| Midland Men's South West 6 | One | Two | |
| Midland Men's North East 6 | One | Two | |
| Midland Men's South East 6 | One | Two | |
| Midland Men's North West 7 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's South West 7 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's North East 7 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's South East 7 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's North West 8 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's South West 8 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's North East 8 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's South East 8 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's North West 9 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's South West 9 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's North East 9 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's South East 9 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Men's North West 10 | One | None | Plus best two 2nd places |
| Midland Men's South West 10 | One | None | Plus best two 2nd places |
| Midland Men's North East 10 | One | None | Plus best two 2nd places |
| Midland Men's South East 10 | One | None | Plus best two 2nd places |
| Midland Men's Central West 10 | One | None | Plus best two 2nd places |
| Midland Men's Central East 10 | One | None | Plus best two 2nd places |
| Midland Men's North East 11 | None | None | Development League Only |

Women's Divisions

| Division | Promotions | Relegations | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------|--|
| Midland Women's Premier | One | Two | Promoted to EHL |
| Midland Women's Division 1 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Women's South/West 2 | One | Two | |
| Midland Women's North/East 2 | One | Two | |
| Midland Women's North West 3 | One | One + | Bottom team relegated from each Div 3 PLUS worst two 11th placed teams (2 x 2nd from bottom). Total 6 teams relegated. |
| Midland Women's North East 3 | One | One + | |
| Midland Women's South West 3 | One | One + | |
| Midland Women's South East 3 | One | One + | |
| Midland Women's Moorlands 4 | One | Two | |
| Midland Women's Beacon 4 | One | Two | |
| Midland Women's Arden 4 | One | Two | |
| Midland Women's Nene/Charnwood 4 | One | Two | |
| Midland Women's Sherwood 4 | One | Two | |
| Midland Women's Peak 4 | One | Two | |
| Midland Women's Moorlands 5 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Women's Beacon 5 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Women's Arden 5 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Women's Nene/Charnwood 5A | One | None | |
| Midland Women's Nene/Charnwood 5B | One | None | |
| Midland Women's Sherwood 5 | Two | Two | |
| Midland Women's Peak 5 | Two | None | |
| Midland Women's Moorlands 6 | Two | None | |
| Midland Women's Beacon 6 | Two | None | |
| Midland Women's Arden 6 | Two | None | |
| Midland Women's Sherwood 6 | Two | None | |

Development Teams Guidance

Guidance Notes for Development Teams in the Midlands Area

Overview

The new League structure in the Midlands Area makes provision for Development Teams. The purpose of this provision is primarily to support and encourage participation in the lowest divisions of the league. The intention is to provide experience of playing hockey within a league, both from a playing and administration perspective. It is hoped that it will give new team or club start-ups the opportunity to 'learn the ropes' when they may not yet be confident of full participation in a competitive League.

- It is anticipated that a Development side would play on this basis for only one or two seasons as the aspiration is to establish a team and to play competitive league hockey.

Key Points

- Development teams can only play in the lowest ranked division of any part of the vertical league structure.
- A team may make a request to the League organisers (ALMC) to play as a Development Team for the coming season. Requests must be received by 1st May and will be approved (or not) by 31st May. **For 2021/22 season teams should register their interest/intention to play as a Development Team as soon as possible and no later than 25th September by contacting adultleagueschair@midlands.hockey**
 - Teams may not change their status as a Development team once the season has commenced.
- In general, the Standard League Regulations apply but with greater leniency in terms of compliance; the following key variations apply in the Midlands:
 - All matches played as friendlies; this includes matches against other Development teams and other teams playing on a competitive basis.
 - No points awarded to either team (or points are awarded but they do not count to final division standings – subject to GMS functionality)
 - Development teams cannot be promoted
 - A Development Team must have a minimum of 6 core players i.e., players who have not played for another team in the league on that day (and must have a minimum of 7 players to play the match). **If a team does not expect to be able to meet these criteria for the majority of matches, participation is NOT recommended.**
 - Team selection may be supplemented as follows:
 - Players of any standard doubling up and/or playing down from other teams (of same gender) from that club
 - it is expected that players playing down from a higher Grade will do this in the spirit of 'development' i.e., not dominate the game.
 - 'Borrowing' players from the opposing team for that particular fixture.
 - Players aged 12 or above with the agreement of their parent/guardian and if the participating club can ensure that the player has the physical development and confidence to participate.
 - Development teams may cancel fixtures without penalty if they are unable to field a side (normal match cancellation protocols MUST be followed).
 - Any queries check with your ALDS.