

Midlands Newsletter December 2021

We are just about at the halfway point of the season, so I thought it was time to provide an update on things that have been going on and how we can improve the second half of the season.

Contacts

Making contact this season has been a major challenge to all of us. This e-mail is targeted, via GMS, to all Club Admins and Team Contacts that have an e-mail address. But we need to ensure the correct details are available and shared. Check, if it is not [blue](#), it does not have a corresponding Contact record.

As we have so many divisions, can you include the Division Name and Full Team Name in all communications.

Team Contacts aka Team Admin – each team should have a primary and secondary contact defined in GMS that has a viewable e-mail address and mobile number. This will be viewable in all Fixtures - View by viewing the Teams tab. The mobile number is important for contact in case of match day problems.

ALDS – aka Divisional Secretary – each Division aka Competition, will have a defined Contact, you should know who it is and their contact details. To ensure you have the correct details, I have attached a list at the end of this newsletter. For consistency they have been briefed on what is acceptable in the following situations and MUST be contacted first or at the same time as your opposition.

If you have insufficient players to honour a fixture, explaining why.

If you are having problems with pitch availability.

If you want to play a Fixture outside of the 10:00-17:30 window or excessive traveling required in early or late starting fixtures.

Need to Postpone a fixture, may be due to weather. In this case a new date also should be suggested within five days of the postponement.

Player Eligibility - Team Selection.

Any other queries, including Regulations. Make your ALDS the first point of contact.

Liaison Officer(s)

Regulation 3.1.5 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 ALMC, 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 ALM, 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.

Until we have this Role defined in GMS can all Clubs e-mail me directly these details so I can use them as my Club Contacts in future.

Fixture Times

Reminder that Fixture times for the second half of the season should now be in GMS, if not, let your ALDS know why not.

Development Fixtures

The designation of Development teams was introduced this season to support the Clubs that required a bit of flexibility around the Regulations that would enable them to introduce junior and back to hockey players. The relaxation does not extend to the non-Development teams they are playing.

Gender

Regulation 7.3 Gender

7.3.1 Players shall play in the relevant competition

This means men/boys cannot play in women's fixture or visa-versa.

Hospitality

Regulation 6.6 Hospitality

6.6.1 Requirement for home teams

Grade 2-5 – Post-match hospitality to be made available to visiting teams and umpires.

6.6.2 Away team 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, they do not require hospitality after this time or if it is not taken on the day.

It seems to have become common, this year, for teams not to be providing Hospitality. If due to COVID, restrictions are still being imposed by some facilities, Clubs need to find alternate arrangements.

Although I am reluctant to suggest it, if you have not provided home hospitality during the first part of the season, do not expect it on the return, as most Clubs are feeling cost challenges.

Next year, as per the Regulations, we will be expecting ALL Clubs to provide hospitality.

Umpiring

I know the provision of both umpires has been a challenge for some clubs, but until the AOC are able to supply in excess of 380 umpires each Saturday it will need to continue.

Although we are allowing relaxation of the level of qualification needed Clubs need to be aware of competency of umpires commensurate to the level of game being played.

I should also like to remind you that if an away team wants to bring an umpire, they are entitled to do so, as long as they have the correct Level of accreditation.

As we roll-out GMS teamsheets remember all umpires need to be registered with EHO, even as a free Bronze member.

Captain's Cards

Clubs are reminded that they should be submitting 'captains' cards' for all games with an appointed umpire.

Transfers

Until we are fully using GMS for Player Registration and Teamsheets we do not have a Transfer process. If a player wishes to change Clubs, they can do so, as long as their existing Club has no reason to block. Just Register for the new Club on GMS. If already registered, Register again as a new Player with the new Club.

Colour Clashes

Although the previous Men's League had a policy of white away kit, this is no longer in force, so Clubs need to ensure they do not have colour clashes with their opposition.

Promotions/Relegations

In my communication in September, I did include a list of all Divisions and their proposed promotions/relegations. As I am sure all of you are aware we have had a total of twenty-five teams withdraw, this will of course have an affect on the proposal. I will communicate revised plans, for 2022/23 Divisions as soon as we have them.

Pitch Side Behaviour

Unfortunately, there have been a number of reports of behaviour below an acceptable standard from both players and coaches. Whilst there is little the League can do, we will bring it to the attention of the Club to which they are attached, for them to take the necessary disciplinary action. The alternative is for the complaint, with evidence, to be raised as a Disrepute Complaint to EH.

COVID

We are aware that once again COVID is on the increase and may be affecting availability. Guidance has been given to your ALDS, but if you believe your availability is affected, please let your ALDS know and include numbers of players who have tested positive and numbers of players that have been told to self-isolate.

GMS

Where are we?

Players

All players should be registering as Players, they can then be assigned to a squad and available for selection.

Umpires

Anyone who is likely to umpire a GMS controlled game should register themselves on GMS with a minimum of EHO Bronze Membership.

Teamsheets

We are currently asking Premier and Division 1 teams to use GMS for all match recording, scores, teamsheets and matchsheets. We have now stabilised the names with teamsheets (the players, coaches) appearing on GMS as 'Team' and matchsheets (scorers and cards) appearing on GMS as 'Timeline.' In the New Year we will then continue the roll-out divisions by divisions.

This will remove the need for us to use the current e-mail teamsheet process. In the meantime, I can only apologise for the inconsistency of the e-mails or in some cases a lack of them. Do not worry if you do not get a request to submit. At some point we plan to load we have on to GMS and invite clubs to provide the missing data. Something to look forward to in the New Year.

Result submission Deadline

I should remind you that the deadline for submitting Scores on GMS is 20:00 on the day of the Fixture.

ALDS Contact Details

| Division | Contact Name | Contact E-mail |
|--|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Midlands Women's Premier | Nick HAYNES | adultleaguechair@midlands.hockey |
| Midlands Women's Division 1 | Kerry LUCKETT | seeubaby2@yahoo.co.uk |
| Midlands Women's Division 2 North/East | Eileen EDWARDS | jockess@hotmail.co.uk |
| Midlands Women's Division 2 South/West | Eileen EDWARDS | jockess@hotmail.co.uk |
| Midlands Women's Division 3 North East | Kishor SHAH | kishor.shah@ntlworld.com |
| Midlands Women's Division 3 North West | Jo ILLINGWORTH | jo.illingworth91@gmail.com |
| Midlands Women's Division 3 South East | Susie WILLIAMS | susie@sn04ooz.uk |
| Midlands Women's Division 3 South West | Jo BEVAN | secretary@mhhockey.co.uk |
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| Midlands Women's Division 4 Beacon | Nick HAYNES | adultleaguechair@midlands.hockey |
| Midlands Women's Division 4 Moorland | Susie WILLIAMS | susie@sn04ooz.uk |

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| Midlands Women's Division 5b Nene/Charnwood | Sam COOK | sam@framerscorner.co.uk |
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