

EHL REGULATIONS 2023-24 v1 (October 2023)

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GLOSSARY

In these Regulations:

ADA means the relevant Area Disciplinary Administrator

AL means the Area League. The Divisions of the overall league pyramid administered by an Area

ALAP means the Area League Appeal Panel appointed pursuant to the Area Articles of Association and the Area Regulations

ALC means the Area League Chair

ALDS means Area League Divisional Secretary

ALFO means the Area League Finance Officer (or Treasurer)

ALM means the Area League Manager who oversees the administration of all Divisions within an Area

ALMC means the Area League Management Committee

ALWG means the Area Leagues Working Group, with representatives from each Area League

AMC means the Area Management Committee

AOO means the relevant Area Officiating Committee (and for the purpose of these Regulations where not expressly stated shall also include the Welsh Hockey Umpires Association)

Appellant means the party (usually a club) making an appeal on a EHCD decision

Area Appointed Umpire means the Umpire or Official appointed to a match by an appointing body e.g., Area Officiating Body (or its component sub-areas), National Officiating Body.

Area means, unless the context otherwise requires, the Area Company that has adopted these Regulations and is one of the eight Area Companies (the Areas) required to cooperate with the other seven Areas in the governance of hockey subject to and within the powers and responsibilities of EH, and to carry out and do all such things as are set out in the Area's Articles of Association

ASC means the Areas Standing Committee where the 8 Area organisations meet nationally

BUCS means British Universities & Colleges Sport

Club means the member club that is participating in the League

Club Appointed Umpire Umpire or Official appointed to a match by a Club, whether affiliated to that Club or 'on loan' temporarily from another Club.

Doubling up is defined as when a player participates in two Adult League fixtures for their Club on the same match day (including Area League and EHL fixtures), one of which is for their Regular Team.

Due Date Date by which payment, as indicated on relevant Invoice, or response, as indicated in relevant communication, should be made.

EH means England Hockey, the National Governing Body for hockey in England

EH Appeal Panel means the England Hockey Appeal Panel

EH Code of Ethics means the EH Code of Ethics and Behaviour

EH Disciplinary Regulations shall mean the Red Card & Matchday Misconduct Offence Regulations, Disrepute Offence regulations and such other disciplinary regulations as may time to time be issued by EH.

EHCD means the EH Competitions Department

EHF means the European Hockey Federation

EHL means the England Hockey League comprising of both Men's and Women's League Premier Division, Division One North & South and Conference East, Midlands, North, West also known as League (or for the purposes of the Leagues structure *NL* National League)

FIH means the International Hockey Federation

GMS means the online Game Management System designated for use by EH

Grade A number of Steps within a league pyramid that are banded together that share the same requirements for participant eligibility, competition and matchday administration. Note that across parallel leagues it is possible for teams at the same Step in different Leagues to be at different Grades depending on the size of those Leagues

League means the England Hockey League

League Reserve Date (aka slip date) is a date that should be used for the playing of re-arranged fixtures

Leagues means the collective term for the 8 Area Leagues and the England Hockey League.

Liaison Officer means the main contact at a club for the EHCD

League Reserve Date (aka slip date) is a date that should be used for the playing of re-arranged fixtures

Matchweek: Covers matches taking place from a Thursday to the following Wednesday, where every team plays once, if at all.

NGP means the National Game Panel

NL means the National League. The Divisions of the overall league pyramid administered centrally by EHCD for which separate regulations are issued

PPM means Points Per Match and may be used to determine promotion or relegation issues. If teams have played an unequal number of matches, then the average PPM will be used along with averages for any other method of determining positions (see Regulation 4)

Principles means Principles of Fair Selection

Regular Team means the team in which a player is usually selected, determined by the record of their playing appearances

Step means the allocation of Divisions in a League pyramid structure. The highest Division will always be Step 1, the next highest, Step 2 etc. It is possible to have more than one parallel Division at any Step

TAP means the England Hocket Technical Appointments Panel

Team is used to differentiate between a Club's different teams, either Men's or Women's

Team Admin means the individual from a team within a club that is responsible for liaising with the Divisional Secretaries and using the GMS

These Regulations means these England Hockey Leagues Regulations and any reference herein to a particular Regulation is, unless otherwise expressly stated, a reference to a particular Regulation in these Regulations.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Leagues structure in England will comprise of:

- National League – administered centrally by England Hockey and currently known as the ‘England Hockey League’.
- 8 Area Leagues – each administered by their respective Area organisation.

1.2 The titles of the Leagues and divisions therein are shown as Appendix 1 and must be so referred in any communications including any Area or National sponsor’s names.

1.3 All England Hockey policies will apply to all matches within the Leagues. (See Appendix 2)

1.4 The Rules of Hockey, including any experimental rule changes approved by EH for use in Competitions shall be observed except as provided by Appendix 3.

1.5 The Regulations for adult hockey leagues are aligned to the Grades. The application of these Regulations will vary at different Grades to ensure that the expectations are commensurate with the standard of play. England Hockey League is Grade 1.

1.6 EH shall own the broadcasting rights to all matches played in the League, including its playoff and qualifying tournaments, be they, terrestrial, satellite, cable, or internet streaming. All other broadcast coverage may be permitted with the prior approval of EH.

1.7 Betting

1.7.1 No person or affiliated body that is for the time-being participating in the League and/or is otherwise concerned in officiating over any match played in the League, or in the administration of the League, shall, either directly or indirectly, bet, or instruct, permit or enable any person or body to bet on the result, progress, or, conduct of a League fixture.

1.7.2 No such person or affiliated body shall use, or provide to any other person or body, any information relating to the League which the person or affiliated body has by virtue of their position and which is not publicly available for, or in relation to, betting.

1.7.3 Any breach of Regs 1.7.1 and/or 1.7.2 shall be considered a Disrepute Offence under the EH Disciplinary Regulations .

2. MANAGEMENT

2.1 The operational management of the League will be by the EHCD. The EHCD may from time to time and when deemed by the EHCD to be necessary and/ or appropriate make decisions in consultation with the NGP in accordance with its terms of reference which are at Appendix 10.

2.2 The League shall be managed in accordance with these Regulations as issued, and amended, from time to time by England Hockey.

2.3. Appeals against League decisions will be heard by the EHAP via the Appeals process (see Reg 16).

2.4 Any Team Admin requiring clarification on League Regulations should consult directly with EHCD.

3. ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

3.1 Clubs

3.1.1 Each club, by its entry into and participation in the League, and each player by registering to participate in the League, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by these Regulations, The EH Disciplinary Regulations, and any amendments that may be ratified by EH from time-to-time. Each club and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of EHCD in relation to these Regulations and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose. If any matter arises which is not specifically covered under these regulations but which has a significant impact on the administration or outcome of the league including promotion, relegation or entry into any other competition (domestic or international) the EHCD in consultation with the NGP shall have jurisdiction to make a decision on the issue and impose any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.

3.1.2 For their teams to be eligible to participate in the League, clubs must, by the Due Date, have:

- 3.1.2.1** Completed their membership to England Hockey (and where relevant Hockey Wales), including any payments;

3.1.2.2 Paid League entry fees;

3.1.2.3 Paid any fines or monies outstanding to England Hockey, Area and/or Sub-Area

3.1.3 Each participating club must appoint a Liaison Officer and 2nd contact for each gender of team participating in the League. The Liaison Officer and 2nd contact should be available to the EHCD, and other teams as required, by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Liaison Officer and 2nd contact must be advised to the EHCD, via, or for use in, the GMS and by the Due Date. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via or for use in the GMS.

3.1.4 By agreeing to be a Liaison Officer or 2nd contact and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Liaison Officer and 2nd contact consent to receiving information from the EHCD and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the EHCD, and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, sharing this information for that purpose.

3.1.5 Each participating club must have a representative from their club at any meeting called by the EHCD. These will ordinarily be online but may be physical meetings. In addition, each club shall respond to requests for information by the EHCD, NPUA or TAP by the due date.

3.1.6 Any club that wins a perpetual trophy must arrange for it to be returned at the club's cost to EHCD by 1st February, unless otherwise agreed by the EHCD. EHCD 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 club, will be invoiced to the relevant club.

4. THE COMPETITION

4.1 Structure

The Divisions

4.1.1 Each gender of the League will consist of seven Divisions: Premier, Division One North & Division One South (collectively referred to as 'Division One'), Conference East, Conference Midlands, Conference North and Conference West (collectively referred to as the 'Conferences'). Each Division shall consist of ten teams except that the Premier Division shall consist of twelve teams.

4.1.2 Each team in Division One North & Division One South and each of the Conferences will play all other teams in its respective Division on a home and away basis on the dates specified by EH.

4.1.3 The formation of Division One and the Conferences shall be decided annually by EHCD.

4.1.4 The Premier Division will be played in three Stages – Regular Season Stage 1 ("Stage 1"), Regular Season Stage 2 ("Stage 2") and Stage 3 (sub-divided into Play-offs and Relegation Play-offs) as follows:

4.1.4.1 Stage 1:

4.1.4.1.1 Each team will play each other once on the dates specified by EH; each team will play either five or six home matches and five or six away matches as determined by EHCD and will accrue points as per 4.2 below.

4.1.4.1.2 All points, deductions, goals scored and goals conceded from Stage 1 will carry forward to Stage 2 as per 4.1.4.2 below;

4.1.4.2 Stage 2:

4.1.4.2.1 Teams ranked 1-6 (referred to as Top 6) at the end of Stage 1 shall play each other once either home or away on the dates specified by EH.

4.1.4.2.2 Teams ranked 7-12 (referred to as Lower 6) at the end of Stage 1 shall play each other once either home or away on the dates specified by EH.

4.1.4.2.3 Teams in Top 6 and Lower 6 will accrue points as per 4.2 below in addition to all points, deductions, goals scored and goal conceded from Stage 1.

4.1.4.2.4 Where possible teams who had five home matches in Stage 1 will have three home matches in Stage 2 and teams who had six home matches in Stage 1 will have two home matches in Stage 2. Also where possible teams will play each other at the reverse venue from Stage 1 in Stage 2. Where these are not possible preference will be given to teams based on positions at the end of Stage 1.

4.1.4.3 Stage 3:

4.1.4.3.1 **Play-offs** Teams ranked 1-8 at the end of Stage 2 will participate in the Play-offs, Pools A and B. The team finishing top of Top 6 after Stage 2 shall be ranked 1 and the other teams in Top 6 shall be ranked 2 to 6 respectively; the team finishing top of Lower 6 after Stage 2 shall be ranked 7 and the other teams in Lower 6 shall be ranked 8 to 12 respectively.

4.1.4.3.1.1 Teams will be divided into two pools of four based on their ranking at the end of Stage 2. Teams ranked 1,4,5,8 will form Pool A, and teams ranked 2,3,6,7 will form Pool B. Teams in each pool shall play each other once either home or away on the dates specified by EH. Teams ranked 1-2 will play three home matches, teams ranked 3-4 will play two home games, teams ranked 5-6 will play one home match and teams ranked 7-8 no home matches. No points, deductions, goals scored and goals conceded from Stage 1 or Stage 2 will carry forward to Stage 3. Teams will accrue points as per 4.2 below and in addition, in the event of a match being drawn, a

shoot-out competition will be played in accordance with Appendix 9 and the winner of the shoot-out competition will be awarded one bonus point.

4.1.4.3.1.2 The winner of each pool shall play the runner-up of the other pool (semi-finals) and the winners of the semi-finals shall play in the Final and the losers of the semi-finals shall play in the 3rd place play-off at a finals weekend ("Finals Weekend") on the dates and venues specified by EH. The winner of the Final will be determined Premier Division Champions.

4.1.4.3.1.3 Further regulations will be issued by EHCD in respect of Finals Weekend.

4.1.4.3.2 Relegation Play-offs. Teams ranked 9-12 at the end of Stage 2 will participate in the Relegation Play-offs. All points, deductions, goals scored and goals conceded from Stage 1 and Stage 2, as per 4.2 below, will carry forward to the Relegation Play-offs. Teams in the Relegation Play-offs shall play each other once either home or away on the dates specified by EH. Teams ranked 9-10 will play two home matches and teams ranked 11-12 will play one home match.

4.2 Scoring Systems

4.2.1 Teams shall be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss.

4.2.2 In the event of teams being equal on points at the end of the season, or a Stage in the Premier Division, places within a Division shall be determined by each of the following factors, in the order shown:

4.2.2.1 Highest goal difference;

4.2.2.2 Highest number of goals scored;

4.2.2.3 Highest number of matches won;

4.2.2.4 Aggregate result of the matches between the teams concerned (and, if also equal, away goals taking precedence over home goals);

4.2.2.5 If teams are still equal they will share the position except when it determines a championship, promotion, relegation, play-off or further progression between Phases in the Premier Division. In that case a further match between the teams involved will be arranged, for which the match arrangements will be organised by the EHCD.

4.2.3 Walkovers

A team that fails to honour more than the one match during the season will be withdrawn from the League and all previous results will be void. The EHCD will consider the circumstances in which a fixture is not fulfilled before implementing any sanction.

4.4 Teams from the same club and Divisions

Teams from the same club may not play in the same Division of the League.

4.5 Promotion & Relegation

4.5.1 Standard promotion and relegation is as shown but may be varied by EHCD in line with Regulation 4.5.4 and 4.5.5. below.

Premier Division (A) & Division One North (B1) and South (B2)	Bottom two teams in A relegated – those teams finishing 11th and 12th at the end of the Relegation Play-offs. Top team in both B1 and B2 promoted
Division One North (B1) and South (B2) & Conference East (C1), Midlands (C2), North (C3), West (C4)	Bottom two teams in both B1 and B2 relegated Top team in each of C1, C2, C3, C4 promoted
Conference East (C1), Midlands (C2), North (C3), West (C4) & 8 Area Premier Divisions	Bottom two teams in each of C1, C2, C3, C4 relegated Top team in each of the 8 Area Premier Divisions promoted

4.5.2 If the relegation of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a Division (see Reg 4.4 above), the team with the lowest ranking from the same club in the lower Division will be relegated irrespective of finishing position. Any additional place will be filled by the highest placed team in the relevant Division who would otherwise have been relegated.

4.5.3 If the promotion of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a Division, the promotion will not go ahead. Any additional place will be filled by the next highest placed team below the team that cannot be promoted in the relevant Division.

4.5.4 Any further additional places will be filled in the following order:

4.5.4.1 Relegation: the next placed team in the relevant Division who would otherwise have been relegated

4.5.4.2 Promotion: the next highest placed team, below the team that cannot be promoted, in the relevant Division.

4.5.5 Where additional promotion(s) or reprieve(s) from relegation are required due to any variance from the League structure (Reg 4.1) this will be determined by EHCD, with places determined in the order shown in 4.5.4. Where this involves consideration across parallel Divisions the PPM method will be used to determine any outcome required.

4.6 EHF Club Competitions Qualification

EH will have a designated number of places in the EHF Club Competitions (EHFCC) and the ranking of teams for participation in EHFCC for the following season as per EHF's designation will be as below.

- 4.6.1 1st – Premier Division Champions
- 4.6.2 2nd – The team finishing first in Top 6.
- 4.6.3 3rd – the team who are runners-up in the Final
- 4.6.4 4th – the team winning the 3rd place play-off in the Final (if played)

4.6.5.1 If the team finishing first in Top 6 is also Premier Division Champions, then the runner-up in the Final will be EH's second ranked team, the winner of the 3rd place play-off will be EH's third ranked team and the loser of the 3rd place play-off will be the fourth ranked team.

4.6.5.2 If the team finishing first in Top 6 is runner-up in the Final, then the winner of the 3rd place play-off will be EH's third ranked team and the loser of the 3rd place play-off will be the fourth ranked team

5 FIXTURES

5.1 Fixture Scheduling

5.1.1 EHCD will issue fixtures with their scheduled dates.

5.1.2 Clubs may agree to move a fixture to within 3 days of the scheduled date. This should be done by 1 September and is subject to the approval of EHCD. If a match is moved to a designated reserve slip date under this regulation, EH retain the right to change the match back to the original date if the slip date is subsequently required.

5.2 Fixture Management

5.2.1 Each team shall provide, using the GMS, by 1 September the proposed time and venue for each of its home matches as below. This is subject to any variation for a later deadline at the discretion of the EHCD.

5.2.2 Any change to this information must be notified to EHCD and to the Team Admin of the opposing team and any appointed match officials at least 16 days prior to the match.

5.2.3 Any changes within these number of days is by exception only and must be agreed by both teams and all match officials and notified to the EHCD as above. In this event any changes must be communicated to opponents and match officials AND confirmed back by email or message no later than 20:00hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match.

5.2.4 EHCD reserves the right to decline any change if it represents a significant or unnecessary variation from previously notified details and the opposition do not agree.

5.2.5 The Home team must contact their opponents, both Umpires and the Match Official to confirm arrangements by 20:00hrs five days prior to the match.

5.2.6 The Away team must provide the Home team with an accurate list of players including shirt numbers, by a date as specified by the home club, for inclusion in the matchday programme, where produced.

6. MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Pitches & facilities

6.1.1 All League matches must be played on artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey. EHCD reserves the right to not allow a specific pitch to be used for League matches if it deems it unsuitable.

6.1.2 For all League matches, a broken line must be marked 5 metres from the outside edge of the circle. Each line is to be 30 cm in length with a gap between each line of 3 metres starting with a solid line at the centre of the top of the circle.

6.1.3 Clubs must undertake a risk assessment for venues they use, this is usually an insurance requirement, and all clubs must be insured. Advice on risk assessments as part of the Planning Safe Hockey guide can be found here:
<https://www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>

6.1.4 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that pitch facilities, including markings, goals and goal nets are satisfactory and that all other requirements in this Regulation are met prior to a match. Immediately prior to the commencement of a match, or once a

match has started, the decision on whether it should be postponed or abandoned is determined by the umpires in consultation with any EH Match Official. Safety of players shall be a key factor in any decision making.

6.1.4.1 Every effort must be made to find a suitable replacement pitch if a team's regular pitch is unfit.

6.1.5 If the pitch is deemed unsuitable by the umpires, they may direct that the match be postponed. The EHCD reserves the right to determine the suitability of facilities in line with the Planning Safe Hockey guidance.

6.1.6 Home teams must provide a designated bench area on the side of the pitch (at least 2 metres away from any spectator area) either side of the centre line and extending no further than the 23 metre lines. Each team shall be allocated a section of the area, i.e. from centre line to one of the 23 metre lines. Substitutes and officials on the team-sheet must remain in the vicinity of their section of the designated bench area (unless warming up/down) and no other persons are allowed in the designated bench area or within 5 metres of the dugout. Dugouts for both teams and for the umpires and match official are required, subject to dispensation from EHCD, which may be granted in exceptional circumstances.

6.2 Pitch bookings

6.2.1 Pitch bookings must be of a minimum length as shown below,

- Premier Division and Division One – 2 hours
- Conference – 1 hour 45 minutes

6.2.2 For any match, teams may agree to a shorter window than that shown as long as this does not impact the match being completed.

6.2.3 On the last weekend of matches, pitch bookings must be an additional 30 minutes longer; this must be scheduled before the pre-match familiarisation time to ensure that the over-run of any previous game does not impact on the start time of the match.

6.3 Start times and floodlights

6.3.1 Match start times in all Divisions except Men's Premier Division shall be between the following times:

Time – Sep & Oct, Mar & Apr	Time – Nov-Feb	Under floodlights at a minimum of 350 lux
11:30 – 15:00hrs	11:30 – 14:30hrs	18:00hrs at the latest

6.3.1.1 Consideration should be given to opposition travel when scheduling fixtures.

6.3.1.2 Matches may be played earlier or later than the times shown if both teams, EHCD and NPUA agree.

6.3.1.3 The home team may set a start time in a window between 14:30 hrs and 17:00 hrs on a Saturday without the agreement of the away team, provided that:

- 6.3.1.3.1 The home club's floodlights exceed an average maintained output of 350 lux
- 6.3.1.3.2 The distance the away team is travelling is less than 100 miles one way; and/or,
- 6.3.1.3.3 The away team is not involved in a League or EH T1 Championship match or has players participating in Talent Academy or EAGS activity, the following day.

6.3.2 Match start times in the Men's Premier Division shall be between the following times.

Saturdays - 16:30 - 18:30, Sundays - 13:00 – 15:00

6.3.2.1 Matches may be played earlier or later than the times shown if both teams, EHCD and NPUA agree.

6.3.3 On the last scheduled round of matches in Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 of the Premier Division and all Divisions of the League the start time of all matches shall be as determined by the EHCD.

Men's Premier Division – 18:00 hrs. All other Divisions 14:00 hrs.

6.4 Starting the Match

If a delay is caused by late arrival of players, where a team has a minimum of 7 players available to start the match, and the match would no longer be able to fit within the allocated time slot, then the match should start.

6.5 Changing Facilities

Home teams must provide the following:

- Toilet on site
- Separate changing for both teams and for umpires at the pitch venue (teams and umpires to have exclusive use for 1 hour prior to and after match)*.

(*Subject to dispensation from EHCD in exceptional circumstances)

Home teams must always ensure they have no advantage over away teams in terms of room access and times.

6.6 Hospitality

6.6.1 The requirement for home teams is that pre-and post-match hospitality should be made available to visiting teams, umpires and match officials, including a hot post-match meal*. (*Subject to dispensation from EHCD in exceptional circumstances)

6.6.2 The away team must confirm if they do not wish to receive any offered hospitality by 20:00hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match. The 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.

6.7 Balls

Home teams must provide a sufficient quantity of good quality hockey match balls, which must be of the same type and colour and suitable for the surface on which the match is to be played. The colour of the match ball(s) shall be white. If a home team wishes to play with any other colour ball then it must apply to EHCD for approval to do this. Any application must be made at least 10 days in advance of the first match where this shall apply. If the match ball is approved to be a colour other than white, then the home team must notify all teams in their Division of this (including the colour of the ball) once approval has been granted. If EHCD approval has not been given to the use of a non-white ball and there is any dispute as to colour, the Rules of Hockey will apply.

6.8 Spectators and Stewards

6.8.1 Teams will provide a designated area for spectators away from the designated bench area provided under 6.1.6 above and that shall not impede the safe movement of players, umpires or officials; where possible this should not be within 2 metres of the sideline.

6.8.2 Home teams must provide stewards, or have an official responsible for spectator control pitch side, for all home matches whose primary function will be to ensure spectator behaviour does not breach the EH Code of Ethics; this person shall not be the team manager. The phone number of this person must be provided to any appointed Match Official before the game.

6.9 Ice & pitch cleaning materials

Home teams must ensure a separate supply of ice pitch side at each bench; a further small supply of ice will be available for the separate use of the umpires. The home team will also provide and, if required, utilise the means to clean any blood spillage or secretions.

6.10 Banners

Clubs must display, when requested, any banner or advertising specified by the EHCD that is supplied by either EH or a sponsor.

6.11 Programmes

Programmes are mandatory for Premier Division and Division One. Home teams must produce a programme for each match. This can be on-line or hard copy. Adverts supplied by EHCD must be included in the programme. The programme must also include accurate team lists. Programmes are recommended for Conferences and where produced must include information as above.

6.12 Conduct

The Team Manager is responsible for the proper conduct of all players and officials named on the team-sheet. A Coach or Assistant Coach on the team bench, unless a designated first aider, may not enter the field of play during playing time, except to assist with a serious injury. Vocal communication by team officials and/or players on the team bench must not in any way be directed at the players of the opposing team, the Umpires, or the Match Official.

6.13 On field Injuries

If any person from the team bench and/or doctor or other medically qualified person attending the match is required to enter the field of play to attend to a player, other than a goalkeeper, that player must leave the field of play and return to the team bench area for a minimum of two minutes. The two-minute period will be managed by the Match Official on duty. The player required to leave the field may be substituted, subject to the provisions of the Rules of Hockey.

6.14 Ball Patrol

6.14.1 For matches in the Premier Division, home teams must provide a ball patrol of a minimum of four people. The ball patrol should be pitch side not less than 5 minutes before the scheduled start time of the match and their presence notified to the Match Official.

6.14.2 It is recommended that Division One and Conference Division teams provide a ball patrol of a minimum of four people. If a home team wishes to provide a ball patrol, they may do so without the permission of the away team provided that they have advised the away team of their intention to do so when contacting them with match details under Regulation 5.2.5 above.

6.15 Video Analysis for the purposes of performance analysis

6.15.1 All home teams must either allow their opposition access to the same videoing facilities as the home side, or, if they are unable to provide access to the same videoing facilities, and if requested, provide a copy of their footage to the opposition.

6.15.2 Any third-party team must request permission, in writing, from the home club to video a match, for the purposes of performance analysis and it is at the discretion of the home club to permit this or otherwise.

6.15.3 Any team videoing a match for the purposes of performance analysis should, by request from the NPUA umpires appointed to the match, make a copy of the footage obtained available for the purposes of the umpires' performance analysis.

7 PLAYER REGISTRATION

7.1 General

7.1.1 To be entitled to play in the League for a club a player must be registered on GMS with that club to play adult league hockey and, since time of their first match during any one season, not have played for another club or team in any:

7.1.1.1 League match in England and Wales (excluding matches organised under the authority of BUCS, intra-university competition, or dedicated Masters' or Junior leagues); or

7.1.1.2 Domestic competition in any another country.

7.1.2 Playing for another club in line with 7.1.1 whilst registered for a League club means that a player renders themselves ineligible to play for that League club.

7.1.3 Registration must comply with Regulations 7.2 to 7.6 below.

7.2 Photo

A player must have an approved head & shoulders photo uploaded to their registration to be eligible to play in the League

7.3 Age

7.3.1 A player must be aged 15 or above on the day of the match to participate in a Premier Division match

7.3.2 For all other matches, a player must be aged 13 or above on the day of the match.

7.4 Gender

Players shall play in the relevant competition.

7.5 Nationality

7.5.1 No Objection Certificate

No player whose Home National Association is not EH, Scottish Hockey or Welsh Hockey is eligible for registration in the League unless they hold a current No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from their Home National Association for the purposes of the EH Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events Regulations. Evidence of this must be uploaded to the player's record on GMS.

7.5.2 Players who do not hold a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland passport (UK Passport) or a Republic of Ireland passport (RoI passport)

A team may not name in its squad for any match more than three players who do not:

7.5.2.1 hold a UK or RoI Passport; or,

7.5.2.2 have a permanent right of abode, or indefinite leave to remain, as defined by Sections 1 and 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 (as amended from time to time); or,

7.5.2.3 hold a current valid Ancestry Visa or Family of a Settled Person Visa for a right to remain in the United Kingdom; or,

7.5.2.4 have settled or pre-settled status in line with the EU Settlement Scheme.

Evidence of this must be uploaded to the player's record on GMS

7.5.3 This regulation does not apply to a UK Resident who:

- 7.5.3.1 has no passport and has not previously held a passport for another country; and,
- 7.5.3.2 is eligible to hold a UK passport

7.6 Registration & Transfers Deadlines

7.6.1 Week by week

7.6.1.1 A player's registration or transfer must be completed for them to be eligible to play 3 days prior to the match, (i.e. by midnight on a Wednesday for a Saturday or midnight Thursday for a Sunday).

7.6.2 Final date

7.6.2.1 A player may only transfer between clubs once during the season and this must be completed by the date below. These deadlines also apply for a new registration (i.e. a player who has not played for another club in a Leagues match in England and Wales or competitive match in another country).

7.6.2.1.1 If joining a Premier Division club:

- i. 9th November - if the player is transferring from another League's club or if the player does not hold a UK passport
- ii. 18th December - if the player holds a UK passport and is transferring from a club or team in a domestic competition in any other country than England or Wales.

7.6.2.1.2 If joining a Division One or Conference club: 1st February.

7.6.2.2 Players may apply to EHCD for transfers in exception to the above, i.e. a second transfer or returning to play (e.g. for injury or changes in personal circumstances). The EHCD has the discretion to approve or otherwise such transfers but the deadlines as shown in 7.6.2.1 will apply to participation in matches in the League.

7.6.3 Transfers between Clubs (in England and Wales only)

7.6.3.1 A player can request to move to a new club via GMS.

7.6.3.2 The new club must approve the move.

7.6.3.3 The previous club must approve the move within 10 days of the request or notify EHCD in that period why this has not been approved. The player can play as soon as the transfer is approved.

7.6.3.4 The previous club can decline a move (e.g. on the basis of unpaid fees to the existing club, outstanding disciplinary issues or club assets or permissions held by the player that may need to be returned prior to transfer) and must notify EHCD of this.

In the event of an objection the 10-day period can be extended to 17 days.

7.6.3.5 The EHCD will determine what action to take for an unapproved request within 17 days of the request.

If no approval or notification from the existing club is received within 10 days of the request the transfer will be automatically approved.

7.6.4 Transfers between clubs (in England and Wales) and clubs in other countries including unassigned players

7.6.4.1 A player moving to a club outside of GMS (i.e. not from England and Wales) must request to become unassigned via GMS.

7.6.4.2 Their existing club must approve the move.

7.6.4.3 An unassigned player may play for a club in a League match in another country (excluding England and Wales).

7.6.4.4 An unassigned player, or a player who has not previously been registered on the GMS, can request to move to a new club in England and Wales via GMS. Their existing club, via confirmation to England Hockey, and the new club must approve the move.

8 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - TEAM SELECTION

8.1 General

8.1.1 The objective of Fair Selection is to establish a comprehensive framework for player eligibility and team selection and aims to ensure fairness, competition integrity, and equal opportunities for all participating clubs.

8.1.2 This Regulation governs the application of the Aims of Fair Selection (see Appendix 4) and refers to players participating in Adult Leagues including NL. It does not cover participation in Masters or Junior Hockey.

8.1.3 Fair Selection gives Clubs reasonable flexibility in managing player selection. Clubs select players for their Leagues teams in hierarchical order based on their availability on any given day, with the understanding that players should not be selected at a lower level than their Regular Team in order to strengthen a lower ranked team.

8.1.4 The EHCD has the authority to determine at any time whether or not a Club is in breach of the Aims of Fair Selection.

8.1.5 The GMS provides a system for the gathering of information and statistics in order to assist in determining whether the Aims of the Fair Selection Policy have been, and are being, achieved.

8.1.6 Whilst Regulation 5.1.2 allows Clubs to agree to move a fixture to within 5 days of the scheduled date, subject to the approval of EHCD, for the purposes of this Regulation the original scheduled date of the game will apply.

8.2. Movement of Players

8.2.1 Players are allowed to be selected for a higher ranked team than their Regular Team, on a weekly basis, without any restrictions.

8.2.2 When selecting a player for a lower ranked team than their Regular Team certain restrictions apply to prevent strengthening of the lower team.

8.2.3 At Grade 1 a player may move a maximum of two teams down from week to week (ie 1st XI to 3rd XI).

8.2.4 In weeks where a team has a fixture but higher teams in their club do not, that team may only select players who have played a minimum of 50% of the Leagues matches they have played in that season for either that team or for a lower team unless a Selection Exemption Pass is granted in advance by EHCD. NB: In this case 8.3.3 does not apply.

8.2.5 For a team's last four matches in the League season, all players must have played a minimum of 50% of the League matches they have played in that season for the team they are selected for, or a lower team unless a Selection Exemption Pass is granted in advance by EHCD.

8.3 Doubling Up

8.3.1 "Doubling up" is when a player plays in two Leagues fixtures for their Club during the same Matchweek (including Area League and EHL fixtures), one of which is for their Regular Team. For example, this includes when one fixture is scheduled on Saturday and another the Sunday, which might be due to the rearrangement of a postponed or abandoned fixture

8.3.2 No player may double up for a team participating in the League save as for Reg 8.3.3.

8.3.3 Doubling Up -- Youth Experience Player

Every club has the option to select one Youth Experience Player (YEP) per Matchweek, offering them valuable experience. This exception can be utilised by all Clubs, not only those whose highest ranked team participates in the EHL. The following conditions apply:

8.3.3.1 Eligibility: The YEP must be under the age of 18 on 31st August in the year in which the League competition begins. A Selection Exemption Pass is required in advance. The YEP must be EHL registered to participate in a Grade 1 League fixture.

8.3.3.2 Teams: The YEP is allowed to play in their Regular Team, typically the second ranked team, and the highest ranked team in their club. Including the YEP, the highest ranked team's squad must contain at least 14 players. If the second ranked team plays in the EHL the YEP can be selected for their Regular Team and the second ranked team.

8.3.3.3 Limit: Only one YEP is permitted to play in the highest ranked team in any Matchweek with a maximum of five different YEPs allowed to be selected throughout the entire season.

8.4 Selection Exemption

8.4.1 Each Club may request a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) for any player, which, if approved by the EHCD, will exempt that player from specific Fair Selection Regulations for a designated period.

8.4.2 The granting of an SXP will be limited to genuine circumstances such as those provided as examples in the Selection Exemption Guidance Notes in Appendix 4.

9 TEAMS, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS

9.1 Match Sheets

All match sheets and results will be managed using the GMS.

9.2 Players

A player whose name appears on the match sheet showing those players eligible to play in a match will be deemed to have played in that match.

9.3 Team Officials

Each team may have a maximum of 4 officials in the bench area plus a medically qualified doctor. One of the bench officials must be a team manager who is not participating in the match as a player. The role of any official is to be included on the match sheet.

9.4 Deadline for submission of information

9.4.1 All players and any team officials participating in a match must be uploaded onto the match sheet on the GMS by one hour prior to the match. By doing so the team confirms that each player listed is eligible to play. Teams must provide the Match Official with a copy of the information supplied for the matchsheet from GMS and not less than 10 minutes before the start of the match notify the Match Official of its starting line-up.

9.4.2 The home team must confirm the score (or if the match is postponed or abandoned) as soon as possible but no later than 30 minutes after the match.

9.4.3 Both teams must confirm full details of goals, cards and injuries one hour after the match.

9.4.4 Any revisions to submitted information must be submitted to EHCD imm.

10 DRESS

10.1 Field players must wear uniform shirts and uniform knee length socks and shall wear shorts, skirts or skorts of the same colour.

10.2 Any additional clothing (e.g. cycle shorts, leggings or long-sleeved under-shirts) must be of the same colour as the corresponding item of clothing shown on the team-sheet.

10.3 The second named (away) team shall wear shirts and socks that contrast with those of the home team.

10.4 Goalkeepers must wear shirts contrasting with those of both teams and must wear protective equipment as specified in the current Rules of Hockey.

10.5 Players shall wear shirts individually numbered on the back with the number allocated on the team-sheet. All numbers shall be no less than 8" (20cm) in height and shall contrast with the colour of the shirt. Taped numbers may only be used in an emergency.

10.6 Turbans, Hijabs (or other agreed head coverings) should be plain or match the shirt in line with club colours on the team sheet. For all head coverings, they must not:

- be attached to the playing shirt
- have any protruding items from the surface
- have any metal fastenings or pins
- cause a danger to the player, or other players
- have the potential to be inadvertently pulled or unravelled

11 UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

11.1 The NPUA is responsible for the appointment of Umpires to League matches. TAP is responsible for the appointment of EH Match Officials and their duties and responsibilities in relation to these Regulations are shown in Appendix 7.

11.2 If an Umpire fails to fulfil an appointment, the Match Official shall endeavour to find another Umpire to enable the match to be played. Any replacement Umpire must be at least an active Level 2 Registered Umpire (for Premier Division and Division One games) or active Level 1 Registered Umpire (for Conference games). If no replacement can be found the fixture must be postponed and re-arranged.

11.3 If TAP does not appoint a EH Match Official the home team is responsible for providing a Home Appointed Match Official, see Appendix 7.

11.4 No person shall umpire and be registered to play in the same division of the League during the same season.

11.5 There can be no appeal or complaint against any decision (or non-decision) of an umpire on the field of play or a Match Official during a match.

11.5 Any issues regarding umpiring or match officiating shall be dealt with by the relevant appointing body, NPUA or TAP.

11.6 All clubs must complete an Umpire's report as determined by NPUA and feedback on EH Match Officials.

12 DISCIPLINE

12.1 Conduct

12.1.1 In complying with Code of Ethics, it is the responsibility of clubs to regulate the behaviour of their players, officials, members and spectators. By participating in the League, clubs confirm that they have established an internal disciplinary procedure to deal with serious disorderly, abusive, offensive or improper behaviour by players, officials, members and spectators prior to, during and after any League match either in person or on social media. This extends to behaviour towards League officials.

12.2 Yellow Cards

12.2.1 Players in the League shall be subject to incremental match suspensions from League matches for yellow cards that they accrue throughout the season in matches in the League. Yellow cards will must be recorded on the GMS and the responsibility for applying suspensions rests entirely with the player's club.

12.2.2 The following suspensions shall apply to each individual:

Four yellow cards in a season = 1 match suspension;
Two further yellow cards in the same season (i.e. six in total) = 1 further match suspension;
For each further yellow card thereafter in the same season = 1 further match suspension.

12.2.3 The suspension is to be applied for all club matches, on the date of the next League match of the player's Regular Team (by appearances), unless advised otherwise by EHCD.

12.2.4 The club of any player who is to receive a suspension must immediately contact the relevant EHCD. Any suspension imposed as a consequence of this Regulation shall take effect on the date of the next match that the team in which the qualifying yellow card was issued is playing, unless otherwise determined by the EHCD. If that match is postponed the EHCD will confirm the date of the suspension.

12.2.5 If a player is issued with a red card as defined in Regulation 2.3 of the Disciplinary Regulations, the red card shall be counted as 2 yellow cards for the purposes of this Regulation.

12.2.6 In the event that a player is issued with a red card that is not a red card as defined in Regulation 2.3 of the Disciplinary Regulations, any yellow card(s) issued to the same player in that match shall still be counted for the purposes of this Regulation.

12.2.7 If a player or team official from the bench is issued with a yellow card, a player is withdrawn from play for the duration of the suspension and it must be the captain, if on-field at the time. If a player or team official from the bench is issued with a red card the team has to withdraw a player from the field of play for the remainder of the match and the withdrawn player may continue to be substituted on and off the pitch during the suspension, but the team must play with one fewer player for the duration of the suspension. In these cases, for the purposes of Regs 12.2.1-12.2.5, the card is recorded against the player who was carded and not the player who served the suspension.

12.2.8 Cards and Suspensions for yellow cards under this Regulation will not carry over from one season to the next.

12.2.9 The failure to suspend a player under this Regulation will be treated as playing an ineligible player.

13 POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

13.1 Priority

Unless postponed due to weather or travel as below, a team may only postpone a match if they are playing a higher priority fixture on the date of the match, which includes EHF Club competition. (See Appendix 8 for link to Priority list for coming season). Re-arrangements of fixtures due to participation in EHF Club competition will be made by EHCD

13.2 General

13.2.1 Immediately prior to the commencement of a match, or once a match has started, the decision on whether it should be postponed or abandoned is determined by the umpires. Safety of players and umpires shall be a key factor in any decision making.

13.2.2 In the event of a match having to be abandoned, the EHCD will decide on the action to be taken after receiving a report from the

Umpires, Match Official and teams. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture, dependent on the circumstances at the time of abandonment.

13.2.3 In the event of a postponement and/or replay of an abandoned match:

13.2.3.1 In the first half of the season - the match must be replayed on or before the first designated league reserve date when both teams do not have a higher priority fixture, unless otherwise agreed by both teams and the EHCD (see Appendix 8 for league reserve dates for the current season).

13.2.3.2 In the second half of the season - the match must be replayed on or before the first designated league reserve date when both teams do not have a higher priority fixture or may be played prior to the first designated league reserve date if agreed by both teams (see Appendix 8 for league reserve dates for the current season).

13.2.3.3 In the event of the home team wishing to postpone a match, the away team shall, at its own cost, have the right to inspect the ground prior to a decision regarding postponement being reached.

13.3 Procedure for Bad Weather & Associated Travel

13.3.1 Pitch

13.3.1.1 The home team should use the following procedures.

13.3.1.2 The home Team Admin should ascertain from the visiting team, the Umpires and any EH Match Official the latest time of notification of cancellation, i.e. when they intend to depart for the pitch venue. If an overnight stay prior to the match is expected, this time should be adjusted accordingly. If it is clear that the pitch will be unfit due to weather earlier than the above time, the visiting team should be informed immediately.

13.3.1.3 It is the responsibility of the home team to inspect the pitch prior to the above-mentioned departure time. The Team Admin and/or a member of the club or team's leadership should do this and a realistic view must be taken at this stage. They should check with Met Office (www.metoffice.gov.uk) to confirm weather conditions for the next 24/48 hours. All teams should use the Met Office as a standardised reference for weather conditions. If the pitch is unfit and is likely to remain so, the match should be postponed, and the following action taken:

- notify the visiting team.
- notify the Umpires and EH Match Official, if appointed
- notify EHCD.

The team must notify via an answered phone call, or ensure a response is received.

13.3.1.4 Once the teams and Umpires, if appointed, have arrived, Reg 13.2.1 above shall apply.

13.3.1.5 If a team fails to follow the above procedures and, when all parties arrive, it is clear that the pitch was, and patently has been, unfit prior to the times outlined above, the teams, Umpires and EH Match Official, if appointed, will be asked to submit a report for the consideration of EHCD who may take action as it deems appropriate.

13.3.2 Travel

13.3.2.1 The away team should use the following procedures.

13.3.2.2 The away Team Admin should check with the Met Office (www.metoffice.gov.uk) and Highways England and/or Highways Wales (www.trafficengland.com or www.traffic.wales) to confirm weather and travel conditions and guidance for the next 24/48 hours. All teams should use the Met Office, Highways England and/or Highways Wales as a standardised reference for weather/travel conditions.

13.3.2.3 If guidance is that you should not travel and this guidance is that this will not change prior to the intended departure time, the match should be postponed and the following action taken:

- notify the home team.
- home team notify the Umpires and EH Match Officials, if appointed
- home team notify EHCD.

The team must notify via an answered phone call, or ensure a response is received

13.4 The agreement of both teams and EHCD is required before a match can be postponed in line with 13.3.1 and 13.3.2. If teams disagree, the EHCD shall make a ruling whether to postpone or not.

(NOTE: Whilst it is accepted that no system of match postponement can be perfect, teams are requested to try and ensure that matches are postponed in sufficient time for visiting teams and officials to be saved the time and expense of wasted journeys.)

14. FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE OR FORFEITURE OF A MATCH

If a team fails to honour a fixture, or forfeits a match, it shall be deemed to have lost 0-5 and the opposing team shall be awarded three points and be deemed to have won the match 5-0. This is subject to any remission or further penalty that the EHCD may impose in line with Breach of Regulations & Penalties.

15. BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

15.1 The provisions contained in these Regulations are without prejudice to anything contained in the EH Code of Ethics, but any club or team or individual found to be in breach of these Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by any EH Disciplinary Body

15.2 For breaches of any or all of these Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Ethics, the EHCD shall, apply the standard tariff of penalties set out in Appendix 5 save that, in exceptional circumstances, or when there is no standard tariff provided, the EHCD may acting in consultation with the NGP impose any penalty, including, but not limited to, the deduction of points, fines and suspension of players, and may require teams to play matches away from their home venue. These may be applied within the current and/or subsequent season.

15.3 When imposing any penalty, the EHCD 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.

16. APPEAL PROCEDURE

16.1 There can be no appeal against the decision of an Umpire or EH Match Official.

16.2 Clubs and teams have the right to appeal against a decision of the EHCD as set out in this Regulation.

16.2.1 The Appeal to the England Hockey Appeal Panel (EHAP) must be commenced by an Appeal Notice (Appendix 6) marked for the attention of the England Hockey Appeal Panel, sent to and received by EHCD not later than 3 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against. The full Appeal, including copies of all documents and the written statements of any witnesses upon which the Appellant intends to rely in the Appeal must be sent to and received by the Appeal Panel not later than 7 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against.

16.2.2 The Appeal Notice should be sent by email to the EHCD. A deposit of £100 must be sent within 7 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against. 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 EHAP shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal.

16.2.3 The Chair of the EHAP 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.

16.2.4 Save where the Chair of the EHAP 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 EHAP may direct an oral hearing.

16.2.5 The parties to the Appeal are the Appellant and EHCD, to be represented by a member of EHCD.

16.2.6 Any other club 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.

16.2.7 As soon as reasonably practical after the receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the EHAP shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal, which may include inviting or permitting any club that may be affected by the Appeal to submit written evidence and/or submissions in support or against the Appellant.

16.3 Every Appeal will be limited to a review of the decision of the EHCD unless the EHAP considers that in the circumstances of the individual Appeal it would be in the interests of justice to treat the Appeal as a re-hearing of the matter (whether or not an oral hearing has been directed, and whether or not there is additional evidence available to the EHAP than was before the EHCD).

16.4 The EHAP will allow an Appeal where the decision of the EHCD was (a) wrong; or (b) unjust because of a serious procedural or other irregularity in the procedure followed by the EHCD in reaching the decision.

16.5 If an Appeal is not allowed in full, the EHAP may impose any sanction that the EHCD could have imposed.

16.6 Where there has been an oral hearing of an Appeal the decision of the EHAP may include a direction that the Appellant shall pay all or part of the costs of the Appeal to be summarily assessed by the EHAP.

16.7 The decision of the EHAP shall be notified in writing to the parties to the Appeal within 48 hours of the decision. Succinct reasons for the decision shall be sent to the parties to the Appeal and the EHCD within 7 days of the decision. The Chair of the EHAP may extend this timetable.

16.8 The decision of the EHAP shall be final.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – LEAGUES TITLES AND DIVISIONS

See - <https://www.englishockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events> for details

APPENDIX 2 – ENGLAND HOCKEY POLICIES

All England Hockey policies shall apply to matches in the Leagues. 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 3)
- EH Code of Ethics
- EH Disciplinary 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 Leagues Sponsorship Policy
- EH Safe Hockey Policy

APPENDIX 3 – VARIANCES TO FIH RULES OF HOCKEY

The Rules of Hockey 2022 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. League matches

A match consists of four quarters of **17 minutes 30 seconds**, with an interval of 2 minutes between quarter 1 and 2 and between quarter 3 and 4, and a half-time interval of 5-10 minutes (to be agreed before the match starts) between quarter 2 and 3.

Rule 13.3

Time is not stopped after a penalty corner is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire). If a suspended player's period of suspension ends during the taking of a penalty corner the player cannot return until the penalty corner has been completed or another penalty corner is awarded.

Rule 14 Personal penalties - Suspensions

1. Umpires shall have the authority to suspend any player or official from the team bench for indiscipline, whether temporarily (green or yellow card) or permanently (red card). This will require the relevant team to withdraw a player from the pitch for the duration of the suspension.
2. If a field player receives a green or yellow card, the Umpires stop the match (but not necessarily the time) to issue the card. If time has been stopped, the Umpires re-start it immediately after issuing the card.
3. If a goalkeeper receives a green card, the Umpires stop time and re-start it immediately after that player has left the field of play.
4. The offending player leaves the field immediately. If they interfere with play on their way to the designated suspension area the Umpire may further penalise the player in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.
5. The timing of the temporary suspension starts when the player is seated in the designated area. For the avoidance of doubt a player or team official who is temporarily suspended from play must sit calmly and quietly throughout the period of suspension and may not be involved in the match in any way. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to work with the Match Official to ensure that this is done.
6. The offending player is permitted to resume play when the Umpire who suspended them indicates that the period of suspension has been completed unless this occurs during the taking of a penalty corner in which case the player cannot return until the penalty corner has been completed or another penalty corner is awarded.

7. If the offending player is a goalkeeper, the Umpire shall stop the time at the next available stoppage of play to enable that player to resume play.
8. The Match Official shall undertake the timing of suspension on behalf of Umpires in line with Appendix 7.

APPENDIX 4 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & TEAM SELECTION

The guidelines outlined in this reference ensure a comprehensive framework for Fair Selection while allowing for necessary exceptions under appropriate circumstances.

Clubs can maintain fairness, competition integrity and equal opportunities in player eligibility and team selection by complying with Fair Selection and considering the examples provided in these notes.

1. Aims of Fair Selection

- 1.1. For clubs to have reasonable flexibility in managing player selection.
- 1.2. For a club's League teams to be selected in hierarchical order and be composed of players that reflects their level of ability within their club based on
 - 1.2.1. their availability on any one day; and
 - 1.2.2. not being selected at a lower level than usual to strengthen a lower team.
- 1.3. To endeavour to ensure all Clubs to feel that competition is "fair" and that clubs are not disadvantaged by the application of these Regulations.
- 1.4. For players to be able to play where possible and not be "unselectable" due to the League Regulations.

2. Fair Selection Notes

2.1. Objective

The Fair Selection framework aims to ensure fairness, competition integrity, and equal opportunities in player eligibility and team selection for all participating clubs. The framework provides clubs with reasonable flexibility while maintaining guidelines to ensure fairness and prevent unfair advantages.

2.2. Player Selection Hierarchy

Clubs should select players for their League teams based on a hierarchical order determined by availability. Players should not be selected at a lower level than their Regular Team to strengthen a lower-ranked team.

2.3. Youth Experience Player

Regulation 8.5 provides for the selection of a Youth Experience Player across all Grades to ensure equal opportunity for clubs of all sizes and capabilities.

2.4. Doubling Up Restrictions

Doubling up, defined as playing in multiple teams on the same matchday, is generally not permitted except in specific cases. Any exception to the doubling up restrictions requires a Selection Exemption Pass, which is granted on a case-by-case basis for situations not covered by the general guidelines. The doubling up restrictions varies by Grade (refer to 3.2 below).

3. Selection Exemption Notes

3.1. A Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) can be provided for a specific time period by the EHCD at their discretion to manage specific scenarios. A club can request a retrospective exemption in the case of an emergency. Clubs are encouraged to request SXPs in advance, although they may also be considered retrospectively in cases where injuries occur close to the match start time, such as during warm-up.

3.2. The doubling up restrictions vary by Grade. Any doubling up may require an SXP

- Grade 1 - No doubling up is permitted except for one Youth Experience Player (YEP), who must be registered to play in the EHL.
- Grade 1 - players may double up only in specific circumstances that will always require an SXP:
- If both the 1st team (1s) and 2nd team (2s) play in the EHL, and a 1s player is injured immediately before the game a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) is required for a 2s player to play 1s as cover. A 1s player cannot double up for 2s.
- If a Regular Grade 1 goalkeeper (GK) needs to cover at Grade 2 or 3 due to exceptional GK availability or injury issues an SXP is required.
- If a Grade 1 GK plays outfield in a lower-ranked team to help with numbers an SXP is required.

3.3 Examples of relevant circumstances where exemptions may apply in genuine cases, where a player's movement between teams is greater than shown in the tables in Regulation 8. Fair Selection & Player Eligibility. The scenarios listed are not exhaustive and are intended to provide examples of circumstances in which a Selection Exemption might be considered by the EHCD.

3.3.1 Player returning from injury after a few weeks

- A regular 1st team player at Grade 1 is injured and wants to return with a match in the 2nd team in Grade 1.

3.3.2 Player has not played for a number of weeks

- A player has not played a minimum of 50% of the League matches they have played either for that team, or for a lower team.
 - A player plays early in the season and does not play again until the last four weeks of the season and it can be demonstrated this is now an appropriate level for the player.
 - A player has regularly been covering for injuries or unavailability in a higher team.
 - A player has been "dropped" by a higher team e.g., a player selected for a 1st team pre-Christmas for 11 matches but post-Christmas playing solely in the 2nd team for 5 matches at time of the match in question.

3.3.4. Emergency issues

- A 1st team goalkeeper is injured in a warm-up and their 4th team keeper is available, having played earlier in the day.
- A club has a number of goalkeepers injured or unavailable and their regular 4th team GK is selected for the 1st team but wants to return to the 4th team on the next match day.

4. Electronic Match Sheets

To enable simpler administration electronic Match Sheets are mandatory at all levels to support simpler administration:

- 4.1 To provide clarity and simplicity, including building logic into the GMS to maximise compliance;
 4.2 To eliminate subjective administrative intervention wherever possible;
 4.3 To provide the data to improve systems and Regulations over time.

APPENDIX 5 - STANDARD PENALTIES & TARIFFS OF FINES. Regulation 15 BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES refers

1. Breaches

1.1 Stages - Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 below refer to an individual breach and the process giving the opportunity to rectify this. A second breach of the same Regulation may result in this being treated as Stage 2.

4.2 Repeat Breaches – 1st Occurrence, 2nd Occurrence, 3rd Occurrence, below refer to the same Regulation being breached on one or more occasions. Penalties may be doubled for repeat breaches.

2. Fines

2.1 There are recommended amounts for fines, Tariff 1, T1 - £25, Tariff 2, T2 - £50, Tariff 3, T3 - £100

2.2 Note waiving of a fine is at the discretion of EHCD in exceptional circumstances

2.3 Where a fine is applied it will be doubled for repeat offences

2.4 The Due date for payment of fines is within 28 days unless alternative date is set by EHCD

REGULATION	SUB-SECTION	GRADE	STAGE 1 or 1 st BREACH	STAGE 2 or 2 nd BREACH	STAGE 3 or 3 rd BREACH	FINE
3. Entry into the League	3.1.2 Completed by the Due Date its membership of England Hockey (and where relevant Hockey Wales), including payment	1	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline	If new deadline not met. Warning that it must be completed prior to next match. Fine, if applicable.	Club fixtures awarded as walkovers until completed. Fine, if applicable.	Stage 2 - T1 Stage 3 - T2
		2				
		3				
		4				
		5				
	3.1.3 Failure to provide Liaison Officer details by 1 Sep	1	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline	If new deadline not met. Warning that it must be completed prior to next match. Fine, if applicable.	N/A	Stage 1 - T1
		2				
		3				
		4				
		5				
3.1.5 Representation from club at any meeting called	1	Fine, if applicable	N/A	N/A	Stage 1 - T1	
	2					
	3					
	4					

	by EHCD 3.1.5 Response to requests for information by the EHCD, NPUA, TAP	5	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	Fine	N/A	Stage 2 - T1	
		1					
		2					
		3					
		4					
	3.2.5 Withdrawal of a team during the season	1	Regs 3.2.5 & 4.3 apply. Fine, if applicable	N/A	N/A	T3	
		2				T2	
		3				T2	
		4				-	
		5				-	
5. Fixture Management	5.2 Provision of time and venue for each of its home matches by deadline -subject to any variation discretion of the EHCD	1	Reminder that this needs to be completed with a new deadline	If new deadline not met. Fine, if applicable	N/A	T2	
		2				T1	
		3				T1	
		4				T1	
		5				T1	
	5.2 Late notification of change of details	1	Fine	Fine if applicable		T1	
		2					
		3	Warning				
		4					
		5					
6. Matchday Administration	6.1 & 6.5 Provision of Pitch & Facilities and Changing facilities in line with Regulation and no effort to mitigate	1	Warning	Fine, if applicable	Fine, if applicable	T3	
		2				T1	
		3		T1			
		4		T1			
		5		T1			
	6.6 Failure to supply hospitality	1	Warning	Fine, if applicable	Fine, if applicable	T2	
		2				T1	
		3		Warning			
		4		T1			
		5		T1			
	6.6 Hospitality requested or confirmed and not taken	1	Reimburse opposition	Reimburse opposition. Fine, if applicable	Reimburse opposition. Fine, if applicable	T1	
		2				Reimburse opposition. League involved only if non-compliance	
		3					
		4					
		5					
7. Player Registration 8. Team Selection	7 & 8. Fielding an ineligible player in a match or not complying with principles of fair selection	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 1 point deduction	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 2-point deduction	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 4-point deduction	T1	
		2	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 1 point deduction	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 2-point deduction	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 4-point deduction	T1	
		3	Warning. 1 point may be deducted for each player, at ALMC discretion. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC). Fine, if applicable	1 point may be deducted for each player, at ALMC discretion. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC). Fine, if applicable	2 points may be deducted for each player, at ALMC discretion. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined by ALMC)). Fine, if applicable	T1	
		4					
		5					
		5					
		5					
		9. Team, Match sheets & Results	9.4.1 Team late in uploading all players and any team officials participating in a match onto the match sheet on the GMS by specified time.	1	Warning	Fine, if applicable	Fine, if applicable
2	T1						
3	T1						
4	Warning			Warning		Warning & fine, if applicable, for persistent non-compliance	T1
5							

	9.4.3 Team late to confirm score on the GMS by specified time.	1	Warning	Fine, if applicable	Fine, if applicable	T1	
		2		Warning		Warning	T1
		3					T1
		4					T1
		5			Warning & fine, if applicable, for persistent non-compliance		T1
	9.4.4 Team late to confirm details of goals, cards and injuries on the GMS Timeline by specified time.	1	Warning	Fine, if applicable	Fine, if applicable	T1	
		2		Warning	Warning	T1	
		3				Fine, if applicable	T1
		4				T1	
	5	Warning & fine, if applicable, for persistent non-compliance	T1				
	9. Falsifying information on match sheet	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Fine plus 1 point deduction EHCD to determine if team to be relegated at end of season				T3
		2					
3							
4							
5							
10. Dress	19. Uniform kit, additional clothing, numbers	1	Warning	Fine, if applicable	Fine, if applicable	T1	
		2		Warning	Fine, if applicable, for significant non-compliance	T1	
		3	Warning for significant non-compliance	Warning for significant non-compliance	Fine, if applicable, for significant & persistent non-compliance	T1	
		4	N/A			N/A	
		5				N/A	
11. Umpires	11.3 Failure of umpire to register as member of England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		2	Warning	Fine, if applicable	Fine, if applicable	T1	
		3					
		4					
		5					
	11. Failure to supply umpire of appropriate level	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		2	Warning	1 point deduction from match & fine, if applicable	1 point deduction from match & fine, if applicable. EHCD to determine if match is to be replayed	T1	
		3					
		4					
		5	N/A	Warning	1 point deduction from match & fine, if applicable	T1	
12. Discipline	12.2.3 Suspended player missing incorrect match	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team			T1	
		2					
		3					
		4					
		5					
	12.2.4 Fielding an ineligible player in a match (e.g., due to suspension)	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 1 point deduction			T1	
		2	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Team Admin plus 1 point if deliberate			T1	
		3					
		4					
		5	Warning for Team Admin, plus 1 point deduction if deliberate	Loss of match 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Warning for Team Admin plus 1 point deduction if deliberate		T1	
13. Postponement or Abandonment	13. Failure to comply with regulation	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses			T1 plus opposition expenses	
		2					
		3					
		4					
		5					
14. Failure to honour a fixture	14. Failure to honour a fixture	1	Standard penalty: 5-0	Standard penalty:	Standard penalty:	T3 plus additional	

			loss and 1 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined by EHCD. Fine, if applicable	5-0 loss and 2 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 2 point and 0-5 as determined by EHCD. Fine, if applicable	5-0 loss and 2 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 2 point and 0-5 as determined by EHCD. Fine, if applicable	costs to opposition if applicable
		2	Additional Penalty: points deduction for lower team at same grade. Where the forfeiting team's next lowest team is also within these grades (and their game is played) then the points deduction applied above will also be applied to that lower team. If the lower team plays then the result will stand but there will be a 1 point deduction, whatever the score.	Additional Penalty: points deduction for lower team at same grade. Where the forfeiting team's next lowest team is also within these grades (and their game is played) then the points deduction applied above will also be applied to that lower team. If the lower team plays then the result will stand but there will be a 1 point deduction, whatever the score.	Additional Penalty: points deduction for lower team at same grade. Where the forfeiting team's next lowest team is also within these grades (and their game is played) then the points deduction applied above will also be applied to that lower team. If the lower team plays then the result will stand but there will be a 1 point deduction, whatever the score.	T1 plus additional costs to opposition if applicable
		3				
4		Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 1 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined by ALMC. Fine, if applicable No penalty applied to any lower teams which play (subject to standard Fair Selection & Player Eligibility)	Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 2 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined by ALMC. Fine, if applicable No penalty applied to any lower teams which play (subject to standard Fair Selection & Player Eligibility)	Standard penalty: 5-0 loss and 2 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined by ALMC. Fine, if applicable No penalty applied to any lower teams which play (subject to standard Fair Selection & Player Eligibility)		
Any regulations not covered above		1	As determined by EHCD			

APPENDIX 6 – APPEAL NOTICE TEMPLATE

ENGLAND HOCKEY APPEAL NOTICE
To be sent to EHCD pursuant to Reg 16

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

The club/team 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 7 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 Club	
Date	

APPENDIX 7 – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MATCH OFFICIALS

1. TAP may appoint a Match Official (EHMO) to league matches with duties and responsibilities as set out in sections 2-4 below.

2. Matchday Administration

2.1 Teams shall provide the EHMO with a copy of their match sheet and team sheet as entered on the GMS and the EHMO shall check that players and team officials present correspond with information listed and are in line with Reg 9. Only those listed may enter the designated bench area.

2.2 The EHMO shall record all goals including scorer and type of goal, green, yellow and red cards during the match.

2.3 The EHMO shall time the suspension applicable for the issue of any green or yellow cards by the Umpire. The period of suspension shall commence when the player has returned to the designated bench area. For the avoidance of doubt a player or team official who is temporarily suspended from play must sit calmly and quietly throughout the period of suspension and may not be involved in the match in any way. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to work with the EHMO to ensure that this is done.

2.4 The EHMO shall check that the record of the match as per Reg 2.2 is agreed by both teams and umpires on the conclusion of the match and share a copy of the agreed record of the match (whether by photograph, scanned copy or email) with both team managers.

2.5 The EHMO shall check that the record of the match is correctly submitted to the GMS by teams. Any variance of this shall be raised with the EHCD.

3. Powers of Suspension

3.1 The EHMO may direct any player or official to be removed from the designated bench area for indiscipline. This will involve the person concerned leaving the playing area, as directed by the EHMO, for the remainder of the match. Any serious instances involving either an individual or affiliated body MAY be reported as a Disrepute Offence under the Disrepute Offence Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt such action by the EHMO does not require the team concerned to withdraw a player from the pitch for the remainder of the match. Such a suspension does not have to be reported on the GMS but must be notified to EHCD.

3.2 The EHMO may draw the attention of the Umpires to any incident of indiscipline by any player or official from the designated bench area. The Umpires may then impose such personal penalty as they think fit. If the Umpires permanently (red card) or temporarily (green or yellow card) suspend a player or official from the team bench, this will require the relevant team to withdraw a player from the pitch for the duration of the suspension. Such a player may be substituted in line with regulation 12.2.6.

3.3 Any person permanently suspended from the match under Regulation 3.1 or 3.2 may not enter the field of play or designated bench area until completion of the match, which shall include any period of cool down on the field of play after the match.

4. Reporting

The EHMO shall report any significant variance to the League Regulations by either team to EHCD.

5. Club Appointed Match Officials

A Club Appointed MO should undertake the duties as shown in Clauses 2, 3 (excluding 3.1) and 4 above.

APPENDIX 8 – PRIORITY LIST AND CALENDAR

The England Hockey calendar may be found [here](#)

The 2023-24 England Hockey League Calendar including League Reserve Dates is below. If a League Reserve date required for a League fixture is on a Tiered Championships date for nor or both of the teams, the Tiered Championships fixture will be moved by EHCD. If a League Reserve date is on an Area or EH Adult Super6s date the next available League Reserve date will be used

DATE	DATE	LEAGUE RESERVE DATE
Sat 16 Sep	WPrem1 MPrem1	
Sat 23 Sep	WPrem2 MPrem2 WDI&C1	
Sun 24 Sep	MDI&C1	
Sat 30 Sep	MPrem3 WPrem3 WDI&C2	
Sun 01 Oct	MDI&C2	MPrem1 WPrem1
Sat 07 Oct	MPrem4 WPrem4 WDI&C3	MDI&C1
Sun 08 Oct	MDI&C3	MPrem2 WPrem2 WDI&C1
Sat 14 Oct	MPrem5 WPrem5 WDI&C4	MDI&C2
Sun 15 Oct	MDI&C4	MPrem3 WPrem3 WDI&C2
Sat 21 Oct	MPrem6 WPrem6 WDI&C5	MDI&C3
Sun 22 Oct	MPrem7 WPrem7 MDI&C5	WDI&C3
Sat 28 Oct	MPrem8 WPrem8 Tiered Champs 1	
Sun 29 Oct		MPrem4 WPrem4
Sat 04 Nov	MPrem9 WPrem9 WDI&C6	MDI&C4
Sun 05 Nov	MDI&C6	MPrem5&6 WPrem5&6 WDI&C4
Sat 11 Nov	MPrem10 WPrem10 WDI&C7	MDI&C5
Sun 12 Nov	MDI&C7	MPrem7&8 WPrem7&8 WDI&C5
Sat 18 Nov	MPrem11 WPrem11 WDI&C8	MDI&C6
Sun 19 Nov	MDI&C8	MPrem9&10 WPrem9&10 WDI&C6
Sat 25 Nov	WDI&C9	MPrem11 WPrem11 MDI&C7
Sun 26 Nov	MDI&C9	WDI&C7
Sat 02 Dec	WDI&C10	MDI&C8
Sun 03 Dec	MDI&C10	WDI&C8
Sat 09 Dec		MDI&C9&10 WD1&C9&10
Sun 10 Dec		
Sat 16 Dec	Tiered Champs 2	
Sun 17 Dec		
Sat 26 Jan	1. Super6s Final prep 2. Tiered Champs 3	
Sun 27 Jan	Super6s Final	
Sat 03 Feb	WDI&C11	
Sun 04 Feb	MDI&C11	
Sat 10 Feb	MPrem12 WPrem12 WDI&C12 MDI&C12	
Sun 11 Feb	Tiered Champs 4	
Sat 17 Feb	MPrem13 WPrem13 WDI&C13	MDI&C11
Sun 18 Feb	MDI&C13	MPrem12 WPrem12 WDI&C11
Sat 24 Feb	MPrem14 WPrem14 WDI&C14	MDI&C12
Sun 25 Feb	MDI&C14	MPrem13 WPrem13 WDI&C12
Sat 02 Mar	MPrem15 WPrem15 WDI&C15	MDI&C13
Sun 03 Mar	MDI&C15	MPrem14 WPrem14 WDI&C13
Sat 09 Mar	MPrem16 WPrem16 WDI&C15	MDI&C14&15
Sun 10 Mar	MDI&C16	MPrem15&16 WPrem15&16 WDI&C14&15
Sat 16 Mar	MPrem17 WPrem17 WDI&C17	MDI&C15&16
Sun 17 Mar	MDI&C17	WDI&C15&16
Sat 23 Mar	MPrem18 WPrem18 WDI&C18	MDI&C5&16&17
Sun 24 Mar	MDI&C18	MPrem 17 WPrem17 WDI&C16&17
Sat 30 Mar	EASTER	MDI&C17
Sun 31 Mar	EASTER	WDI&C17
Sat 06 Apr	MPrem19 WPrem19	MDI&C18 WD1&C18
Sun 07 Apr	Tiered Champs 5	MPrem 18&19 WPrem18&19
Sat 13 Apr	MPremSemis WPremSemis	
Sun 14 Apr	MPremFinals WPremFinals	
Sat 20 Apr		
Sun 21 Apr		
Sat 27 Apr		
Sun 04 May	M Tiered Champs 6	
Mon 05 May	W Tiered Champs 6	

APPENDIX 9 – SHOOT-OUT COMPETITION

In a shoot-out competition, five players from each team take a one-on-one shoot-out alternately against a goalkeeper from the other team as set out in this Regulation. The shoot-out competition comprises all series of shoot-outs required to determine a result.

The following sets out both the playing Rules and the procedures to be followed.

1. If the shoot-out competition takes place after the end of a match, the first shoot-out should take place within four minutes of the end of regulation playing time.
2. The respective Team Managers provide five players to take and one player to defend the shoot-outs from those on the Match Report except as excluded below. A player nominated to defend the shoot-outs can also be nominated to take a shoot-out. No substitutions / replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition other than as specified below.
3. A player who is still serving a disciplinary suspension by the Umpires (or Official where appointed) at the time the shoot-out competition takes place or has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition, cannot take part in that shoot-out competition. A player who has been temporarily suspended (green or yellow card) may take part in the shoot-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match.
4. The Umpires (or Match Official where appointed) will specify the method of timing shoot-outs taking account of the facilities available and the need to control time accurately.
5. The Umpires (or Match Official where appointed) will specify the goal to be used.
6. A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot-out.
7. All persons listed on the Match Report other than any player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition are permitted to enter the field of play outside the 23m area used for the shoot-out but must be at least 10 metres from the spot where the ball is placed at the start of the shoot-out.
8. The goalkeeper of the team taking a shoot-out shall wait on the back-line outside the circle.
9. A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.
10. Players taking a shoot-out and also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents are allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put back on their protective equipment.
11. Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper of the other team making a total of 10 shoot-outs.
12. Taking a shoot-out:
 - a) the goalkeeper starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts; the ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;
 - b) an attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;
 - c) an Umpire blows the whistle to start time;
 - d) an Umpire (or Match Official where appointed) starts the clock;
 - e) the attacker and the goalkeeper may then move in any direction;
 - f) the shoot-out is completed when:
 - i) 8 seconds has elapsed since the starting signal;
 - ii) a goal is scored;
 - iii) the attacker commits an offence;
 - iv) the goalkeeper commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle in which case the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper;
 - v) the goalkeeper commits an intentional offence inside or outside the circle, in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;
 - vi) the ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.
13. If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above, it can be taken and defended by any eligible player on the Match Report subject to the provisions of Articles 17, 18 and 19 of this Appendix.
14. The team scoring the most goals (or ahead by more goals than the other team has untaken shoot-outs available) is the winner.
15. A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot-out competition.
16. If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:
 - a) that player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper, cannot be replaced;
 - b) the replacement for a suspended goalkeeper can only come from the five players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition:
 - i) the replacement goalkeeper is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper they are replacing was wearing;
 - ii) for taking their own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
 - c) any shoot-out due to be taken by a suspended player is forfeited; any goals scored by this player before being suspended count as a goal.
17. If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper is incapacitated:
 - a) that goalkeeper may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded in this Appendix or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition;
 - b) the replacement goalkeeper:
 - i) is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper was wearing;

- ii) if this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
18. If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded above or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition.
 19. If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs:
 - a) a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix;
 - b) the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;
 - c) the team whose player took the first shoot-out in a series defends the first shoot-out of the next series;
 - d) when one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot-outs, that team is the winner.
 20. If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, additional series of shoot-outs are taken with the same players subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix:
 - a) the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;
 - b) the team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.
 21. Unless varied by these regulations, the Rules of Hockey apply during a shoot-out.

APPENDIX 10 – NATIONAL GAME PANEL**Introduction**

1. **Purpose.** The National Game Panel (NGP) is a committee of the Board of England Hockey (EH Board) with delegated authority to deal with the administration and operation of the national game.
2. **Scope.** The national game is defined as the England Hockey Leagues (both men and women) and the national domestic competitions directly organised and delivered by England Hockey. It also includes elements of officiating and national policy that will need to be considered in conjunction with the Areas Standing Committee such as rules or standard regulations changes.
3. **Effective from.** The NGP is effective from September 2023 and will assume the responsibilities as set in these Terms of Reference.

Aims and Responsibilities

4. **Aims.** The aims of the NGP are to bring together all those bodies responsible for delivering the national game to ensure that the rules and regulations of England Hockey (EH) are implemented and updated regularly, to provide insight and advice in order to address operational issues affecting the national game and to facilitate consistent implementation of EH Board strategic direction in operational delivery.
5. **Responsibilities.** Subject to Regulations made from time to time by the EH Board and any other reasonable requests by the EH Board, the responsibilities of the NGP include:
 - a. meet as required to consider those matters concerning the operational delivery and administration of the national game as directed by the members or by EH, reporting in writing the outcomes of such meetings to the EH Board, to the members through open and transparent reporting,
 - b. act as the body responsible for considering proposals for regulatory and policy amendments by member bodies and EH staff. Make recommendations to EH for the developing of rules and regulations that support the consistent delivery of the national game for approval by EH and communicate and implement any agreed changes.
 - c. support England Hockey Competitions Department (EHCD) in determining rulings relating to the national game.
 - d. engage with the Area Standing Committee (ASC) on those matters and considerations affecting the entirety of the domestic game,
 - e. promote, champion, and encourage Equality, Diversity and Inclusion across the sport.
 - f. other such activities as the EH Board may from time to time decide within the remit of the NGP.

Membership

6. **Membership.** The Membership of the NGP will be as follows:
 - a. The Chair of the Technical Appointing Panel ('TAP') or agreed alternate.
 - b. The Chair of the National Programme Umpiring Association ('NPUA') or agreed alternate.
 - c. A representative of the England Hockey Competitions Department ('EHCD');
 - d. Four Club Representatives from clubs who play in the England Hockey League ('EHL'), England Hockey Championships, England Hockey Masters' and/or Junior Championships.
 - e. EH Disciplinary Lead or agreed alternate.
 - f. A permanently appointed secretary from within EH staff.
7. The Executive Team of EH shall appoint a Chair for the NGP.
8. Four Club Representatives from those clubs performing within the EHL will be appointed by the EH Board annually at the end of the

season following two existing Club Representatives stepping down via an application process as directed by the Chair of the NGP.

Meetings

9. **Frequency.** The NGP will meet twice a year, either virtually or in person as and when required.
10. **Agenda.** The agenda will be circulated to all members by the Secretary (as appointed by EH) following consultation from members on Agenda items circulated five days in advance.
11. **Minutes.** A synopsis of the minutes, noted by the Secretary, will be published on the EH website under the NGP once approved by the Chair as soon as reasonably practicable.
12. **Actions arising from minutes of any associated Committees or Functional Working Groups.** During the meeting, the NGP will consider the minutes of any associated committees or functional working groups and address any actions arising.

Revisions

13. The NGP can review and amend these Terms of Reference subject to the approval of the EH Board as and when is necessary and appropriate to do so.