

## Key changes in the 2024-25 Area League Regulations

While there are some structural changes and additions to the 2024-25 Regulations, many core elements remain consistent overall.

Reg #	Regulation	Comment
1	Introduction	A new "Purpose" statement (1.1) explains the aim of the Regulations
3	Entry into the League	Adds a specific fine amount (£150) for failure to return perpetual trophies (3.1.8).
		New clause about teams withdrawn during the season potentially affecting lower teams' promotion eligibility (3.2.5)
4	The Competition	No major changes in structure or scoring systems
5	Fixtures	Consider England Hockey guidance on Faith and Fixtures when rescheduling fixtures (5.1.2)
6	Matchday Administration	Hospitality regulations are clarified (6.6) – clubs must seek ALMC approval if they will not be providing Hospitality.
7	Player Eligibility - Registration	Introduces the concept of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for international players
		Clarification on process to follow if registering a new or existing player on the GMS
		Clarification on transfer request process
8	Player Eligibility - Fair Selection	[Refer to detailed notes in table below]
9	Teams, Match Sheets & Results	More specific deadlines for submitting match information: – Grade 2-3: Goal scorers, Green, Yellow & Red Cards by 2000 hrs <i>on the day of the match</i> – Grade 4-5: Goal scorers, Green, Yellow & Red Cards by 2000 hrs <i>on the day after the match</i>
10	Dress	Adds a requirement for clubs to have different colours for Home and Away games
11	Umpires & Match Officials	More detail on umpire appointment procedures and responsibilities.
		Requirement for clubs to confirm venue, start time and match information to Area Appointed umpires at least 3 days before the fixture.
12	Discipline	expand significantly on conduct violations and club responsibilities regarding discipline.
		Introduces more detailed procedures for dealing with yellow and red cards
13	Postponement or Abandonment	More comprehensive guidelines for postponement and abandonment procedures
16	Appeal Procedure	Extend the deadline for submitting an Appeal Notice from 3 days to 5 days after notification of the decision.
		Adds a requirement for a £100 deposit for requesting a Further Appeal (not present in 2023-24)

## 8. Player Eligibility - Fair Selection

The 2024-25 Fair Selection Regulations provide more detailed guidance, address more specific scenarios and aim to close potential loopholes in the fair selection process. It provides clearer explanations and additional rules to ensure fair competition.

Reg #	Regulation	Comment
—	Structure and Organisation	Reorganised and expanded the Fair Selection section (Section 8), making it more detailed and comprehensive
		Provide clearer definitions and explanations of concepts like "doubling up" and "dropping" players
8.1	Scope and Objectives	Explicitly state that only the current season is relevant for player eligibility, which wasn't mentioned in the previous version
		Emphasise equal opportunities as part of the Fair Selection objective
8.2	Movement of Players	Provide more explicit guidance on selecting players for lower-ranked teams.
		Clause 8.2.2.2 prohibits clubs from "dropping" players to strengthen lower-ranked teams for important matches
8.2.4	Matchweeks with No Fixtures for Higher-Ranked Teams	Introduces more detailed rules for situations when higher-ranked teams have no fixtures (8.2.4)
		States explicitly that Regulation 8.2.3 doesn't apply in such situations and that a Selection Exemption Pass (SXP) is required for selecting players from higher-ranked teams
8.2.5	Multiple Fixtures in a Matchweek	Adds a new section (8.2.5) addressing situations where a team has more than one fixture in a Matchweek, which wasn't covered in the previous version
8.3	Doubling Up	Provides a more detailed and structured explanation of the doubling up concept and its conditions
		States explicitly that doubling up is only permitted at Grades 4 and 5, which was stated less clearly previously
8.4	Goalkeepers	Introduce more specific rules for goalkeepers doubling up (8.4.2 and 8.4.3), including exceptions for emergencies
8.5	Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)	Provides more detail on the application of the SXP and introduces the possibility of a weekly deadline for SXP requests (8.5.4)
	Youth Experience Player	<i>The Youth Experience Player (YEP) concept is removed* from the Regulations entirely (previously 8.5)</i>

\* Reasons for removing the YEP concept:

1. Safeguarding young players. Overloading high-performing young hockey players (e.g. school, club, age group *and* representative hockey) can lead to several negative consequences: Increased risk of injury; Increased risk of illness; Negative impact on development; Reduced enjoyment; Decreased longevity in sport, aka "burnout".
2. The YEP allowed developing players to double-up in specific circumstances, which created issues with player eligibility for the EH Competitions Department in the EHL.

## Appendices

The Youth Experience Player concept is removed from the doubling up restrictions and some rules (like match duration) are simplified.

Appx #	Regulation	Comment
2	England Hockey Policies/Rules/Regulations	The list is largely the same, with a few minor changes
		The 2024-25 version adds "EH Guidance on Faith and Fixtures" to the list
		"EH Code of Ethics and Behaviour" in 2023-24 is changed to "EH Code of Conduct" in 2024-25.
3	Variances to FIH Rules of Hockey	Rule 5.1: Simplifies the match duration to two 35-minute halves for all Area Adult League Matches, removing the distinction for Grade 1 & Adult Tier 1 Championships
		Rule 14 (Personal Penalties - Suspensions): Adds more detail, including that suspended players/officials may not participate in coaching or supporting during their suspension
4	Fair Selection & Player Eligibility Guidance Notes	Removes the "Youth Experience Player" (YEP) concept from the doubling up restrictions
		Doubling up restrictions are more detailed in the 2024-25 Regulations, especially for different grades
		This includes when a team has a rearranged fixture on Sunday having already played on Saturday in the same Matchweek, typically due to postponement of a scheduled fixture due to bad weather
5	Standard Penalties & Tariffs of Fines	The 2024-25 version is more comprehensive and organised, with separate tables for each regulation
		New section added in 2024-25: Regulation 14 (Failure to Honour a Fixture or Forfeiture of a Match)
		Some fines and penalties have been adjusted or clarified: Fine amounts remain the same (T1 - £25, T2 - £50, T3 - £100)
6	Appeal Notice Template	Appeal submission timeframe changed from 3 days to 5 days after notification of decision