

Minutes of last meeting

24th April 2025



Meeting name	National Game Panel				
Venue	Teams				
Date	24 th April 2025	Start Time	17.00	End Time	18.30
Lead	Keith Carder (Chair) KC				
Attendance	Stephen Barlow (EH) SB, Jo Thomas-Ellis (EH) JTE Nick Kendall (TBB) NK, DM, David Ellcock (NPUA) DE, Jo Pennycook (Disciplinary) JP, Christine Crossley (Sevenoaks) CC, Tony Jones (Surbiton) TJ. Annie Hairsine (TAP) AH Mike Kefford (Guildford) MK Leigh Maasdrop (Old Georgians) LM				
Apologies	Donna Mills (Ipswich)				
Welcome & Recap of activity during season 2024/25 KC – Welcomed the group and JTE reviewed with the group all the activity that they have provided support with this season. There was 7 occasions when the NGP was consulted via email during the season. Special Exemption Regulation (SXP) SB – Outlined the challenges around the issuing of SXPs this season especially for the last for games. The group recognized the challenges especially with the unalignment of fixtures at EHL level between the Premier Division & the others. TJ – Stated that he had received feedback SXP system has been the fairest approach but was concerned about the system stopping the development of promising U18 players. KC – Advised that this regulation was going to be thoroughly reviewed both internally & with the 8 Area leagues asked if any member had any further suggestions on how the regulation could be improved for the 2026-27 season to email direct to JTE.					
Adult EH Tier 1 Championships Season 2024-25 SB – Has reviewed this competition and referred to the amount of work that goes into the running of this, which has seen 30 ties to be played and out of this 12-team withdrawing Further work was carried out with the remaining teams changing the competition format into pools to provide remaining teams with more fixtures only to have further teams withdraw SB – made a proposal that EH will not offer the Adult EH Tier 1 Championship for the season 2026 -27 which the NGP group fully supported.					
EH Junior, Adult & Master Championships Prior to the meeting the group was provided with a paper about match duration that was present at a recent ALMC meeting detailing the rationale and proposal for the Implementation of 4 x 17.5-minute quarters for the above competitions and possibly in the higher Area league divisions. JP – was in favour but said that we need to be consistent across all levels NK also agreed with this. CC – had concerns over the increase in time required on pitch bookings and additional costs meaning less games being played in any one day, she also stated that some clubs do have restrictions on the use of their floodlights again will have an impact. DE – Has had recent feedback at EH Junior finals from coaches who would prefer 4 x 17.5 minutes In general discussions led to the group seeing the benefits to this but felt that we needed to consider the wider implications if this was to be introduced.					

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Review of data obtained to support FIH rules for implementation to Premier Division Season 2025/26

For - Match duration- i.e. 4 x 15 mins

SB – Outlined to the group that we felt the time is now right for this implementation and we should be following FIH rules on match timings for our Premier Division fixtures & that he has consulted with the NPUA who are also fully supportive of this move.

DE & AH – That whilst umpires would have no issue with the timing of the game the more challenging bit will be the 40sec timing for penalty corners

JP – fully supports the move & feels that as all Premier Division fixtures have appointed match Officials (MO) then there is a possibility that clubs could support this with an additional home appointed MO who could do the timing

TJ – concerns over scoreboards at venues with time shown v real-time as quite often scoreboards are being updated by someone else away from the field of play

Generally, the group would support the move following further investigations & procedures to be put in place to deal with the timing of the games.

AOB - KC - Thanked the group for all their work & support throughout the season, especially responding to actions promptly.

He also advised that the membership of the group has worked well & invited all members to remain in post for the Season 2025-2026 but should anyone feel they could no longer fulfill the commitment to advise JTE in writing asap.

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