

London Hockey Area Company Membership Policy

Purpose

- A. The purpose of this Policy is to express the authority set out in both the London Area Company and England Hockey Articles of Association regarding membership and fees, including:
- a. Classes of membership
 - b. Application for membership
 - c. Information relating to subscriptions, fees and other payments
 - d. Information regarding termination, suspension and/or cessation of membership

The London Area Company Membership Policy must be read in conjunction with the England Hockey Membership Policy issued on 8 November 2021.

Definitions

- B. In this policy the following words and expressions shall, unless the context otherwise requires, bear the following meanings:

“**Area**” means any one of the eight Area Companies.

“**Area Companies**” means eight Companies Limited by Guarantee with Constitutions approved by England Hockey and admitted to membership of the Company to facilitate governance by the Company of hockey in eight geographical Areas of England as defined by the Company pursuant to the Company’s Articles and regulations made pursuant to those Articles;

“**BUCS**” means British University and College Sport;

“**club**” means an association of persons or organisation, whether or not including ‘club’ within its name, established for purposes that include the playing of hockey;

“**Company**” means London Area Company, one of the Area Companies;

“**County (Sub-Area)**” means an organisation, often this will be a County hockey body, admitted to membership of the Company pursuant to the Company’s Articles and any regulations made pursuant to those Articles to facilitate the governance of hockey in England as a County/Sub-Area within the geographical Area of an Area Company;

“Dispute Resolution Procedure” means the procedure for deciding disputes concerning membership issues as described in Article 57.4 of the England Hockey Articles.

“EHO” means the England Hockey Officiating Club

“England Hockey” means England Hockey, the National Association and sole and exclusive Governing Body for hockey in England;

“Members” means all the individuals, corporations, associations, clubs and organisations admitted to membership (of any class or category) of the Company either pursuant to the Company Articles or in accordance with regulations made pursuant to those Articles whether entitled to vote at General Meetings or not;

“Non-Voting Member” means a Member admitted to membership of the Company as a Non-Voting Member pursuant to the Company Articles and any regulations made pursuant to those Articles;

“Other Organisations” means an entity wishing to offer hockey activity and not an Area, County (Sub-Area), club, Welsh Club or Schools

“Schools” means establishments for primary, secondary, tertiary or further education

“Voting Member” means a Member admitted to membership of the Company as a Voting Member pursuant to these Articles and any regulations made pursuant to these Articles.

“Welsh Club” means a club that is a member of Hockey Wales

“Writing” means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

All words in the singular also include the plural.

1. Classes of Membership

1.1 There are two classes of membership to London Area Company.

1.1.1 Voting Member; to include clubs who are voting members of England Hockey, County (Sub-Area), England Hockey and the EHO.

1.1.2 Non-Voting Member; to include, but not limited to, clubs and Other Organisations with no vote wishing to offer BUCS or informal hockey to their membership, and individuals admitted to membership by the Company.

1.2 The classification of Members and the number of votes accorded is set out in Appendix I

1.3 The Company reserves the right to vary the criteria for membership

2. Applications for Membership

2.1 All applications for membership, other than by an individual, must be submitted in writing in accordance with the application process set out by England Hockey, and signed by or on behalf of the applicant, in such form as the England Hockey Board may from time to time determine.

2.2 All applications for membership, other than by an individual, should be made in accordance with the England Hockey Membership Policy.

2.3 To be admitted to membership and for that membership to continue, applicants, who are not individuals, are liable to any payments and agree to be bound by any Codes, Rules, Regulations, Policies and Procedures set out in the England Hockey Membership Policy.

2.4 All applications for membership by an individual must be submitted in writing to the Company and signed by the applicant in such form as the Company may from time to time determine.

2.5 A club wishing to be accorded voting membership of the Company must meet all the criteria and procedures set out in the England Hockey Membership Policy.

2.6 A club admitted to voting membership of England Hockey will, at the same time, be considered to have made an application for voting membership of the geographically relevant Area Company and any geographically relevant County (Sub-Area).

2.6.1 A club will be admitted to voting membership of the Company on the date that notification of admittance to membership by England Hockey is received by the Company.

2.7 A County (Sub-Area) wishing to be accorded voting membership of the Company must meet all the criteria and procedures set out in the England Hockey Membership Policy.

2.8 A County (Sub-Area) admitted to voting membership of England Hockey will, at the same time, be considered to have made an application for voting membership of the geographically relevant Area Company.

2.8.1 A County (Sub-Area) will be admitted to voting membership of the Company on the date that notification of admittance to membership of England Hockey is received by the Company.

3. Applications to Non-Voting Membership

3.1 A club, Welsh Club, School or Other Organisation wishing to be accorded Non-Voting Membership of the Company must meet all the criteria and procedures set out in the England Hockey Membership Policy.

3.2 A club, School or Other Organisation admitted to non-voting membership of England Hockey will, at the same time, be considered to have made an application for non-voting membership of the geographically relevant Area Company and any geographically relevant County (Sub-Area).

3.2.1 A club, School or Other Organisation will be admitted to non-voting membership of the Company on the date that notification of admittance to membership by England Hockey is received by the Company.

4. Continuity of Membership

4.1 Members of the Company will continue to receive the benefits of that membership so long as they:

4.1.1 continue to meet the criteria required for applications to membership of England Hockey; and

4.1.2 complete any annual subscription process to England Hockey or the Company; and

4.1.3 settle any and all subscriptions, fees and other payments due to England Hockey or the Company and or County (Sub-Areas); and

4.1.4 are not subject to the clause(s) for suspension, termination or cessation of membership of England Hockey or the Company.

4.1.5 Adopt, agree and be bound by those Codes, rules, regulations, policies and procedures as set out by England Hockey and the Company from time to time.

4.2 Membership of the Company is not transferable.

4.3 In the event of a new club, Welsh Club, County (Sub-Area) or organisation being formed by the merger of two or more existing Members of England Hockey, at least one of which is also an existing Member of the Company,

4.3.1 the membership of the existing Members will cease in line with the Suspension, Termination and Cessation clause(s) below;

4.3.2 the new club, Welsh Club, County (Sub-Area) or organisation should submit a new application to membership in line with the clauses above.

4.4 In the event of a change in status of an existing Member's entity, for example upon incorporation of an organisation:

4.4.1 the membership of the existing Member will cease in line with the Suspension, Termination and Cessation clause(s) below;

4.4.2 the new club, Welsh Club, County (Sub-Area) or Organisation should submit a new application to membership in line with the clauses above.

4.5 A County (Sub Area) making an application to be a Voting Member of England Hockey for the first time must obtain the written consent of the Areas Standing committee before proceeding with the application.

5. Subscriptions, Fees and Other Payments

5.1 Payment of a subscription, fee or other payment may be required upon application for membership and subsequently to maintain continuity of membership. The rate of this subscription, fee or other payment will be set annually in accordance with the Company Articles of Association and may be varied from time to time. The subscription, fee or other payment may be set at different rates for different Members, including Members of the same class.

5.2 The rates of subscriptions, fees and other payments will be published annually.

6. Voting rights

6.1 Voting Members hold voting rights in General Meetings of the Company in accordance with their class of membership.

6.2 The number of votes accorded to Voting Members may be set at different rates for different Members of the same class.

6.3 Non-Voting Members do not hold any voting rights.

6.4 The classification of Members and the number of votes accorded is set out in Appendix I.

7. Suspension, Termination and Cessation of Membership

7.1 Membership of the Company will cease in the case that:

7.1.1 a Member ceases to be a Member of England Hockey; or

7.1.2 the England Hockey Board determines that the existing Member should be a Member of a different Area Company or no Area Company; or

7.1.3 an individual Non-Voting Member, who is not a Member of England Hockey dies, or resigns as a Member by giving notice to the Company.

7.2 Membership of the Company may be suspended in so far as it applies to a Member's participation in League Hockey if any subscription, fee or other payment is not paid to England Hockey, the Company, an Area League or a County (Sub-Area) on the due date, pending settlement of the amounts unpaid.

7.2.1 In the event any amounts remain unpaid one month after the due date, the Company will notify the England Hockey Board, who may act in accordance with the England Hockey Articles of Association and Membership Policy.

7.2.2 The England Hockey Board may determine to remove suspension or readmit to membership such entity upon payment of such sum.

7.3 In the event that any Member fails to comply with the terms as outlined in this Policy or is found to be in breach of England Hockey's Code of Ethics and Behaviour, the Company reserves the right to consider disciplinary action. This action may include a proposal to the England Hockey Board to consider the suspension or termination of membership of England Hockey under Article 12.3 of the England Hockey Articles of Association.

7.4 Any Member whose membership of the Company is terminated, suspended, or otherwise ceases, shall also automatically have their membership of the County (Sub-Area) terminated, suspended or cease.

8. Member Applications to change Area

8.1 A Club will be allocated to their County (Sub-Area) and Area by EH and will have the voting rights applicable to its class of membership in accordance with Appendix 1.

8.2 A Club's allocation to an Area can only be changed following a successful application made in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Procedure.

8.3 A Club's allocation to a County (Sub-Area) can only be changed following a successful application made in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Procedure.

8.4 A County (Sub-Area) may not change Area without the full agreement of the Areas Standing Committee of England Hockey.

8.5 Schools will always be allocated to a County (Sub-Area) and Area based on their geographical location and this allocation can only be changed following a successful application made in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Appendix I

Classification of Membership Table

Membership Class/Organisation Type		Examples of Organisations
Voting Member		
AVM 1	Club	Clubs which offer their playing members one or more of the following: adult league hockey (excluding BUCS competitions), adult recreational hockey, junior hockey, Flyerz, walking hockey; and have a legal status agreed by EH (including but not limited to one of the following): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unincorporated organisations • University/higher education hockey clubs • Charities • Companies limited by guarantee
AVM 2	County (Sub-Area)	County Hockey Associations and entities performing the role of County (Sub-Area), with constitution/articles approved by EH. Hockey Associations for Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man
AVM 3	EHO	England Hockey Officiating
AVM 4	England Hockey	Voting Member for the purposes of any Resolution to alter or amend the Company Articles of Association
Non-Voting Member		
ANVM 5	Clubs or Other Organisations	BUCS only Clubs with no adult league teams who subscribe/affiliate through BUCS
ANVM 6	Schools	All schools, whether state or private, whether primary, secondary or tertiary/further education establishments.
ANVM 7	Welsh Clubs	Clubs, located in Wales and which offer their playing members adult league hockey in one or more leagues regulated by England Hockey or an Area Company and have a legal status agreed by England hockey.
ANVM 8	Individuals	Life Members of legacy Regions, or other individuals accorded membership by the Board of the Company
ANVM 9	Other Organisations	Any other organisation offering hockey activity in England opting to operate in accordance with all of the codes, policies and regulations of England Hockey, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until 31st December 2022 County Umpiring Associations • Until 31st December 2022 County Hockey Associations and entities performing the role of County (Sub-Area), with constitution/articles not approved by EH.

Voting Rights Table

Membership Class/Organisation Type		Number of Votes* <small>*votes cannot be split</small>
Voting Member		
AVM 1	Club	Vote at General Meeting 1 vote per club present or by proxy Weighted voting in the event of a poll: Weighted voting: 0 – 2 adult league teams = 1 vote 3 – 6 adult league teams = 2 votes 7 – 11 adult league teams = 3 votes 12 – 19 adult league teams = 4 votes 20+ adult league teams = 5 votes
AVM 2	County (Sub-Area)	Vote at General Meeting 1 vote per County (Sub-Area) present or by proxy Weighted voting in the event of a poll: 2 votes
AVM 3	EHO	1 vote
AVM 4	England Hockey	Sufficient votes in so far as it relates to a Resolution to alter or amend the Company Articles to pass or defeat the Resolution.
Non-Voting Member		
ANVM 5	Clubs or Other Organisations	0 votes
ANVM 6	Schools	0 votes
ANVM 7	Welsh Clubs	0 votes
ANV 8	Other Organisations	0 votes