



NORTH WEST HOCKEY

Key Changes in the 2024-2025 Regulations

Key Changes in the 2024-2025 Adult League Regulations

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

Regulation Number	Regulation	Comment
1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A new "Purpose" statement (1.1) explains the aim of the Regulations
3	Entry into the League	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adds a specific fine amount (£150) for failure to return perpetual trophies (3.1.8)New clause about teams withdrawn during the season potentially affecting lower teams' promotion eligibility (3.2.5)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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No major changes in structure or scoring systems
5	Fixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Considers England Hockey guidance on Faith and Fixtures when rescheduling fixtures (5.1.2)
6	Matchday Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hospitality regulations are clarified (6.6) – clubs must seek ALMC approval if they will not be providing Hospitality
7	Player Eligibility - Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduces the concept of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for international players in the glossaryClarification on process to follow if registering a new or existing player on the GMSClarification on transfer request process
8	Player Eligibility - Fair Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">[Refer to detailed notes in table below]
9	Teams, Match Sheets & Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More specific deadlines for submitting match information:<i>Grade 2-3: Goal scorers, Green, Yellow & Red Cards by 2000 hrs on the day of the match</i>– <i>Grade 4-5: Goal scorers, Green, Yellow & Red Cards by 2000 hrs on the day after the match</i>
10	Dress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adds a requirement for clubs to have different colours for Home and Away games
11	Umpires & Match Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More detail on umpire appointment procedures and responsibilities

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for clubs to confirm venue, start time and match information to Area Appointed umpires at least 3 days before the fixture
12	Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded significantly on conduct violations and club responsibilities regarding discipline Introduces more detailed procedures for dealing with yellow and red cards
13	Postponement or Abandonment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More comprehensive guidelines for postponement and abandonment procedures
16	Appeal Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2023-2024)

Player Eligibility - Fair Selection

The 2024-2025 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.

Regulation Number	Regulation	Comment
—	Structure and Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more explicit guidance on selecting players for lower-ranked teams Clause 8.2.2 prohibits clubs from "dropping" players to strengthen lower-ranked teams for important matches
8.2.4	Matchweeks with No Fixtures for Higher-Ranked Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Regulation Number	Regulation	Comment
8.3	Doubling Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces more specific rules for goalkeepers doubling up (8.4.2 and 8.4.3), including exceptions for emergencies
8.5	Selection Exemption Pass (SXP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides more detail on the application of the SXP and introduces the possibility of a weekly deadline for SXP requests (8.5.4)
	<i>Youth Experience Player</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Youth Experience Player (YEP) concept is removed* from the Regulations entirely (previously 8.5)</i>

Primary reasons for removing the YEP concept:

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”.

The YEP allowed developing players to double-up in specific circumstances, which created issues with player eligibility for EH Competitions Department in the EHL.

Key Changes in the Disciplinary Regulations (effective from 1 September 2024)

- Replaces Red Card & Matchday Misconduct Regulations and the Disrepute Offence Regulations with a single document.
- Greater clarity and consistency in the disciplinary processes o Useful definitions section.
- Creation of two clear disciplinary pathways:
 - red cards - no changes “in game”
 - matchday misconduct offence (MMO) replaced with post-match red card for a “straight” red card offence committed within 30 minutes of end of match
 - misconduct complaints - replace disrepute offences