



**MIDLANDS
HOCKEY**

Welcome

ADULT LEAGUES & COMPETITIONS

PRESEASON ALL CLUBS MEETING - 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

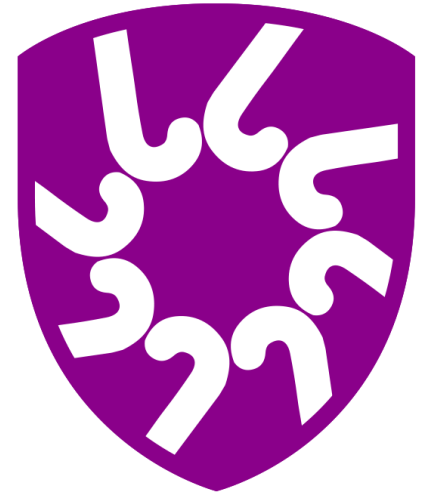
While we wait for the meeting to begin, please enter **your name** and the **Club** you are representing in the Teams Chat, so we can track attendance.

Meeting Admin

- ▶ The meeting will be recorded, so we don't miss anything.
- ▶ Please enter **your name** and the **Club** you are representing in the Teams chat, so we can track attendance.
- ▶ With so many attendees and in anticipation of questions, we are asking that the **questions be put in the chat**. If there is time at the end of the presentation we will attempt to answer. Otherwise, all questions and answers will be documented and sent to all attendees.
- ▶ All the guidance documents referred to in this meeting are available on the Midlands website, here: <https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents>
- ▶ This presentation will be posted on the Midlands website (as above).

Introduction from Midlands Chair

- ▶ The Midlands Chair, **Tim Lorimer**, has requested to say a few words.
- ▶ <https://midlands.englishhockey.co.uk/about-midlands-hockey>



**MIDLANDS
HOCKEY**

Regulations

- ▶ Summary of regulation changes for 2025/26 is listed in the document '**Summary of Changes - Area Adult League Regulations 2025-26**'.
 - The Regulations and Summary of Changes can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ Changes include:
 - Home team **MUST contact the opposition** team between 10 and 21 days before a fixture to confirm match details.
 - Team Selection updated with simplified structure and refined doubling up rules.

AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2025-26

AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2025-2026

The Area Adult League Regulations 2025-2026 (Appendix A of the Area Regulations) come into effect for each Area Company when approved by the Area Standing Committee under regulation 1.8 of the Area Regulations.
Note: Separate regulations will be issued by England Hockey for the National League currently known as the England Hockey League which England Hockey administers.

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2025 - 26

While the core framework of the Regulations remains stable, the 2025-26 update introduces a much more granular promotion-and-relegation system, retitles and reshapes the player-eligibility section, and tightens several administrative rules.

Reg #	Regulation	Comment / Nature of Change
Glossary	Definitions	Adds new terms: "Cascade Effect", "Higher/Lower Division", "Parallel Division", "Ranking", "Reprieve", "Vacancy". Updates several existing definitions for clarity
1	Introduction	Restructured with clearer section headings (1.1-1.5) and improved organisation
2	Management	Clarifies ALMC diversity expectations and committee appointment process (2.4.1-2.4.3).
3	Entry into the League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2025-26 regulations have added a sub-section on "Club & Team Entry" which clarifies the process and requirements for entry. A new clause (3.1.7) has been added requiring club representation at meetings called by the ALMC and a timely response to requests for information. A new deadline of 1st February has been set for the return of all perpetual trophies to the ALMC. The fine for failure to return such trophies is now £150
4	The Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Cascade Effect" automatic knock-on relegations/reprieves when NL interaction occurs (4.5.6 (c)) Vacancy-filling hierarchy clarified (4.5.8)
5	Fixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced fixture management procedures with specific timelines for pre/post-Christmas matches (5.2.1) Deadline for changes to fixture details increased from 10 to 21 days New - Home teams must contact the opposition between 10 and 21 days before the fixture to confirm match details to their opposition
6	Matchday Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1.5 Designated bench area must be at least 5 metres from any spectator area.

Promotions & Relegations

- ▶ At the end of the season, the normal approach of promoting the top two in each Division will be implemented. The exception being Premier where only one team is promoted to the EHL.
 - To match these promotions, there will be matching relegations from the Divisions above.
 - In some cases, PPM (points per match) will be used to identify which teams should be relegated.
- ▶ At the end of last season, we had a request from another Area Club to join the Midlands Leagues. This request was rejected at the time, as it was felt necessary to inform Clubs at the beginning of this season that additional relegations would be required to fit them in at the correct grade.
 - Currently the Club has requested to move two Grade 3 teams and one Grade 5 team, all women's teams.
- ▶ Please see the document '**Midlands Guidance 2025-26_Promotions & Relegations**' on the Midlands website.

GMS

- ▶ There are a few changes to the GMS this season, some yet to be made live, including:
 - Transfers.
 - Changes to how some information is displayed and GMS notifications.

- ▶ Club Admin and Team Contacts for each team must be available on the GMS by **8th September**.
 - All Club Admin and Team Contact details, email & phone number, must be on view.
 - Contact details can be updated via user profile in GMS.

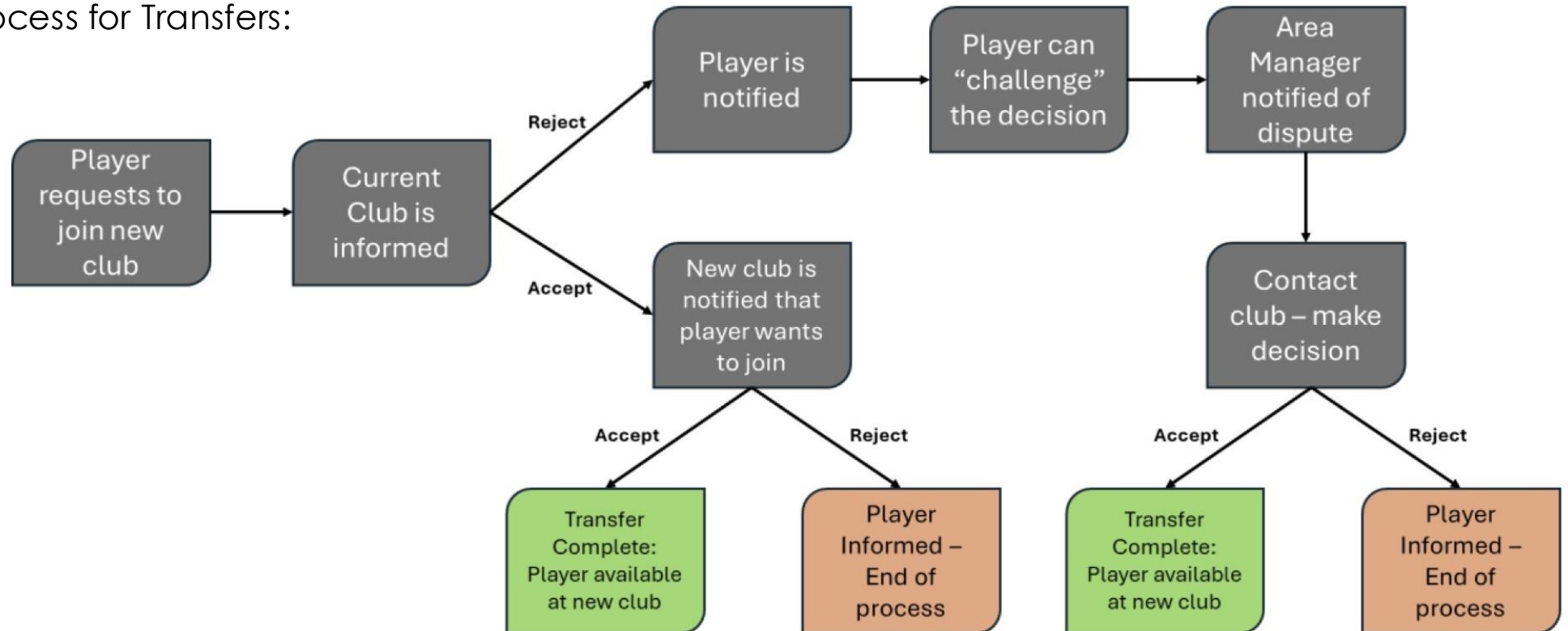
Player Registration

- ▶ **New Registrations** are passed directly to Clubs to accept and should not be used instead of a Transfer.
 - Adult League are able to review new registrations and will be asking Clubs to check that a Transfer is not required.

- ▶ **Second Club/Dual Registration** – when a player uses the GMS Transfer dashboard entry and want to keep their current Club as their main Adult League Club.
 - Examples include:
 - Non-Adult League Competitions, such as Juniors, Masters.
 - Dual Registration (Regulation 7.4) only permitted at Grade 3 and below, includes university students partially living away from home.
 - Only requires new Club approval on GMS.

Transfers

- Core process for Transfers:

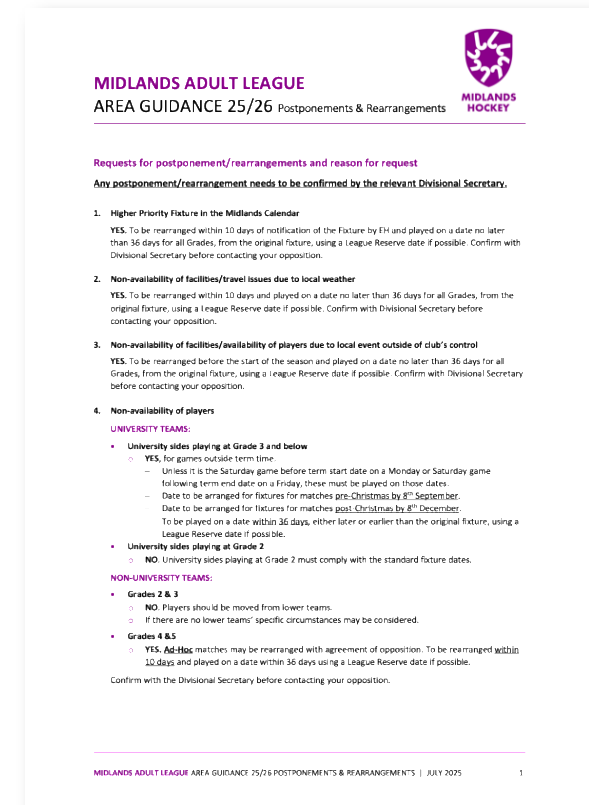


Fixtures & Accepted Changes (1 of 4)

- ▶ Changes to fixtures – Regulation 5.1.
 - Any changes are **subject to the approval of the Area League Management Committee** (ALMC).
 - Clubs to note the guidance issued by England Hockey on Faith and Fixtures when considering requests for rescheduling a fixture. A copy can be found on the Midlands website, here: <https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents>
- ▶ Regulation 5.1.2 – Always include the **Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) in communications regarding changes to fixtures.
- ▶ Regulation 5.2.4 – Home teams **must contact the opposition between 10 and 21 days** before a fixture to confirm the match details specified by the ALMC.

Fixtures & Accepted Changes (2 of 4)

- ▶ University term dates:
 - Term dates are listed in the document '**Midlands Guidance 2025-26_Postponements & Rearrangements**' and can be found on the Midlands website.
 - At Grade 3 and below (Regulation 5.1.4) clubs may request to reschedule fixtures that involve University Clubs playing outside of university term times. Such requests must be received by the ALMC by **8th September** and are **subject to ALMC approval**.
- ▶ Always include the **Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) in communications regarding changes to fixtures.



Fixtures & Accepted Changes (3 of 4)

- ▶ Fixture management (Regulation 5.2) – fixture details are expected to be on GMS by:
 - All fixtures for matches pre-Christmas by **8th September**.
 - All fixtures for matches post-Christmas by **1st December**.
 - Both 'From time' and 'To time' should be input for each fixture.
- ▶ **Pitch bookings** must be of a minimum duration (Regulation 6.2.1): **1 hour 30 minutes**
- ▶ **ANY change** to published fixtures must be communicated a minimum number of 10 days prior to the match and include the ALDS, who will update GMS, and the Team Contact(s) of the opposing team.
 - To ensure that changes to fixtures are communicated to all parties, this season all fixtures on GMS have now been locked and **ANY** changes will need ALDS action.
- ▶ Changes are by **exception only** and must be notified to the ALM or ALDS and agreed by both teams and umpires.

Fixtures & Accepted Changes (4 of 4)

- Match start times – if different to times stated in Regulation 6.3 this **must be agreed** with the Divisional Secretary (ALDS) and opposition team.

6.3.1 Match start times shall be between the following times:

Grade	Earliest Start	Latest Start	Latest Start Under Lights
1	11:30	15:00	16:30
2	11:30	15:00	16:30
3	10:00	15:00	17:30
4	10:00	15:00	17:30
5	10:00	15:00	17:30

Umpires

- ▶ Umpires & Match Officials, Regulation 11.
- ▶ Regulation 11.1.3 – Where Clubs are responsible for appointing to a match, the home club must appoint both umpires, except:
 - Where a Club believes it will not be able to provide two umpires, it **MUST contact its opposition** to ask them to provide one umpire at each meeting between the teams. This must be done **at least 14 days before the FIRST fixture** between the teams.
 - The away club has contacted the home club to say it intends to appoint an umpire for the match. This must be done **at least 5 days before the match**. The home club is not allowed to decline.
 - This umpire must be at least '**Acceptable Minimum Accreditation**' as per Regulations
- ▶ Both umpires must be recorded on the GMS team sheet.
- ▶ **All umpires** MUST be registered members of **England Hockey Officiating** (EHO). An unregistered umpire can complete their registration **up to 24 hours after** the relevant fixture has been completed.

Umpires – Acceptable Accreditation

- ▶ The table outlines the requirements for umpires at each Grade of competition.
 - If an umpire has no formal accreditation a definition of competence for Grade 5 matches can be found in Regulation 11.7.
- ▶ If you have any issues, **contact the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS).

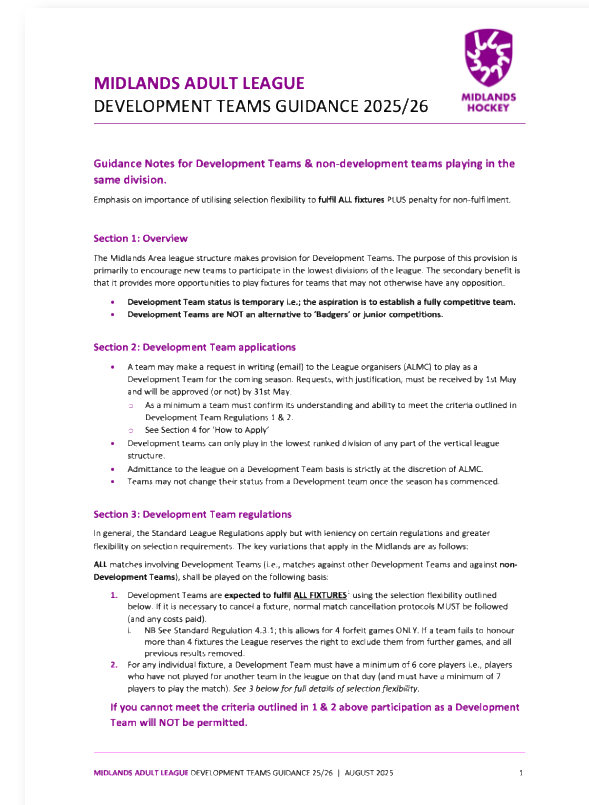
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Level of accreditation required	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed
Acceptable minimum accreditation (where agreed by the ALMC)	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed	No formal accreditation required. Refer to 11.7
Who conducts appointments	NPUA	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Clubs	Clubs
Can umpires be switched at half time?	No	No	No	No (unless agreed by the ALMC and the opposition captain)	Yes

Umpires – Support & Club Cluster Leads

- ▶ The **Role of the CCL** (Club Cluster Lead) is to help support a cluster of clubs, to benefit from all the work being done by the Midlands Hockey Officiating **club liaison team**. Our strategy is to attract, retain and develop umpires at every age and level.
- ▶ **Key action points:**
 - Ensure your club has reached out to your CCL.
 - Where there is an umpire lead, or umpire developer ensure the CCL has their details.
 - Annual all club officiating health-check survey is going to be released in November. We achieved 88% response from clubs but would like 100% of clubs represented in the data.
- ▶ All clubs should have been sent contact details for their CCL, if not please contact:
 - Club Engagement Lead **Becs Roycroft** officiatingclubliaison@midlands.hockey
 - <https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/officiating>

Development Teams (1 of 2)

- ▶ Development Team guidance is available in the document '**Midlands Guidance 2025-26_Development Teams Guidance**' and can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ The same regulations and GMS deadlines apply to Development Teams, with some exceptions.
- ▶ Development Teams are expected to **fulfil ALL fixtures**.
- ▶ Development Team fixture reporting on GMS:
 - Score to be **recorded as 0-0**.
 - Goal scorers can be entered on GMS to keep a record.
 - **All cards must** be recorded.



Development Teams (2 of 2)

- ▶ Non-development Teams playing in the same Division are permitted the same player selection flexibility for games against Development Teams only.
- ▶ Player eligibility – players aged 12 or above with the agreement of their parent/guardian.
 - No more than three U13s permitted on the pitch for a team at any one time.
- ▶ A '**spirit of development**' is expected of experienced players from higher teams when playing in a Development Team fixture, such players are:
 - Not permitted to score goals.
 - Not permitted in opposition 23.
 - Maximum of two permitted in defending 23 and defending a short corner.
 - The same spirit should be shown by non-development teams.
- ▶ If you have any issues, **contact the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS).

Match Day GMS

- ▶ Deadlines for all match details – Team Sheet, Score and Match Sheet (Timeline) on GMS:
 - **Team Sheet:** 5 minutes before match.
 - With correct details (umpires, captain, goalkeeper, shirt numbers, match officials).
 - **Score:** 20:00 on day of match.
 - **Match Sheet (Timeline):** All Grades **20:00 on day of match**.
 - With all scorers and cards recorded.
- ▶ Inform the Divisional Secretary (ALDS) of Red cards.
 - 2nd Yellow resulting in Red card to be recorded as two Yellows and one Red.
- ▶ If you have any issues, **contact the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS).

GMS Reminders Leaflet

- ▶ Printed copies of the GMS Reminders leaflets will be sent to all clubs (x2 per team plus 2 extras).
 - Suggest all Club Admins and Team Contacts are given a copy.
- ▶ The leaflets contain:
 - Club Admin and Team Contact GMS responsibilities.
 - Guidance for Development Teams.
- ▶ Link to form to provide a postal address for your club – [Club postal address 2025/26 form](#)

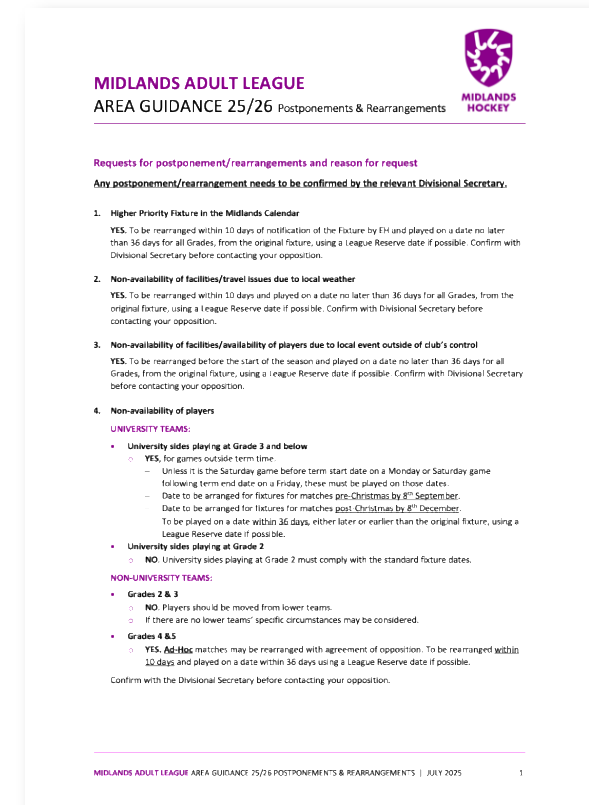


Discipline

- ▶ **Discipline and Misconduct Regulations** can now be found on the England Hockey website:
 - <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/governance/rules-and-regulations/discipline-and-misconduct>
- ▶ **Tom Roberts** (Midlands Area Discipline Administrator) has offered to run a Teams briefing for Club Discipline Officers.
 - Please ensure the Disciplinary Contact in your Club's '**England Hockey Club Portal**' contains the correct contact details, and he will be in touch.
 - [England Hockey Club Portal](#)
- ▶ New **Red Card Report form** to replace paperwork from previous seasons:
 - [Red Card and Misconduct Complaint Form](#)

Postponements & Rearrangements (1 of 2)

- ▶ Postponements and rearrangements.
 - Guidance is available in the document '**Midlands Guidance 2025-26_Postponements & Rearrangements**' and can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ When a match is postponed or cancelled:
 - **Notify the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) with reason for match postponement/cancellation.
 - Clubs should **NOT set fixture to Postponed or Cancelled.**
 - The Divisional Secretary will update the fixture status.

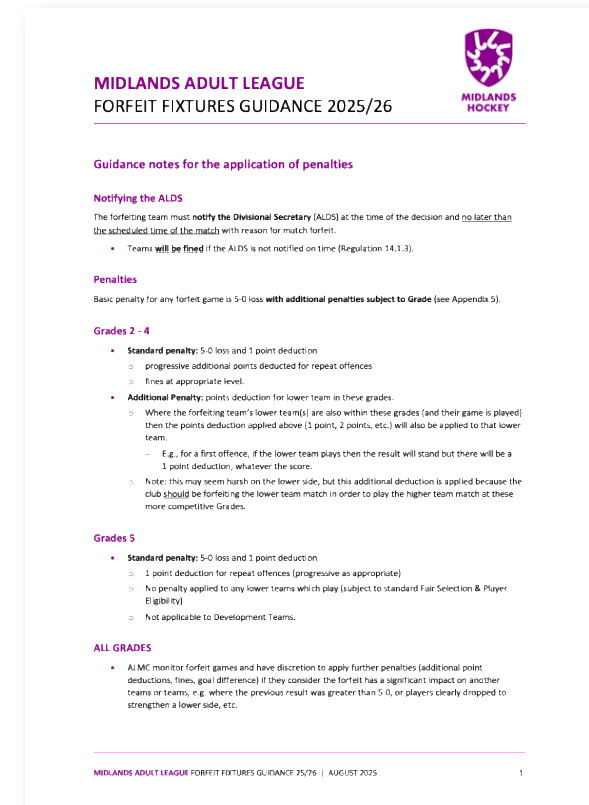


Postponements & Rearrangements (2 of 2)

- ▶ Rearrangements – deadlines for rearrangements no longer differ according to Grades.
 - New date must be agreed **within 10 days**, using a League Reserve date if possible.
 - Matches must be replayed within **36 days**.
 - See '**Midlands Guidance 2025-26_Postponements & Rearrangements**' for details of deadline for each League date.
 - Refer to the Midlands Calendar for priority matches.
 - Midlands Calendar can be found on the Midlands website, here:
<https://midlands.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents>
- ▶ **Notify the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) and include in rearrangement communications.

Forfeits

- ▶ Forfeit guidance is available in the document '**Midlands Guidance 2025-26_Forfeit Guidance**' and can be found on the Midlands website.
- ▶ The forfeiting team must **notify the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS) at the time of the decision and no later than the scheduled time of the match with reason for match forfeit.
 - Teams **will be fined** if the ALDS is not notified on time (Regulation 14.1.3).
- ▶ The basic penalty for any forfeit game is **5-0 loss** with additional penalties subject to Grade.
 - Progressive additional points deducted for repeat offences and fines at appropriate level.
 - Additional penalties for lower teams when higher team forfeits.



Indoor

- ▶ Depending on interest, we hope to run two days of **Adult Indoor on 13th/14th December 2025** (Tier 1/Tier 2), at **Aldersley Leisure Centre** for both men's and women's teams.
 - One day will be a Competition to identify the two entries for the EH National Super 6s.
 - Second day for Clubs trying Indoor for the first time or looking to continue to develop.
- ▶ Teams will be expected to pay a deposit of 50% of the Entry fee, on booking, and the final 50% three weeks before the competition. There will be no refund of either payment.
- ▶ We will email entry invitations to all Clubs shortly, a link to the entry form is copied below:
 - [Indoor Competition 2025/26 Entry Form](#)

Fines & Midlands Invoice

- ▶ Clubs and Teams do breach the Regulations.
 - Appendix 5 of the regulations specifies all Regulation breaches and the associated penalties.
 - Each fine requires an Invoice which will have a payment due date.
- ▶ A reminder that Midlands' Invoices have been issued and should be paid **before the start of the season**.
 - There are some outstanding fines from last season, if not paid by **26th September** the final penalty will be that ALL Club fixtures are **awarded as Walkovers** until settled.
 - Numerous reminders have been sent to delinquent Clubs.
- ▶ If you have any queries regarding Midlands invoices, contact **Louise Perry** at bookkeeping@midlands.hockey

Club & Team Preseason Reminders

- ▶ Club Admin and Team Contacts for each team must be available on the GMS by **8th September**.
- ▶ ALL fixture details before Christmas must be posted on the GMS by **8th September**.
 - Post-Christmas matches by **1st December**.
- ▶ Match start times – if different to times stated in Regulation 6.3 must be agreed with both Divisional Secretary and opposition.
- ▶ First point of contact for all queries is **ALWAYS the Divisional Secretary** (ALDS).
- ▶ Ensure all e-mails to League Officials contain:
 - Your **Name**, Club **Role**, **Club**, **Team** (if applicable).
 - If email is related to a specific Team/match also include **Division**, **Date**, **Teams/Match details**.

Adult League Social Media

- ▶ We have an Adult Leagues **Facebook group** to allow communication between clubs and teams in the Midlands Area. Please join the group.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/midlandshockeyadultleagues>
- ▶ We also have a new Adult Leagues **Instagram** account, please follow.
 - https://www.instagram.com/midlands_hockey_adult_leagues



- ▶ If time, **QUESTIONS** from the Teams Chat



Thank you for attending

ADULT LEAGUES & COMPETITIONS

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