

Minutes of last meeting

15th Sept 2025



Meeting name	National Game Panel				
Venue	Teams				
Date	15 th Sept 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) Donna Mills (Ipswich)				
Apologies	MK Leigh Maasdrop (Old Georgians)				
Welcome KC – Welcomed the group back to the first meeting ahead of the new season 25-26 EH Update – KC – updated the group on the appointment of our new CEO, Get Season Ready and that both England Teams will be playing in World Cup Qualifiers in February/March 2026. EHL Player Eligibility Regulations Premier Division Teams SB – Outlined the challenges around the issuing of SXPs this season especially when higher teams do not have fixtures. Premier Division team will now have 16 players identified by the EHCD at the end of Phase 1 of the Premier Division Season (Nov 25) who will not be considered for any SXPs to be issued for them to play in a lower team. Teams will be given notice of these players and EHCD will be open and transparent with the names of these players. The group recognized the challenges especially with the unalignment of fixtures at EHL level between the Premier Division & the others & supported the change as long as it is clearly communicated and open and transparent.					
Trans & Non – Binary Participation Policy SB – Outlined what it meant for the game and did not expect it to effect higher levels of the game but is good to have in place to support the Areas.					
Specific Issues 1- Mixed Championships – Setting of a minimum age of 18 for participation SB outlined details of one or two issues that had occurred during the 24-25 Season which provided wide discussion between the group JP – identified the impact in making this change on our Trans & Non-Binary participation policy particularly with Teenagers. With further discussions between the group, it was felt that the minimum age to play mixed hockey should be kept at 15 2- Super 6s - Permitting 2nd XI participation in Area qualifiers and qualifying for national divisions SB – The current Regulations only allow 1 st teams to play in the Super 6s League we would like to see the spread of indoor activity over a larger no of clubs but with our Indoor season we are limited with time and facilities which does make it very difficult. TJ – was supportive of 2 nd X1 teams being allowed an option to qualify and suggested we speak to the Areas to see how many Second X1 teams would be interested AH – Raised the danger of expanding in the format we have then we would not have enough officials to cover all activity JP – Suggested could this be resolved by increasing numbers of guest players teams can have NK – Said different skills for indoor does attract different players and suggested a questionnaire to all Super 6s clubs within the League MK agreed with this approach 3- View on Open/Mens EHL moving to Saturdays. Noting demand for this in some Divisions currently SB – Showed the slides on the percentage data we have on teams wishing to switch this season 25-26					

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MK – Clubs want to do this to encourage socials engagement between teams but can see that not all want to do this so said leave it as it is and let clubs decide
NK- gave a rationale as to why he thought the Conference West figures were very low – His own club us M1s players as coaches for Womens teams on a Saturday they are restricted by pitch times on a Saturday finishing at 17.30 – they do get good crowds on a Sunday.
TJ – Suggested Womens games should be allowed to start later and is all for it so young junior players do not have to decide between EHL or Junior Activity on a Sunday
General discussion led to concerns with NPUA & TAP appointments and a concern we do not sideline the womens game

4- Naming of Domestic Competitions Season 25-26

SB presented a document with suggestion on more consistent naming of Domestic Competitions for greater clarity.

The group supported the proposal but asked for good communications and an infographic to be available.

AOB

Super 6s

(Next Steps) – The group was asked if they had any further thoughts on the current format for Indoor Club Hockey and any suggestions for possible changes to email JTE

KC - Thanked the group for all their support, and we look forward to working with them again this season.

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