

## **AREA ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS V12 (24/08/21)**

Note – separate regulations will be issued for Grade 1 – England Hockey League

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### **GLOSSARY**

In these Regulations:

**ADA** means the relevant Area Disciplinary Administrator

**AL** means the Area League. The Divisions of the overall league pyramid administered by an Area

**ALC** means the Area League Chair

**ALDS** means Area League Divisional Secretary

**ALFO** means the Area League Finance Officer (or Treasurer)

**ALM** means the Area League Manager who oversees the administration of all Divisions within an Area

**ALMC** means the Area League Management Committee

**ALWG** means the Area Leagues Working Group, with representatives from each Area League

**AMC** means the Area Management Committee

**AOC** means the relevant Area Officiating Committee (and for the purpose of these Regulations where not expressly stated shall also include the Welsh Hockey Umpires Association)

**Appellant** means the party (usually a club) making an appeal on a ALMC decision

**Area** means the relevant Area Hockey organisation as defined in their Articles of Association

**ASC** means the Areas Standing Committee where the 8 Area organisations meet nationally

**BUCS** means British Universities & Colleges Sport

**Club** means the member club that is participating in the League

**EH Code of Ethics** means the EH Code of Ethics and Behaviour

**EH** means England Hockey, the National Governing Body for hockey in England

**EHCD** means the EH Competitions Department

**EHF** means the European Hockey Federation

**FIH** means the International Hockey Federation

**GMS** means the online Game Management System designated for use by EH

**Grade** A number of Steps within a league pyramid that are banded together that share the same requirements for participant eligibility, competition and matchday administration. Nb across parallel league pyramids it is possible for teams at the same Step in different Leagues to be in different Levels depending on the size of the different Leagues

**League** means the relevant Area League

**Leagues** means the collective term for the 8 Area Leagues and the National League

**Liaison Officer** means the main contact at a club for the ALMC

**NL** means the National League. The Divisions of the overall league pyramid administered centrally by EHCD for which separate regulations are issued

**PPM** means Points Per Match and may be used to determine promotion or relegation issues. If teams have played an unequal number of matches, then the average PPM will be used along with averages for any other method of determining positions (see Reg 4)

**Principles** means Principles of Fair Selection

**Step** means the allocation of Divisions in a League pyramid structure. The highest Division will always be Step 1, the next highest, Step 2 etc. It is possible to have more than one parallel Division at any Step

**Team** is used to differentiate between a Club's different teams, either Men's or Women's

**Team Admin** means the individual from a team within a club that is responsible for liaising with the Divisional Secretaries and using the GMS

**These Regulations** means these England Hockey Leagues Regulations and any reference herein to a particular Regulation is, unless otherwise expressly stated, a reference to a particular Regulation in these Regulations

## **APPENDICES** (Click on to go to relevant Appendix)

Appendix 1 – League Titles and Divisions

Appendix 2 – England Hockey Policies

Appendix 3 – Variances to FIH Rules of Hockey

Appendix 4 – Player Eligibility and Team Selection

Appendix 5 – Priority List and Calendar

Appendix 6 - Standard Penalties & Tariffs of Fines

Appendix 7 – Appeal Notice Template

Appendix 8 – Duties and Responsibilities of Appointed Match Officials

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The league structure in England will comprise of:

National League – administered centrally by England Hockey and currently known as the 'England Hockey League.'

8 Area Leagues – each administered by their respective Area organisation

1.2 The titles of the Leagues and divisions therein are shown as Appendix 1 and must be so referred in any communications including any Area or National sponsor's names.

1.3 All England Hockey policies will apply to all matches within the Leagues. (See Appendix 2)

1.4 The Rules of Hockey, including any experimental rule changes approved by EH for use in Competitions shall be observed except as provided by Appendix 3.

## **2. MANAGEMENT**

2.1 The Chair of the Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee will be elected at the Area AGM. Unless provided for in Regulations issued by the Board the Chair of the Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee shall be chair of the ALMC. The ALMC will form part of, or be a sub-committee of, the Area Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee.

2.2 As a Committee of the Area Company the Area Adult League will come under the full control of the Area Board of Directors. The Area Company AGM will serve as the Area League AGM but the League may hold other meetings for clubs as agreed with the Area Directors. The League budget and League entry fees will be set at the Area AGM by the membership and League accounts overseen by the Area Finance Director.

2.3 The ALMC will be appointed by the Area Directors proposed by the ALC to the Area Directors. The Area Directors will expect the ALMC to be diverse in composition and open to attracting new volunteers. Any club representative roles on the ALMC will be elected by the Area AGM.

2.4 The ALMC will usually comprise of, but not be limited to, the following roles:

- **Area League Manager** - To oversee the work of the Divisional secretaries, work closely with the Adult League and Competitions Chair and liaise with the Officiating Area Administrator and Appointment lead.
- **GMS Manager** - To manage the official information on the Game Management System (GMS) for the Adult Leagues and Competitions and support clubs using the GMS.
- **PR Officer** - To promote the Area Adult League and Competitions to the clubs and proactively raise the profile and share best practice of the League and all competitions.
- **Club Representatives** - To represent the clubs at Area Adult League and Competitions Committee, to give feedback on behalf of the clubs about what is working well and what could be improved for your clubs (these are optional roles)
- **Area League Divisional Secretaries** - To manage divisions proactively, be first point of the contact for teams in their responsible divisions and check and challenge the clubs match information on the GMS.
- **Officiating Representative** – To provide link between Area Officiating Committee and Adult Leagues & Competitions to ensure appropriate standards of performance in Area Appointed Officials is delivered and providing Officiating input where requested

2.5 The Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee shall allocate within its members such designated roles as it thinks fit to deliver the functions of the Committee and shall give such titles to the roles as necessary, having regard to any guidelines that may be issued from time to time in Regulations issued by the Board.

2.6 The Area Adult Leagues shall be managed in accordance with standard Regulations issued from time to time by England Hockey. The Directors shall issue such Regulations as thought fit, or otherwise required by England Hockey, to ensure that the Area Adult Leagues are administered in a manner consistent with the standard Regulations and the ALMC applies such Regulations in such a way as is consistent with the application of the Regulations in equivalent Adult Leagues of other Area Companies.

2.7 League decisions may be reviewed by the Area Directors and any significant League issues should be reported to the Area Directors and the Area Management Committee. Appeals against League decisions will be heard by the Area Directors via the Area Appeals process.

2.8 The ALMC will not adjudicate on decisions made by umpires and any appointed match officials in matches. Umpires will not adjudicate on League Regulations.

2.9 Any Team Admin requiring clarification on League Regulations should consult directly with the relevant ALM or ALDS.

2.10 Areas will be responsible for determining which Divisions within their League pyramid are at which Grade using the table below as guidance. The relevant requirements for participant eligibility, competition and matchday administration will be a determining factor in this. The ALWG will undertake an annual moderation process to endeavour to ensure that Grades are consistently applied across the Leagues.

<b>Grade 1</b>	England Hockey Leagues (Premier Division, Division 1's North / South, 4 Conferences)
<b>Grade 2</b>	Area Premier Divisions and Any Divisions at the next Step
<b>Grade 3</b>	Area mid-level Divisions – Approximately the highest 50% of all Divisions below Grade 2 and above Grade 5.
<b>Grade 4</b>	Area lower divisions – Approximately the lowest 50% of all Divisions below Grade 2 and above Grade 5.
<b>Grade 5</b>	i. Area lowest divisions – The division(s) at the lowest Step in any Area League pyramid (i.e. where there is no further Division that promotes teams to it); and ii. Any other Divisions, in addition to above, as designated by the ALMC

2.11 Informal competitions outside of the Adult League will be overseen by the Area Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee. These competitions will be expected to be sanctioned by the Area Adult Leagues & Competitions Committee.

2.12 The ALWG will undertake an annual review of League Regulations at the end of each season and publish a new version by 31 July. In addition, in Year 1, a review will be held in December 2021.

### 3. ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE

#### 3.1 Clubs

3.1.1 Each Area League is open to teams from clubs who are members of the Area, or from a neighbouring Area if agreed by the AMC and the ASC.

3.1.2 Each club, by its entry into and participation in the League, and each player by registering to participate in the League, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by these Regulations, England Hockey policies and any amendments that may be ratified by EH from time-to-time. Each club and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the relevant ALMC or the ALWG in relation to these Regulations or any matter not covered in these Regulations and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.

3.1.3 A new club, or a club formed as a result of a merger between existing clubs, must advise the relevant ALM by 1 May.

3.1.4 For their teams to be eligible to participate in the League clubs must, by the due date, have:

3.1.4.1 Completed their membership to England Hockey (and where relevant Hockey Wales), including any payments;

3.1.4.2 Paid League entry fees;

3.1.4.3 Paid any fines or monies outstanding to England Hockey, Area and/or Sub-Area

3.1.5 Each participating club must appoint a Liaison Officer for each gender of team participating in the League. (An individual may cover both roles). The Liaison Officer should be available to the ALMC, and other teams as required by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Liaison Officer must be advised to the ALM, via or for use in the GMS and by the date specified. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via or for use in the GMS.

3.1.6 By agreeing to be a Liaison Officer and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Liaison Officer consents to receiving information from the ALM, ALDS and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the ALM, and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.

3.1.7 Each participating club must have a representative from their club at any meeting called by the ALMC. These will ordinarily be online but may be physical meetings. In addition, each club shall respond to requests for information by the ALM, ALDS or AOC by the due date.

## **3.2 Team Entry**

3.2.1 A club must enter its teams into a League by the designated date set by the ALMC.

3.2.2 A club wishing to field a new team in or move an existing team into a neighbouring Area League for a subsequent season must advise both Areas of this by 1 March of the current season. The proposed new Area League will confirm acceptance or otherwise of a new team by 1 May.

3.2.3 A club wishing to enter new teams or withdraw teams from a League, in its home Area, must do so by 31 May. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the ALMC.

3.2.4 Teams from a new club formed as a result of a merger will be allocated the League positions of the previous clubs starting with the highest ranked downwards. If the merger results in fewer teams than spaces the ALMC, in consultation with the club, shall agree which positions will be filled by which teams.

3.2.5 If a club withdraws a team during the season, the team withdrawn must be its lowest ranked in the League unless otherwise agreed by the ALMC. The team will remain in the League table with all matches void and will occupy the lowest place. Teams withdrawn during the season would usually be placed in the bottom division if allowed to re-join the League in the following season.

3.2.6 If a club wishes to withdraw a team between seasons, that team would normally be its lowest playing in the League; however, if the club wishes to withdraw a higher team the ALMC may agree if the change can be accommodated without significant adverse effects on other clubs, and if the request is made before 31 May.

3.2.7 A club may request that a team that would otherwise be promoted remains in the same division (or at the same Step) the following season by 31 May. The ALMC reserves the right to accept or decline this and if the former to determine how the place will be filled.

3.2.8 Clubs may request that a team or teams be placed in a higher or lower Division than their existing or starting one. New teams will usually be placed in the lowest Division. Such a request must be made before 31 May. The ALMC reserves the right to determine if a new placing can be accommodated and at which Step without significant adverse effects on other clubs.

## **3.3 Team Administration**

3.3.1 Each participating team must appoint a Team Admin who should be available to the ALMC, and other teams as required by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Team Admin and the e-mail address and telephone number(s) of a second contact must be advised to the ALM, via or for use in the GMS and by the date specified. An individual may be Team Admin for more than one team. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via or for use in the GMS.

3.3.2 By agreeing to be a Team Admin or 2<sup>nd</sup> contact for a participating team, and providing the information required under this Regulation, the Team Admin and any other point of contact consents to receiving information from the ALM, ALDS and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League, and further consents to the ALM, and any other person or body involved in the proper administration of the League sharing this information for that purpose.

## **4. THE COMPETITION**

### **4.1 Structure**

4.1.1 Each Area League will be structured as determined by the AMC. Each Area League must have a Premier Division and then a pyramid structure beneath this. Wherever possible a ratio of lower divisions feeding into one higher division should be no more than 2:1. In exceptional circumstances this may vary (e.g. 3 divisions into 1) with the agreement of the ALWG.

4.1.2 Any changes to an Area League pyramid will be agreed by the relevant AMC and at an Area AGM if deemed necessary by the AMC.

4.1.3 Divisions in Area Leagues will usually be made up of 12 teams. This may be varied by the ALMC, for example due to the geographic spread of teams at a specific Step or Steps, or where a team withdraws and is not replaced.

4.1.4 The formation of any parallel Divisions below the Area League Premier Division shall be decided annually by ALMC. These are 'geographically balanced' divisions and are Divisions at the same Step within a League that feed into a higher Step and where the teams are placed in the Divisions on the basis of geography.

4.1.5 The ALMC shall decide which Divisions are at which Grade in line with Reg 2.10 (above)

4.1.6 Any significant changes to Area League pyramids or the Grades of Divisions will be reviewed and agreed annually at the ALWG

### **4.2 Scoring Systems**

4.2.1 Teams shall be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss.

4.2.2 In the event of teams being equal on points at the end of the season, places within a Division, shall be determined by each of the following, in order:

4.2.2 In the event of teams being equal on points at the end of the season, places within a Division shall be determined by each of the following factors, in the order shown:

4.2.2.1 Highest goal difference;

4.2.2.2 Highest number of goals scored;

4.2.2.3 Highest number of matches won;

4.2.2.4 Aggregate result of the matches between the teams concerned (and, if also equal, away goals taking precedence over home goals);

4.2.2.5 If teams are still equal they will share the position except when it determines a promotion, relegation or play-off. In that case a further match between the teams involved will be arranged, for which the match arrangements will be organised by the ALMC

### **4.3 Walkovers**

4.3.1 A team that fails to honour more than the number of matches during the season as detailed below will be withdrawn from the League and all previous results will be void. The ALMC will consider the circumstances before implementing the sanction.

Grade 2 – 1

Grade 3 – 3

Grade 4 – 4.

Grade 5 – 4 but at discretion of ALMC

### **4.4 Teams from the same club and Divisions**

4.4.1 The maximum number of teams from the same club who may play in the same Division at any Grade is as follows.

Grade 2 – 2

Grade 3 – 2

Grade 4 – 3 unless exceptional circumstances as agreed by ALMC.

Grade 5 – unlimited

### **4.5 Promotion & Relegation**

4.5.1 Standard promotion and relegation is as shown but may be varied by Areas in line with Regulation 4.5.1.1 below.

<b>1 higher Division (A) 1 lower Division (B)</b>	Bottom two teams in A relegated Top two teams in B promoted
<b>1 higher Division (A) 2 lower Divisions (B1 B2) (similar ratio for 2 higher/4 lower and 4 higher/8 lower)</b>	Bottom two teams in A relegated Top team in both B1 and B2 promoted
<b>1 higher Division (A) 3 lower Divisions (B1 B2 B3)</b>	Bottom three teams in A relegated Top team in B1 B2 B3 promoted
<b>2 higher Division (A1 A2) 3 lower Divisions (B1 B2 B3) (similar ratio for 4 higher/6 lower)</b>	Bottom two teams in both A1 and A2 relegated Top team in each of B1, B2 and B3 promoted along with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> placed team from B1, B2, B3 with the best playing record determined by PPM and then as per 4.1 above

4.5.1.1 Within Grade 2-5 Areas have the discretion to vary promotion and relegation as below. All participating teams to be notified prior to start of season of decision to vary.

<b>1 higher Division (A) 2 lower Divisions (B1 B2) (similar ratio for 2 higher/4 lower and 4 higher/8 lower)</b>	Bottom three teams in A relegated Top team in both B1 and B2 promoted along with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> placed team from B1 and B2 with the best playing record determined by PPM and then as per 4.1 above
<b>2 higher Division (A1 A2) 3 lower Divisions (B1 B2 B3) (similar ratio for 4 higher/6 lower)</b>	Bottom three teams in both A1 and A2 relegated Top two teams in each of B1, B2 and B3 promoted. OR Bottom team in both A1 and A2 relegated along with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> bottom team from A1, A2 with the worst playing record determined by PPM Top team in each of B1, B2 and B3 promoted

4.5.2 Where two or more teams from the same Area are relegated from the NL to AL, an additional team(s) will be relegated from the Area Premier Division to the next Step. This will be the lowest placed team(s) in a Division who otherwise would not be automatically relegated.

4.5.3 Where no team is relegated from NL to AL an additional team will be reprieved relegation from the Area Premier Division to the next Step. This will be the highest placed team in a Division who otherwise would be automatically relegated.

4.5.4 The processes shown in 4.5.2. and 4.5.3 will be used at any subsequent Steps. If this is at a Step with parallel Divisions any additional relegations required will be determined by the respective PPM of teams who occupy the relevant position(s) in the Divisions. Areas may use this process where relegation is to a lower Step that is geographically divided.

4.5.5 To avoid the impact of additional relegations the ALMC may, at its discretion determine to increase the size of a Division(s) for the following season and revise promotion and relegation arrangements for the subsequent season to rebalance the Divisions.

4.5.6 If the relegation of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a Division (see Reg 4.4 above), the team with the lowest ranking from the club in the lower Division will be relegated irrespective of finishing position.

4.5.7 If the promotion of a team means there would be more than the maximum number of teams from the same club in a Division, the promotion will not go ahead.

4.5.8 Any additional places will be filled in the following order:

4.5.8.1 The ALMC, at their discretion, placing a team in a Division outside of usual promotion/relegation to reflect their playing standard (see Reg 3.2.8).

4.5.8.2 A team(s) who would otherwise be additionally relegated from the relevant Division due to the impact of additional relegation, in line with 4.5.2 above.

4.5.8.3 The highest placed team in the relevant Division who would otherwise have been relegated.

4.5.8.4 The next highest placed team, below the team **that** cannot be promoted, in the relevant Division.

4.5.8.5 At the discretion of the ALMC.

## 5. FIXTURES

### 5.1 Fixture Scheduling

5.1.1 ALMC will issue fixtures with their scheduled dates

5.1.2 Clubs may agree to move a fixture to within 5 days of the scheduled date. This is subject to the approval of ALMC.

5.1.3 At Grade 3 and below clubs may request to reschedule fixtures that fall outside of University term times. Such requests must be received by ALMC by a date specified by ALMC and are subject to ALMC approval. ALMC will determine when rescheduled fixtures shall be played.

## 5.2 Fixture Management

5.2.1 Each team shall provide, using the GMS and by the date requested, the proposed time and venue for each of its home matches as below. This is subject to any variation for a later deadline at the discretion of the ALMC.

Grade 2-5 – All fixtures for matches pre-Christmas by 8 September. All fixtures for matches post-Christmas by 1 December

5.2.2 The ALMC may allow for shorter notice periods in Grade 3,4 and 5 at their discretion with the agreement of clubs.

5.2.3 Any change to this information must be notified to the ALM or ALDS as directed and to the Team Admin of the opposing team a minimum number of days prior to the match:

Grade 2-5 – 10 days prior

5.2.4 Any changes within these number of days is by exception only and must be agreed by both teams and umpires and notified to the ALM or ALDS as above. In this event any changes must be communicated to opponents and match officials AND confirmed back by email or message no later than 2000hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match.

5.2.5 The League reserves the right to decline any change if it represents a significant or unnecessary variation from previously notified details and the opposition do not agree.

## 6. MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

### 6.1 Pitches & facilities

6.1.1 All League matches must be played on artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey. The ALMC, in consultation with England Hockey, reserve the right to not allow a specific pitch to be used for League matches if it deems it unsuitable.

6.1.2 Clubs must undertake a risk assessment for venues they use, this is usually an insurance requirement, and all clubs must be insured. Advice on risk assessments as part of the Planning Safe Hockey guide can be found here:  
<https://www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/duty-of-care-in-hockey/safe-hockey>.

6.1.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that pitch facilities, including markings, goals and goal nets are satisfactory and that all other requirements in this Regulation are met prior to a match. Immediately prior to the commencement of a match, or once a match has started, the decision on whether it should be postponed or abandoned is determined by the umpires in consultation with the team captains. Safety of players shall be a key factor in any decision making.

6.1.4 If the pitch is deemed unsuitable by the umpires, they may, with the agreement of Team Captains direct that the match be postponed. The ALMC reserves the right to determine the suitability of facilities in line with the Planning Safe Hockey guidance.

6.1.5 Home League teams must provide a designated bench area on the side of the pitch (preferably away from any spectator area) either side of the centre line and extending no further than the 23 metre lines. Each team shall be allocated a section of the area, i.e. from Centre line to one of the 23 metre lines. Substitutes and officials on the team-sheet must remain in the vicinity of their section of the designated bench area (unless warming up/down) and no other persons are allowed in the designated bench area. At Grade 4 & 5 this may be varied with discretion for other persons to be within, or participants to leave, the area if agreed by opposition and umpires.

Grade 2 – Chairs or benches for both teams and umpires\*

Grade 3 – Designated bench area

Grade 4 – Designated bench area

Grade 5 – Designated bench area

(\*Subject to dispensation from ALMC in exceptional circumstances)

### 6.2 Pitch bookings

6.2.1 Pitch bookings must be of a minimum length as shown below,

Grade 2 and below – 1 hour 30 minutes

6.2.2 For any match teams may agree to a shorter window than that shown as long as this does not impact the match being completed

## 6.3 Start times and floodlights

6.3.1 Match start times shall be between the following times:

Grade	Time – Sep & Oct, Mar & Apr	Time – Nov-Feb	Under floodlights
Grade 1	1130 – 1500 hrs	1130 – 1430 hrs	1630 hrs at the latest
Grade 2	1130 – 1500 hrs	1130 – 1430 hrs	1630 hrs at the latest
Grade 3	1000 – 1500 hrs	1000 – 1430 hrs	1730 hrs at the latest
Grade 4	1000 – 1500 hrs	1000 – 1430 hrs	1730 hrs at the latest
Grade 5	1000 – 1500 hrs	1000 – 1430 hrs	1730 hrs at the latest

6.3.2 Matches may be played earlier or later than the times shown if both teams, the ALDS and any Umpire Panel appointing to the match agree.

6.3.3 Consideration should be given to opposition travel when scheduling fixtures and the ALDS has the right to request that a home team changes its proposed fixture times.

6.3.4 If a team venue has suitable floodlights the start time may be later (as shown in column)

## 6.4 Starting the Match

6.4.1 In the event of delays to start times participating teams should aim to agree to delay for as long as reasonably possible taking into account the time available for the match and any subsequent matches. Team Captains may agree to play a shortened match

6.4.2 If the delay is caused by late arrival of players, where a team has a minimum of 7 players available to start the match, and the match would no longer be able to fit within the allocated time slot, then the match should start.

## 6.5 Changing Facilities

6.5.1 Home teams must provide the following. Home teams must always ensure they have no advantage over away teams in terms of room access and times.

Grade 2 – Shared for teams and for umpires at pitch venue\*

Grade 3 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off site

Grade 4 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off site

Grade 5 – Toilet at venue, changing may be off site

(\*Subject to dispensation from ALMC in exceptional circumstances)

## 6.6 Hospitality

6.6.1 Requirement for home teams

Grade 2-5 – Post-match hospitality to be made available to visiting teams and umpires.

6.6.2 Away team must confirm if they do not wish to receive any offered hospitality by 2000 hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match. Away team is liable for any costs incurred if they notify they do not require hospitality after this time or if it is not taken on the day.

## 7. PLAYER REGISTRATION

### 7.1 General

7.1.1 To be entitled to play in the League for a club a player must be registered with that club to play adult league hockey and, since time of their first match during any one season, not have played for another club in a league match in England and Wales or another country. Registration must be using the GMS and must comply with the Regulations as set out below.

### 7.2 Age

7.2.1 Grade 5 matches involving development teams may be treated as not being League matches where agreed by ALMC, In such matches a player may participate if they are 12 or above with the agreement of their parent/guardian and if the participating club can ensure that the player has the physical development and confidence to participate safely.

7.2.2 For all other matches, a player must be aged 13 or above on the day of the match.



### **7.3 Gender**

7.3.1 Players shall play in the relevant competition

### **7.4 Players who live partially away from home**

7.4.1 At Grade 3 and below. Players who live partially away from home (e.g. students at university or people working away from home for significant periods) may register for more than one club and be selected to play for either club in League matches at the discretion of the relevant ALMCs but only one club per weekend and only provided that a) the two clubs play in different League Areas and b) the basic principles of Fair Selection, with regard to selection reflecting player ability, have been followed.

### **7.5 Registration Deadlines**

#### **7.5.1 Week by week**

7.5.1.1 A player's registration must be completed for them to be eligible to play by the following times.

Grade 2-5 – At any time prior to the match.

#### **7.5.2 Last Registration Date**

7.5.2.1 There are deadlines for a new registration (i.e. a player who has not played for another club in a League match in England and Wales or another country)

Grades 2-5 - a player must be registered by 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Grade 4-5 only. Players may apply to ALMC for the registration after this date to play for a club at Grade 4 and Grade 5 only. ALMC has the discretion to approve or otherwise such registrations.

### **7.6 Transfers & Deadlines**

7.6.1 A player may only transfer between clubs within the Leagues once during the season and this must be completed by 1st February. (see process below). Players may apply to ALMC for transfers in exception to the above, i.e. a second transfer or post 1<sup>st</sup> February or returning to play (e.g. for injury or changes in personal circumstances). The ALMC has the discretion to approve or otherwise such transfers.

### **7.7 Transfers between Clubs (in England and Wales only)**

7.7.1 A player can request to move to a new club via GMS.

7.7.2 The new club must approve the move

7.7.3 The previous club must approve the move within 10 days of the request or notify the relevant ALMC in that period why this has not been approved. The player can play as soon as the transfer is approved.

7.7.4 The previous club can decline a move (on the basis of unpaid fees to the existing club, outstanding disciplinary issues or club assets or permissions held by the player that may need to be returned prior to transfer.) and must notify the ALM of this. In the event of an objection the 10-day period can be extended to 17-days.

7.7.5 The ALMC will determine what action to take for an unapproved request within 17 days of the request.

If no approval or notification from the existing club is received within 10 days of the request the transfer will be automatically approved.

### **7.8 Movement of Players between clubs (in England and Wales) and clubs in other countries – Unassigned players**

7.8.1 A player moving to a club outside of GMS (i.e. England and Wales) must request to become unassigned via GMS.

7.8.2 Their existing club must approve the move.

7.8.3 An unassigned player may play for a club in a league match in another country (excluding England and Wales)

7.8.4 An unassigned player can request to move to a new club in England and Wales via GMS.

7.8.5 Their existing club, via confirmation to England Hockey, and the new club must approve the move.

## **8. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - TEAM SELECTION**

8.1 On any date a club's teams for its matches must be selected in line with the Principles of Fair Selection (Appendix 4).

8.2 The GMS provides for the management of a club's teams selection in line with the Principles, however the ALMC reserve the right to determine at any time:

8.2.1 if a club is in breach of the Principles; or

8.2.2 if the requirements as shown in the should be overridden in specific scenarios to ensure the Principles can be met.

## **9. TEAMS, MATCH SHEETS & RESULTS**

## **9.1 Match Sheets**

All match sheets and results will be managed using the GMS.

## **9.2 Players**

A player whose name appears on the match sheet showing those players eligible to play in a match will be deemed to have played in that match.

## **9.3 Team Officials**

9.3.1 All Grades - Each team may have a maximum of three team officials who are permitted to be in the bench area and a qualified medical doctor if available. The role of any official is to be included within the match sheet.

## **9.4 Deadline for submission of information**

9.4.1 All players and any team officials participating in a match must be uploaded onto the match sheet on the GMS as below. By doing so the team confirm that each player listed is eligible to play.

Grade 2-5 – before match

9.4.2 The ALDS has the discretion to apply flexibility for this at Grade 4 and Grade 5

9.4.3 The home team must confirm the score (or if the match is postponed or abandoned) as soon as possible but no later than as below,

Grade 2-5 - 2000 hours on the day of the match

9.4.4 Both teams must confirm full details of goals, cards and injuries as below.

Grade 2-5 - 2000 hrs on the day after the match –Goalscorers, Yellow & Red Cards, Injury report

## **10. DRESS**

10.1 Standard kit regulations are as below and should be the aspiration at all Grades. It is accepted however that at some Grades these may not be achievable, and variance is accepted in line with Appendix 6.

10.2.1 Field players must wear uniform shirts and knee length socks.

Women's matches - Field players shall wear uniform shorts, skirts or skorts.

Men's matches - Field players shall wear uniform shorts.

10.2.2 Any additional clothing (e.g. cycle shorts, leggings or long-sleeved under-shirts) must be of the same colour as the corresponding item of clothing shown on the team-sheet.

10.2.3 The second named (away) team shall wear shirts and socks that contrast with the home team.

10.2.4 Goalkeepers must wear shirts contrasting with those of both teams and must wear protective equipment as specified in the current Rules of Hockey.

10.2.5 Players shall wear shirts individually numbered on the back with the number allocated on the team-sheet. All numbers shall be no less than 8" (20cm) in height and shall contrast with the colour of the shirt. Taped numbers may only be used in an emergency.

## **11. UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS**

11.1. The responsibility of appointing competent umpires, for the servicing of ALMC requirements, to matches falls to the, Area Officiating Committee, Welsh Hockey Umpires Association or Club as appropriate.

11.1.1 Where Clubs are responsible for appointing to a match the home club must appoint both umpires unless the away club requests to appoint an umpire. A request must be received 5 days prior to the fixture and once requested the away team must appoint an umpire unless agreed by the home team.

11.2 The appointing bodies above may appoint a Match Official to matches and their duties and responsibilities in relation to these Regulations are shown in Appendix 8.

11.3 All umpires must be registered members of the England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club. An unregistered umpire can complete their registration up to 24 hours after the relevant fixture has been completed.

11.4 The table below outlines the requirements for umpires at each Grade of competition.

A definition of competence for Grade 5 matches if an umpire is not Level 1 Unassessed, can be found in 11.10.

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

11.5 If at any match an appointed umpire is unable to officiate, whether through no appointment or non-availability, non-appearance of an independently appointed Umpire or injured during a match, every effort must be made by both clubs to provide accredited to the above acceptable level of accreditation as minimum for the relevant grade of competition.

11.6 Clubs must endeavour to use a club umpire before the use of players involved in the match, but in the absence of one or both club umpires, the club that has not provided an umpire in accordance with its obligations shall withdraw one player from their side and that player shall act as umpire. If there are not two club umpires available to officiate, then the match may only be played as a League match if both Team Captains so agree.

11.7 If - under 11.5 or 11.6 above - an umpire is found (either club umpire or player) but is not accredited to the required standard, if both captains agree the match can still be played as a league match

**NOTE: Wherever reasonably possible the emphasis should be on reaching agreement and playing the match.**

11.8 In the event that no suitable umpire is found or captains do not agree:

11.8.1 If an agreed umpire cannot be found and the original umpire was appointed by the Area Officiating Committee or if an umpire injured during the match – then the match must be postponed and replayed in line with slip date Regulations. No penalty awarded in this circumstance.

11.8.2 If an umpire is found but is not accredited to the required level and both captains do not agree then the League fixture must be postponed and played in line with slip date Regulations.

11.8.3 In all circumstances, even when an agreed umpire is found, where the original umpire should have been supplied by one or other of the teams then the appropriate penalty may be applied to the team who failed to supply an umpire of the appropriate level.

11.9 There can be no appeal or complaint against any decision (or non-decision) of an umpire on the field of play during a match.

11.10 To be deemed a competent umpire for Grade 5 competition, the umpire will need to demonstrate (through their performance) the following competencies:

- Understanding of the rules having completed The Online Rules Test
- The ability to keep the match safe
- To make decisions fairly, with a sense of justice and integrity
- To umpire the match with their colleague co-operatively, for the benefit of the players.
- To allow the match to flow for the benefit of the player experience.

11.11 Any issues regarding umpire conduct shall be dealt with by the appointing body

## 12. DISCIPLINE

## **12.1 Conduct**

12.1.1 It is the primary responsibility of clubs to regulate the behaviour of their players, officials, members and spectators. By participating in the League clubs confirm that they have established an internal disciplinary procedure to deal with serious disorderly, abusive, offensive or improper behaviour by players, officials, members and spectators prior to, during and after any League match either in person or on social media. This extends to behaviour toward League officials.

12.1.2 Any behaviour deemed to meet the criteria as shown above, may be the subject of a Disrepute Complaint and dealt with pursuant to the Disrepute Offence Regulations, or will be dealt with by the ALMC.

## **12.2 Yellow Cards**

12.2.1 Players in the League shall be subject to incremental match suspensions from League matches for yellow cards that they accrue throughout the season in matches in the Leagues. Yellow cards will be recorded on the GMS and the responsibility for applying suspensions rests entirely with the player's club.

12.2.2 The following suspensions shall apply to each individual:

Four yellow cards in a season = 1 match suspension;

Two further yellow cards in the same season (i.e. six in total) = 1 further match suspension;

For each further yellow card thereafter in the same season = 1 further match suspension.

12.2.3 The suspension is to be applied for matches involving the team a player has played most matches for (if this is equal the player will be suspended from the higher ranked team) unless advised otherwise by ALM.

12.2.4 The club of any player who is to receive a suspension must immediately contact the relevant ALDS. Any suspension imposed as a consequence of this Regulation shall take effect on the date of the next match that the team in which the qualifying yellow card was issued unless otherwise determined by the ALDS. If that match is postponed the ALDS will confirm the date of the suspension. If a player is issued with a red card as defined in Regulation 6.3 of the Red Card and MMO Regulations, the red card shall be counted as 2 yellow cards for the purposes of this Regulation.

12.2.5 In the event that a player is issued with a red card that is not a red card as defined in Regulation 6.3 of the Red Card and MMO Regulations, any yellow card(s) issued to the same player in that match shall still be counted for the purposes of this Regulation.

12.2.6 If a player or team official from the bench is issued with a yellow card the on-field captain is removed from play for the duration of the suspension. If a player or team official from the bench is issued with a red card the team has to withdraw a player from the field of play for the remainder of the match.

12.2.7 Cards and Suspensions for yellow cards under this Regulation will not carry over from one season to the next.

12.2.8 The failure to suspend a player under this Regulation will be treated as playing an ineligible player.

## **13. POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT**

### **13.1 Priority**

Unless postponed due to weather or travel as below a team may only postpone a match if they are playing a higher priority fixture on the date of the match. (See Appendix 5 for Priority list for coming season)

### **13.2 General**

13.2.1 Immediately prior to the commencement of a match, or once a match has started, the decision on whether it should be postponed or abandoned is determined by the umpires in consultation with the team captains. Safety of players shall be a key factor in any decision making.

13.2.2 In the event of a match having to be abandoned, the ALDS will decide on the action to be taken after receiving a report from the Umpires and teams. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture, dependent on the circumstances at the time of abandonment.

13.2.3 In the event of a postponement and/or replay of an abandoned match:

13.2.3.1 In the first half of the season - the match must be replayed on or before the first designated slip date when both teams do not have a higher priority fixture, unless otherwise agreed by both teams and the ALDS (see Appendix 5 for slip dates for the current season).

13.2.3.2 In the second half of the season - the match must be replayed on or before the first designated slip date when both teams do not have a higher priority fixture or may be played prior to the slip date if agreed by both teams (see *Appendix 5* for slip dates for the current season).

13.2.3.3 The agreement of both teams and ALDS or ALMC is required before a match can be postponed. If teams disagree the ALDS or ALMC shall make a ruling whether to postpone or not.

13.2.3.4 In the event of the home team wishing to postpone a match the away team shall, at its own cost, have the right to inspect the ground prior to a decision regarding postponement being reached.

### **13.3 Procedure for Bad Weather & Associated Travel**

#### **13.3.1 Pitch**

13.3.1.1 The home team should use the following procedures.

13.3.1.2 The home Team Admin should ascertain from the visiting team the latest time of notification of cancellation, i.e. when they intend to depart for the pitch venue. If an overnight stay prior to the match is expected, this time should be adjusted accordingly. If it is clear that the pitch will be unfit due to weather earlier than the above time, the visiting team should be informed immediately.

13.3.1.3 It is the responsibility of the home team to inspect the pitch prior to the above-mentioned departure time. The Team Admin and/or a member of the club or team's leadership should do this and a realistic view must be taken at this stage. They should check with Met Office ([www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)) to confirm weather conditions for the next 24/48 hours. All teams should use the Met Office as a standardised reference for weather conditions. If the pitch is unfit and is likely to remain so, the match should be postponed, and the following action taken:

- notify the visiting team.
- notify the Umpires and Match Officials if appointed
- notify the relevant ALDS.

13.3.1.4 Once the teams and umpires if appointed have arrived, Regulation 13.2 above shall apply.

13.3.1.5 If a team fails to follow the above procedures and, when all parties arrive, it is clear that the pitch was, and patently has been, unfit prior to the times outlined above, the teams and umpires if appointed will be asked to submit a report for the consideration of the ALMC who may take action as it deems appropriate.

#### **13.3.2 Travel**

13.3.2.1 The away team should use the following procedures.

13.3.2.2 The away Team Admin should check with the Met Office ([www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)) and Highways England and/or Highways Wales ([www.trafficengland.com](http://www.trafficengland.com) or [www.traffic.wales](http://www.traffic.wales)) to confirm weather and travel conditions and guidance for the next 24/48 hours). All teams should use the Met Office, Highways England and/or Highways Wales as a standardised reference for weather/travel conditions.

13.3.2.3 If guidance is that you should not travel and this guidance is that this will not change prior to intended departure the match should be postponed and the following action taken

- notify the home team.
- home team notify the Umpires and Match Officials if appointed
- home team notify the relevant ALDS.

(NOTE: Whilst it is accepted that no system of match postponement can be perfect, teams are requested to try and ensure that matches are postponed in sufficient time for visiting teams and officials to be saved the time and expense of wasted journeys.

## **14. TROPHIES**

14.1 Any club that wins a perpetual trophy must arrange for it to be returned at the club's cost to the ALMC by 1 February, unless otherwise agreed by the ALMC. ALMC will advise the club if the trophy is to be engraved or not engraved in advance of this. The cost of any additional engraving or a replacement if a trophy is misplaced by a club will be invoiced to the relevant club.

## **15. FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE OR FORFEITURE OF A MATCH**

15.1 If a team fails to honour a fixture, or forfeits a match, it shall be deemed to have lost 0-5 and the opposing team shall be awarded three points and be deemed to have won the match 5-0. This is subject to any remission or further penalty, for example points deduction, revision of score or fine, requirement that the fixture be played, that the ALMC may impose in line with Breach of Regulations & Penalties.

## **16. BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES**

16.1 The provisions contained in these Regulations are without prejudice to anything contained in the EH Code of Ethics, but any club or team or individual found to be in breach of these Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by any EH Disciplinary Body

16.2 For breaches of any or all of these Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Ethics, the ALMC shall, at its absolute discretion, have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, the deduction of points, fines and suspension of players, and has power to make teams play matches away from their home venue. These may be applied within the current and/or subsequent season.

16.3 When imposing any penalty, the ALMC shall have regard to any recommendation that may have been made by any relevant Disciplinary Body under the provisions of any Regulation included in the EH Code of Ethics.

16.4 Appendix 6 gives details of the standard tariff of penalties for breaches of these Regulations.

## **17. APPEAL PROCEDURE**

17.1 There can be no appeal against the decision of an umpire or appointed Match Official.

17.2 Clubs and teams have the right to appeal against a decision of the ALMC as set out in this Regulation.

17.2.1 The Appeal to the Area Appeal Panel must be commenced by an Appeal Notice (Appendix 7) marked for the attention of the Area Appeal Panel sent to and received by the ALM not later than 3 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against. The full Appeal, including copies of all documents and the written statements of any witnesses upon which the Appellant intends to rely in the Appeal must be sent to and received by the Appeal Panel not later than 14 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against.

17.2.2 The Appeal Notice should be sent by email to the ALM. A deposit of £100 must be sent within 14 days after the Appellant has been notified of the decision to be appealed against. This will be returned, all or in part, if the Appeal is successful. As soon as reasonably practical after receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the Area Appeal Panel shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal.

17.2.3 The Chair of the Area Appeal Panel may, upon the application in writing made by or on behalf of the Appellant, stay, suspend or vary any penalty that is the subject of an Appeal pending determination of the Appeal, and, in exceptional circumstances, may extend the time for appealing upon such terms, if any, as the Chair may think fit. The decision of the Chair shall be final.

17.2.4 Save where the Chair of the Area Appeal Panel directs otherwise, all Appeals will be dealt with in writing by email unless the Appellant requests an oral hearing, in which case the Chair of the Area Appeal Panel may direct an oral hearing.

17.2.5 As soon as reasonably practical after the receipt of the Appeal Notice, the Chair of the Area Appeal Panel shall give directions for the further conduct of the Appeal.

17.2.6 Any other club that may be directly affected by an Appeal shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be notified of the Appeal and subsequently the outcome of the Appeal.

17.2.7 Where there has been an oral hearing of an Appeal the decision of the Area Appeal Panel may include a direction that the Appellant shall pay all or part of the costs of the Appeal to be summarily assessed by the Area Appeal Panel.

17.2.8 If an Appeal is not allowed in full, the Area Appeal Panel may impose any sanction that the ALMC could have imposed.

17.2.9 The decision of the Area Appeal Panel shall be final.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 – LEAGUE TITLES AND DIVISIONS

See - <http://fixtures.englishhockey.co.uk/> for details

### APPENDIX 2 – ENGLAND HOCKEY POLICIES

All England Hockey policies shall apply to matches in the League. These may be revised and or supplemented from time to time by England Hockey but include

- FIH Rules of Hockey (with any variations as determined by EH and as shown in Appendix 3)
- EH Code of Ethics
- EH Red Card and Matchday Misconduct Regulations & EH Disrepute Regulations
- EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey
- EH Privacy Policy
- EH Equality Policy
- EH Transgender Policy
- UK Anti-Doping Rules
- EH Anti-Corruption Policy
- EH League Sponsorship Policy
- EH Safe Hockey Policy

### APPENDIX 3 – VARIANCES TO FIH RULES OF HOCKEY

The Rules of Hockey 2019 including all experimental rules shall apply with the exception of Rules 1.9, 5.1 and 13.3 which shall be varied as follows:

**Rule 1.9** Flag-posts between 1.20 and 1.50 metres in height are placed at each corner of the field. (these are not required)

#### **Rule 5.1**

##### **a. Grade 1 & Adult Tier 1 Championships**

A match consists of four quarters of **17 minutes 30 seconds**, with an interval of 2 minutes between quarter 1 and 2 and between quarter 3 and 4, and a half-time interval of 5-10 minutes (to be agreed before the match starts) between quarter 2 and 3.

##### **b. All other activity**

A match consists of two halves of **35 minutes** with a half-time interval of 5-10 minutes (to be agreed before the match starts).

#### **Rule 13.3**

Time is **not** stopped after a penalty corner is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire). Note that this may affect the return to the pitch of a suspended player - see Regulation 10.4.6.

## APPENDIX 4 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & TEAM SELECTION

### 1. PRINCIPLES

1.1. For clubs to have reasonable flexibility in managing player selection.

1.2. For teams in a competition to be selected in hierarchical order and comprise of players who reflect their level of ability within their clubs, based on availability on any one day and are not selected at a level lower than their usual level to strengthen a lower team.

1.3. To ensure that all clubs feel competition is 'fair' and that large or small clubs are not disadvantaged by the application of these Regulations.

1.4. For Players to be able to play and not be 'unselectable' due to League Regulations.

#### 1.5. Enabling simpler administration

1.5.1 Electronic Match Sheets are mandatory at all levels to support simpler administration

- To provide clarity and simplicity, including building logic into the GMS to maximise compliance;
- To eliminate subjective administrative intervention wherever possible;
- Initially to focus on flagging potential breaches rather than blocking selection to team sheets;
- For the GMS to provide the data to improve systems and Regulations over time;

#### 1.6 Grades

The new Area adult hockey leagues pyramids and the National League are aligned to a number of Grades. The application of Regulations will be different at different Grades to ensure that the expectations are commensurate to the standard of play.

### 2. FAIR SELECTION SUMMARY

2.1. Movement down teams in a club is subject to some control. Movement up teams in a club is unrestricted.

2.2 Players 'doubling up' is permitted at lower Grades as a last resort to get matches played if clubs have insufficient available players to field a team without doing so.

2.3 Movements are more restricted at higher Grades than lower grades.

2.4 In a team's last 4 matches of the season restrictions vary to ensure fair conclusion of League competition.

### 3. FAIR SELECTION SUMMARY TABLE

Grade	Movement of a player between a club's teams selected from one match to the next.		Doubling up on same day (these are the maximum number of players for a club, not for a team)		A team's last 4 matches of season
	Up	Down	Field Player	GK	
1	Unrestricted	Max 2 teams	Not permitted	Not permitted	A player must have played minimum of 50% of their matches for the selected team or lower teams
2			Not permitted	Not permitted	
3			Not permitted <i>(unless a club's lowest team is at Grade 3 – max 2 players)</i>	Yes <i>(or as GK and outfield player)</i>	
4		Max 3 teams	Max 3 players*		
5					

(\*or unlimited if a designated Development team in Grade 5)

### 4. DOUBLING UP

4.1 Doubling-up is where a player plays for two teams from their club on the same day. It is permitted at the Grades as shown above under the following conditions:

4.1.1 Clubs may include players who are doubling-up in more than one team. However, this must be in the lowest or second lowest ranked team, and any subsequent teams doubling-up must be in ascending team order unless otherwise agreed by ALMC

4.1.2 The lower ranked team that includes a player doubling up as an outfield player may not have more than 12 players selected for the match.

4.1.3 The ranking between teams that a player doubles up for can be no more than two unless otherwise agreed by ALMC

4.1.4 Any player who is doubling up may not have played for a team the previous weekend that is higher ranked than both the teams they play for when doubling up.



## 5. WALKOVERS

5.1 Where a club has insufficient players available to fulfil all its fixtures on any one day it must forfeit matches starting with the lowest ranked team, followed by the next lowest ranked team unless agreed by ALMC.

## 6. LAST 4 FIXTURES OF THE COMPETITION

6.1 For a team's last four matches in any Division in the League season as well as complying with the above a player playing for a team lower than a club's 1<sup>st</sup> XI must have played a minimum of 50% of the League matches they have played in that season for the team they are selected for, or a lower team.

## 7. MATCH DATES

7.1 Fixtures are issued on scheduled dates on weekends. Where a fixture is moved to another date within 5 days of the original date, or where NL matches are scheduled on a different day, then for the purposes of these Regulations the match will be treated as if it was on the relevant Saturday.

## 8. TEAMS WITHOUT A MATCH ON A DATE.

8.1 On a date where a team does not have a match but other teams in their club do, e.g. a spare week or a rescheduled match, a player must have played a minimum of 50% of the League matches they have played in that season for the team they are selected for, or a lower team.

## 9. SELECTION EXEMPTION PASS (SEP)

9.1 In order to meet the Principles it will be necessary to override the system. This is provided by a Selection Exemption pass from the ALM or ALDS issued at their discretion in line with a nationally agreed framework and process. There will be a process to request this in advance. This can be provided to manage specific scenarios as shown below and can be issued for a specific time period.

## 10. HOW WILL ISSUES BE MANAGED CONSISTENTLY ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

10.1 Representatives from the eight Area Leagues and England Hockey will meet regularly and share issues to work towards a consistent approach to these. We will issue updated Scenarios to include any new issues.

## 11. SCENARIOS WHERE, IN GENUINE CASES, EXEMPTIONS WOULD APPLY

### 11.1 Player returning from injury

For example if a regular 1st team player at Grade 1 is injured for a number of weeks and wants to return with a match in the 3rd team

### 11.2 Player who has not played for a number of weeks

If a player has played early in the season and then does not play until the last four weeks of the season and has not played 50% of matches for a team they wish to play for or a lower team.

### 11.3 Doubling up players from a team higher than a club's lowest or second lowest ranked team

This may be required if the lowest teams are both away from home or match times clash and players from these teams are unable to double up.

### 11.4 England Hockey League matches not on Saturday

In principle NL matches not on a Saturday are seen as part of the same round of matches. Therefore players cannot double up, in genuine cases where a player is playing a peripheral role in an NL match then an exemption to play may be permitted.

Examples of where this is fair would be this would be a goalkeeper who is benching and would only play due to injury, a young player gaining experience and playing only a small part in the NL match (indicatively less than 15 minutes), or a genuine 2<sup>nd</sup> team player (or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the case of 2<sup>nd</sup> teams in NL) who is taking part in the NL match to ensure a squad can travel to a match.

Examples of where this is not fair would be where the player is a regular outfield player NL player for the team (playing more than 50% of matches for the NL team), where it's a NL team player returning from an absence (e.g. holiday, short injury), where it's a player that starts a match on the bench but is expected to play a significant part in the NL match (20 minutes or more).

## **11.5 Emergency issue**

For example where a Club's 1<sup>st</sup> XI goalkeeper is injured in a warm-up and their 4<sup>th</sup> XI keeper is available but has played earlier in the day. A club can request a retrospective exemption. Also to allow player to return to their normal level the week afterwards

## **12 FAIR SELECTION FAQs**

### **12.1 Why are we moving away starred players systems?**

We know from the feedback from clubs via the survey that we did in 2020 that clubs feel that starred player regulations are too restrictive and do not always support clubs trying to select teams fairly. The new GMS gives us a chance to try something different. We can analyse data from each match to see what matches an individual plays in – in effect a dynamic starring system and this data determines what level a player is at, rather than \* applied at set points in a season.

Also the further you go down a club's teams the harder it would be for starring to be effective as players will move between teams week by week.

Starring can also lead to some players being unable to play if they are dropped or unable to travel to an away match

There are also always "floating" players in higher teams' squads, not starred but who would be free to move between teams.

Generally clubs will pick players for the "correct" team.. If clubs are not doing this then it will be clear from the data and ALMC can take action. Regulations also exist to prevent any artificial strengthening of teams at the end of the season or for rearranged matches.

### **12.2 Why isn't there any restriction on players playing for a higher team one week and a lower team the next?**

We know that a club's availability can vary very significantly week by week. If there is a high unavailability in a higher team one week players need to be able to go up to play for that team and then return to their usual team the week after.

If a higher team doesn't have a match on any date or at the end of the season there are restrictions to prevent a lower team being artificially strengthened with other players.

If a club decided that as its 1<sup>st</sup> team was playing a weak team one week they would swap a number of players from their 2<sup>nd</sup> team and strengthen that team this would be seen on the report of the match and the ALMC could take action

### **12.3 Do you plan future developments?**

Yes, We will continue to review and revise based on our knowledge and experience. However we will be able to do this with rich data. In time it is envisaged that we can apply players ratings based on the team they play for within a club, e.g. if they play all their matches in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI their rating would be 1, or half in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and half in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI their rating would be 1.5. We may be able to use this data in order to set parameters to select teams fairly. Outside of the actual match this could be further developed for further engagement opportunities.

## APPENDIX 5 – PRIORITY LIST AND CALENDAR

The England Hockey calendar may be found [here](#)

The 2021-22 League Calendar is below. Dates of fixtures at discretion of Leagues

DATE	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2
Sat 18 Sep	<a href="#">League 1</a>	
Sat 25 Sep	<a href="#">League 2</a>	
Sat 02 Oct	<a href="#">League 3</a>	
Sat 09 Oct	<a href="#">League 4</a>	
Sat 16 Oct	<a href="#">League 5</a>	
Sat 23 Oct	<b>Tiered Champs 1</b> (Tier 2,3,4)	<a href="#">League Slip</a> (NL D1/Conf)
Sat 30 Oct	<a href="#">League 6</a>	
Sat 06 Nov	<a href="#">League 7</a>	
Sat 13 Nov	<a href="#">League 8</a>	
Sat 20 Nov	<a href="#">League 9</a>	
Sat 27 Nov	<a href="#">League 10</a>	<b>Tiered Champs 1</b> (Tier 1)
Sat 04 Dec	<a href="#">League 11</a>	<b>Tiered Champs 2</b> (Tier 1)
Sat 11 Dec	<a href="#">Adult &amp; Junior S6s</a>	<a href="#">League 12 / League Slip</a>
Sat 18 Dec	<a href="#">Adult S6s</a> <b>Tiered Champs 2</b> (Tier 2,3,4)	<a href="#">League Slip</a>
Sat 25 Dec		
Sat 01 Jan		
Sat 08 Jan	<a href="#">Adult S6s</a> <b>Tiered Champs 3</b> (Tier 2,3,4),	<a href="#">League Slip</a>
Sat 15 Jan	<a href="#">Adult S6s, Junior S6s</a>	<a href="#">League 13</a>
Sat 22 Jan	<a href="#">Adult S6s</a> (D2 only)	<a href="#">League 14</a>
Sat 29 Jan	<a href="#">League 15</a>	<b>Tiered Champs 3</b> (Tier 1)
Sat 05 Feb	<a href="#">League 16</a>	
Sun 06 Feb	<a href="#">League Slip</a>	
Sat 12 Feb	<a href="#">League 17</a>	
Sat 19 Feb	<b>Tiered Champs 4</b> (Tier 2,3,4)	<a href="#">League Slip</a>
Sat 26 Feb	<a href="#">League 18</a>	
Sat 05 Mar	<a href="#">League 19</a>	
Sun 06 Mar	<a href="#">League Slip</a>	
Sat 12 Mar	<a href="#">League 20</a>	
Sat 19 Mar	<a href="#">League 21</a>	
Sat 26 Mar	<a href="#">League 22</a>	
Sun 27 Mar	<a href="#">League Slip</a>	
Sat 02 Apr	<a href="#">League 23</a>	
Sun 03 Apr	<a href="#">League Slip</a>	
Sat 09 Apr	<a href="#">League 24</a>	<b>Tiered Champs 4</b> (Tier 1)
Sun 10 Apr	<a href="#">League Slip</a>	
Sat 16 Apr	EASTER	EASTER
Sat 23 April	<b>Tiered Champs 5</b> (Tier 1-4)	<a href="#">League Slip</a>
Sat 30 Apr	<b>Tiered Champs 6</b> (Tier 1-4)	<a href="#">League Slip</a>
Sat 07 May	<b>Tiered Champs finals</b> (Tier 1-4)	

## APPENDIX 6 - STANDARD PENALTIES & TARIFFS OF FINES.

1. The provisions contained in the Regulations are without prejudice to anything contained in the EH Code of Ethics, but any club or team or individual found to be in breach of these Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by any EH Disciplinary Body

2. For breaches of any or all of Regulations, and/or the EH Code of Ethics, the ALMC shall, at its absolute discretion, have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, the deduction of points, fines and suspension of players, and has power to make teams play matches away from their home venue. These may be applied within the current and/or subsequent season.

3. When imposing any penalty, the ALMC shall have regard to any recommendation that may have been made by any relevant Disciplinary Body under the provisions of any Regulation included in the EH Code of Ethics.

### 4. Breaches

4.1 Stages - Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 below refer to an individual breach and the process giving the opportunity to rectify this. A second breach of the same Regulation may result in this being treated as Stage 2.

4.2 Repeat Breaches – 1st Occurrence, 2nd Occurrence, 3rd Occurrence, below refer to the same Regulation being breached on one or more occasions. Penalties may be doubled for repeat breaches.

### 5. Fines

5.1 There are recommended amounts for fines, Tariff 1, T1 - £25, Tariff 2, T2 - £50, Tariff 3, T3 - £100

5.2 Note waiving of a fine is at the discretion of ALMC or ADLS in exceptional circumstances

5.3 Where a fine is applied it will be doubled for repeat offences

5.4 Payment of fines is within 28 days unless alternative date is set by ALM.

REGULATION	SUB-SECTION	GRADE	BREACH			FINE
			STAGE 1 or 1 <sup>st</sup> OCCURENCE	STAGE 2 or 2 <sup>nd</sup> OCCURENCE	STAGE 3 or 3 <sup>rd</sup> OCCURENCE	
<b>3. Entry into the League</b>	3.1.4 Completed by the due date its membership of England Hockey (and where relevant Hockey Wales), including payment	1	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a revised deadline	If new deadline not met. Warning that it must be completed prior to next match. Fine	Club fixtures awarded as walkovers until completed. Fine.	T1 for Stage 2 T2 for Stage 3
		2				
		3				
		4				
		5				
	3.1.7 Representation from club at any meeting called by the ALMC.	1	Fine	N/A	N/A	T1 for Stage 1
		2				
		3				
		4				
		5				
	3.1.7 Response to requests for information by the ALM, ALDS or AOC by the due date.	1	Reminder that it needs to be completed with a new deadline	Fine	N/A	T1 for Stage 2
		2				
		3				
		4				
		5				
3.2.5 Withdrawal of a team during the season.	1	Regs 3.2.5 & 4.3 apply Fine	N/A	N/A	T3	
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					
<b>5. Fixture Management</b>	5.2 Provision of time and venue for each of its home matches by deadline - subject to any variation discretion of the ALMC	1	Reminder that this needs to be completed with a new deadline	If new deadline not met. Fine	N/A	T2
		2				
		3				
		4				
		5				
	Late notification of change of details	1	Fine	Fine		T1
		2				
		3				
		4				
		5				

<b>6 Matchday Administration</b>	6.1 6.5 Provision of Pitch & Facilities and Changing facilities in line with Regulation and no effort to mitigate	1	Warning	Fine	Fine	T3			
		2				T1			
		3				T1			
		4				T1			
		5				T1			
	6.6 Failure to supply hospitality	1	Warning	Fine	Fine	T2			
		2				T1			
		3							
		4							
		5							
	6.6 Hospitality requested and not taken	1	Reimburse opposition	Reimburse opposition. Fine	Reimburse opposition. Fine	2 <sup>nd</sup> occurrence - T1 Reimburse opposition. League only involved if non-compliance			
		2							
		3							
		4							
		5							
<b>7. Player Registration &amp; 8. Fair Selection</b>	7 & 8. Fielding an ineligible player in a match or not complying with principles of fair selection	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 1 point deduction.	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 2 point deduction.	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 4 point deduction.	T1			
		2				Warning. If this is due to a deliberate act 1 point deduction. In addition, match may be recorded as 5-0 loss, (or higher score as determined).	1 point deduction. If this is due to a deliberate act match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined)	2 point deduction. If this is due to a deliberate act match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined)	T1
		3							
		4							
		5							
<b>9. Team, Matchsheets &amp; Results</b>	9.4.1 Team late in uploading all players and any team officials participating in a match onto the matchsheet on the GMS by specified time.	1	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1			
		2				T1			
		3							
		4							
		5							
	9.4.3 Team late to confirm score on the GMS by specified time.	1	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1			
		2							
		3							
		4							
		5							
	9.4.4 Team late to confirm details of goals, cards and injuries on the GMS by specified time.	1	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1			
		2							
		3							
		4							
		5							
9. Falsifying information on matchsheet	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined) Fine. Plus 1 point deduction. ALMC to determine if team to be relegated at end of season.			T3				
	2								
	3								
	4								
	5								
<b>10. Dress</b>	19. Uniform kit, additional clothing, numbers	1	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1			
		2				Warning	Fine for significant non-compliance	T1	
		3	Warning for significant non-compliance	Warning for significant non-compliance	Fine for significant & persistent non-compliance	T1			
		4							
		5					N/A	-T1	

<b>11. Umpires</b>	11.3 Failure of umpire to register as member of England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club	1	N/A			N/A	
		2	Warning	Fine	Fine	T1	
		3					
		4					
		5					
	11. Failure to supply umpire of appropriate level	1	N/A				
		2	Warning	1 point deduction from match & fine.	1 point deduction from match & fine and ALMC to determine if match to be replayed.	T1	
		3					
		4					
		5	N/A	Warning	1 point deduction from match & fine	T1	
<b>12. Discipline</b>	12.2.4 Fielding an ineligible player in a match (e.g. due to suspension)	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Plus 1 point deduction.			T1	
		2	Match recorded as 5-0 (or higher score as determined). Plus warning for Team Admin. Plus 1 point if deliberate.			T1	
		3					
		4	Warning for Team Admin, 1 point deduction if deliberate	Loss of match 5-0 (or higher score as determined) plus warning for Team Admin. Plus 1 point deduction if deliberate.		T1	
		5					
	12.2.3 Suspended player missing incorrect match	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss (or higher score as determined). Player to miss 1 further match for appropriate team			T1	
		2					
		3					
		4					
		5					
<b>13. Postponement or Abandonment</b>	13. Failure to comply with regulation	1	Match recorded as 5-0 loss for deliberate/negligent failure. Fine and/or reimbursement of opposition expenses			T1 plus opposition expenses	
		2					
		3					
		4					
		5					
<b>14. Trophies</b>	14. Failure to return and not engraved (if specified)	1	Fine plus any additional costs incurred if returned late	Additional fine if lost or not returned in time for presentation		T1 plus additional costs	
		2					
		3					
		4					
		5					
<b>15. Failure to honour a fixture</b>	15. Failure to honour a fixture	1	Conceded, 0-5 loss (unless ALMC require match to be played). Plus 1 point deduction. Score and point deduction may be increased from 1 point and 0-5 as determined. Fine			T3 plus additional costs to opposition if applicable	
		2				T1 plus additional costs to opposition if applicable	
		3					
		4					
		5					
<b>Any regulations not covered above</b>		1	As determined by ALMC				
		2					
		3					
		4					
		5					

## APPENDIX 7 – APPEAL NOTICE TEMPLATE

### AREA LEAGUE APPEAL NOTICE

To be sent to relevant ALM pursuant to Reg 17

Appellant (name of Club and or team)	
Areas League and Division (if relevant)	
Name of Person submitting Appeal Notice	
Position with Club	
Email	
Phone Number	
Decision being Appealed	
Date of Notification of Decision	
Short reason for Appeal	

The club/team confirms that

1. it wishes to Appeal the decision above and is doing so within 3 days of the date of notification of decision.
2. it agrees to pay the deposit of £100 within 7 days of the date of notification of decision
3. it agrees to submit the full details of its appeal within 14 days of the date of notification of decision
4. it understands it will forfeit the right to Appeal if it does not comply with 2. Or 3.
5. it may withdraw its appeal prior to submission of the full details and the deposit will be returned.

Signed	
Print Name	
Position with Club	
Date	

## **APPENDIX 8 – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPOINTED MATCH OFFICIALS**

### **1. AOC may appoint a Match Official (MO) to league matches with duties and responsibilities as below**

#### **2. Matchday Administration**

2.1 The MO shall check that players and team officials present correspond with information listed on a clubs' teamsheet and officials are in line with Reg 9.3.1. Only those listed may enter the designated bench area.

2.2 The MO shall record all goals including scorer and type of goal, yellow and red cards during the match.

2.3 The MO shall time the suspension applicable for the issue of any green or yellow cards by the Umpire. The period of suspension shall commence when the player has returned to the designated bench area. For the avoidance of doubt a player or team official who is temporarily suspended from play must sit calmly and quietly throughout the period of suspension and may not be involved in the match in any way. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to work with the MO to ensure that this is done.

2.4 The MO shall check that the record of the match as per Reg 2.2 is agreed by both teams and umpires on the conclusion of the match.

2.5 The MO shall check that the record of the match is correctly submitted to the GMS by teams. Any variance of this shall be raised with the ALDS

#### **3. Powers of Suspension**

3.1 The MO may direct any player or official to be removed from the designated bench area for indiscipline. This will involve the person concerned leaving the playing area, as directed by the MO, for the remainder of the match. Any serious instances involving either an individual or affiliated body MAY be reported as a Disrepute Offence under the Disrepute Offence Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt such action by the MO does not require the team concerned to withdraw a player from the pitch for the remainder of the match.

3.2 The MO may draw the attention of the Umpires to any incident of indiscipline by any player or official from the designated bench area. The Umpires may then impose such personal penalty as they think fit. If the Umpires permanently (red card) or temporarily (green or yellow card) suspend a player or official from the team bench, this will require the relevant team to withdraw a player from the pitch for the duration of the suspension.

3.3 Any person permanently suspended from the match under Regulation 2.1 or 2.2 may not enter the field of play or designated bench area until completion of the match, which shall include any period of cool down on the field of play after the match.

#### **4. Reporting**

The MO shall report any significant variance to the League Regulations by either team to the ALDS

#### **5. Club Appointed Match Officials**

A Club Appointed MO should undertake the duties as shown in Clauses 2. and 4. above, Clause 3 does not apply.