



## Hampshire Hockey Hampshire Women's Hockey League Rules 2019/20

1. The league shall be called the Hampshire Women's Hockey League (referred to as HWHL in this document).
2. The HWHL shall be managed-by an HWHL Committee, a sub-committee of the Hampshire Hockey Association (HHA) and will be organised into as many divisions as is required, with a maximum of 12 teams in each division.
3. New applications for membership and any resignations from the HWHL must be notified in writing to the HWHL Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the annual meeting. Use of the HHA website to record entry, in the time period notified through that system, will be considered as being notified on time. Membership of the HWHL may be refused, suspended or terminated by the HWHL Committee.
4. The HWHL will hold an annual meeting at the end of each season prior to the HHA AGM.
5. Each team participating in the HWHL must comply with the following:
  - i. Be affiliated to E.H., SCHA and HHA.
  - ii. Provide when requested:
    - a) The HWHL entry fee – direct to the HHA Treasurer.
    - b) A list, in alphabetical order, of a minimum of eleven ACTIVE players, 7 of which should be starred players in Divisions 2 and above or 5 of which must be starred players in Divisions 3 and below, who may represent the team in HWHL matches. This is to be in the form of on-line registrations on to the HHA website.
    - c) The name(s) of their team's umpire(s).
    - d) Details of their HWHL contact(s) on the HHA website.
    - e) Where applicable, a Players Declaration Form. Any club with teams playing in higher leagues must register, and keep up to date, a list of at least eleven active players per higher league team who will be ineligible to play or be registered in the HWHL. Failure to keep this list up to date will be dealt with under rule 15. This list to be in the form of on-line registrations on the HHA website.
  - iii. In all divisions home teams must ensure that match times are confirmed and entered on the HHA website before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the month in which the fixture is played. In all Divisions, other than as a result of extreme circumstances beyond the control of the home team, start times may not be changed after this period without written consent of the HWHL Administrator and the Hampshire Hockey Umpires Association (HHUA), where appointments are being made by HHUA.
6. Failure to comply with Rule 5 will result in a fine of £ 20 for each item not supplied. Non-receipt of any of the above within 10 days of notification by the HWHL Administrator will be seen as failure to comply with the rules for participation in the HWHL, and the offending team may be deemed ineligible to play for that season in the HWHL.
7. All players must be fully paid up members of their affiliated club.
8. A player may change clubs during the season if they can provide reasons for doing so. This is unlikely to be approved if a player has already moved clubs in that season or without legitimate reasons. Player transfers between Hampshire Clubs will not be approved after the 1<sup>st</sup> January. Applications should be made via the online system, with reasons given, and that player must first be deregistered by their old club and then be registered, and approved online, for their new club before playing for that new club. Any breach of this rule may result in the second and any subsequent club forfeiting all their league points for the season. If in doubt, please contact the HWHL Administrator before submitting any registrations.



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### 9. Registration of players.

- i. All players must be registered online and approved by the HWHL Administrator prior to playing (see xi and xii for specific timescales).
- ii. As per the England Hockey guidelines, you may now play on and after your 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- iii. Clubs entering two or more teams into the HWHL must register at least eleven players for each team (except their lowest team). For teams in Division 3 and above, 7 of these players must be starred. For teams in Division 4 and below, 5 of these players must be starred. Starred players must be playing regularly in the team that they are registered for (they can, when required, play for higher teams in the club). No starred player shall be unstarred without approval of the HWHL Administrator (or the automated approval through the HHA web site) prior to playing. Any such changes must be requested online in writing, giving reasons for the change.
- iv. For clubs with teams in the National league each higher team must register 11 starred players, all of whom are not eligible to play in the HWHL. This must be done online and a copy of the team's National registration sheet must be sent to the HWHL Administrator.
- v. For clubs with teams in the South Women's Hockey League, each higher team must register 11 starred players, all of whom are not eligible to play in the HWHL. This must be done online and a copy of the team's South registration sheet must be sent to the HWHL Administrator.
- vi. Players may play two matches on the same day, or in the same weekend, as long as the registration rules permit them to do so. Any player may play for a higher team than the team she is registered for. Starred players can never play for a lower team than they are registered for. Unstarred players may play for the next lowest team in the club. It does not matter whether the higher or lower team's fixture is first in the day.
- vii. If an unstarred outfield player plays 3 more matches than a starred player, for a particular team (including matches played for a higher team), they must become a starred player for that team. Starred players should normally be the 5 or 7 (depending on the division) players who have played the most matches for that team and, therefore, one of the starred players in that team who has played the least number of matches must be unstarred to accommodate this change. Similarly, if a player who is registered for a lower team plays 3 more matches for a team than a player registered for that team (who is one of the 11 players who have played most often), the player registered for the lower team must be re-registered for the team that team. The player whose place they are taking can be re-registered for a lower team.
- viii. For the purposes of these rules a "Specialist Goalkeeper" for a team is a player who only ever plays in goal for that team.
- ix. Specialist goalkeepers must be registered in the same way as other players. If a specialist goalkeeper would need to be starred for a particular team according to the rules above, they must be registered for that team, but do not need to be starred. It is the club's decision whether they star the goalkeeper concerned (restricting that goalkeeper from playing down), or to star an extra outfield player (which will allow the goalkeeper concerned to play down in the next lowest team).
- x. Players who are specialist goalkeepers in a higher team and occasionally play as outfield players in a lower team may do so but must be registered twice – once as a goalkeeper and once as an outfield player. When playing as an outfield player, they will be treated as if they were a different player, and "each player" must conform to the



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registration rules above. As soon as a player plays as an outfield player for the team that she is registered for as a specialist goalkeeper, that player will lose their specialist goalkeeper status and will be re-registered as a single, normal player.

- xi. Any alterations to the list of registered players must be made directly to the HHA on-line registration system, by midnight on the Monday preceding the match they wish to play in. This will be authorised by the HWHL Administrator. Circumstances such as injury, illness and pregnancy (or any other reason for not having played for a number of weeks) will be taken into account when asking to register players down to lower teams. If players have been forced to play in a higher team due to lack of availability from higher registered players, this will also be taken into account when asking to register players down to lower teams.
- xii. An unregistered player joining a club as a new player, or a junior player who has not previously played women's hockey, may be registered on-line to a team no later than 12 midnight on a Thursday evening and will then be eligible to play on the following Saturday if approved by the HWHL Administrator.
- xiii. If an ineligible player is listed on a match report sheet, the offending team will be deducted 3 points. If the result of the match was better than a loss of 3-0 (from the offending team's perspective), the result will be altered so that the offending team shall be deemed to have lost the match 3-0. If both teams play ineligible players, the result shall be a 0-0 draw and both teams will be deducted 4 points (to allow for the fact that the 0-0 result will credit each team 1 point). Where more than one ineligible player is listed on a match report sheet a fine of £20 will also be incurred for the second and any subsequent ineligible player listed.
- xiv. No registration changes of any kind will be allowed for a team's final 3 HWHL matches of the season.
- xv. The HWHL Administrator will monitor the number of matches played by players and in what teams to determine which players need to be starred or unstarred or re-registered to higher teams. Teams will have access to tables showing how many matches each of their players has played and in which teams so that they can also monitor this.

### 10. Umpires.

- i. Each team's umpire must conform to one of the following categories: -
  - a. Hants Prem will have umpires appointed by HHUA.
  - b. Division 1 each team must provide an umpire, who is at least L1 assessed and preferably an associate (at least) member of HHUA
  - c. In Division 2 each team must provide an umpire, who is at least L1 un-assessed and preferably an associate (at least) member of HHUA.
  - d. In other Divisions, each team must provide an umpire, who shall be preferably an associate member of HHUA
- ii. The provided umpire must be competent\* to umpire the match. Issues of competence will only be considered by the HWHL Committee if noted on the match report sheet and reported to the HWHL Administrator and the HWHL Secretary within 48 hours.
- iii. Persistent failure to provide a qualified or competent umpire, to take reasonable steps to qualify regular umpires, or other breaches of the umpire requirements, will be dealt with under rule 16. Penalties may include one or more relevant matches deemed to have been lost 5-0.
- iv. Clubs must ensure that umpires are insured (that the club has public liability cover for all participants, including umpires).

### 11. Matches.

- i. All matches must be played in accordance with the Rules of Hockey as set by the FIH Rules Board and any additional mandatory rules and regulations as set



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by England Hockey.

- ii. All matches must be arranged to take place as per the HWHL fixtures list. (Postponement of matches may occur in the event of 3 or more players from one of the participating teams being required for Hampshire, Territorial or International commitments. Dispensation for such a postponement must be sought by the club concerned at least 7 days in advance of their fixture.)
- iii. Matches will normally be played between 10am and 6pm. Start times may not be changed within four weeks of a match unless opposition have been advised.
- iv. Both teams must have a minimum of 7 players in order to start a match in the HWHL.
- v. In the event of abandonment, the result will only stand if 50 minutes of the match has been played.
- vi. The home team must supply a suitable match ball.
- vii. Club uniform, skirts/skorts or shorts (in club colours) and numbered shirts **must** be worn. Where similarity occurs, the AWAY team must wear shirts and socks of a contrasting colour. Any team playing a player without a numbered shirt will be subject to a fine of £ 20.
- viii. Teams not turning up will be expected to pay any expenses incurred by their opponents in respect of the match. Teams cancelling matches for reasons other than playing conditions may be expected to pay any expenses incurred by their opponents in respect of the match, in accordance with any HHA rules and regulations in force at the time.
- ix. In the event of a postponement or change of venue on the day of the match, the HOME team must contact the VISITING team and umpires by a mutually agreed time. If the pitch, in the opinion of both umpires is unfit for play, the match shall be postponed.
- x. Both teams must give the completed match report sheet to the umpires before the start of the match. The captain of the opposing team must be allowed to view the match report sheet prior to the match if requested.
- xi. Both teams must send their completed match report sheet, signed by both umpires, to the HWHL Administrator to arrive no later than 9pm the day following the fixture. The match report sheet can be uploaded directly onto the HHA website or sent by email to the HWHL Administrator. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20 to be increased to £40 if unpaid within 7 days of the invoice being raised. If the £40 fine remains unpaid 7 days after it is imposed, then 5 points will be deducted from the offending team's tally. Similarly any match sheet arriving 2 weeks or more after the match will be fined a further £20 and any match sheets arriving more than 4 weeks after the match will be deducted 3 points.
- xii. All match results and any postponements must be put directly on to the website by BOTH teams before 9pm on the day of the fixture, or the fines in 11.xi. will be imposed.
- xiii. If a team postpones a fixture, for any reason other than unplayable conditions, it will be deducted 3 points and the match must be played by the end of the season. If a team fails to play a postponed fixture by the end of the season it will have its results deleted and shall be relegated two divisions. If a team postpones a total of 3 fixtures in the same season, it will have its results deleted and shall be relegated two divisions. The HWHL Committee will consider exceptional circumstances. Where a postponed fixture is due to be rearranged, but both teams request to the HWHL Committee that they do not wish to play the match, the HWHL Committee may



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allow the match to not be played. Neither team will receive any points for the match. The HWHL Committee will only make such a decision where it cannot affect any promotion or relegation of any team from the division concerned (including the effect of goal difference).

xiv. Universities may apply to the HWHL Administrator for postponement of any match outside its University term. Such requests must be made at least one month prior to the first HWHL match of the season.

xv. Any team dissatisfied with the decision of the HWHL Administrator can appeal within 14 days of notification. A deposit of £100 (refunded if successful) must be lodged on appeal. The decision of the HWHL Committee or an Independent Committee of 3 nominated by them shall be final and binding.

12. Scoring will be - 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw.
13. Division positions shall be decided on points. Equality of clubs will be decided as follows: -

Firstly:	goal difference
Secondly:	goals for
Thirdly:	play-off
14. The number of teams promoted and relegated from each division shall be determined by the principles laid out in Appendix C.
15. The England Hockey Disciplinary Code shall apply to all HWHL matches.
16. In the event of any dispute that may arise in connection with these rules or other matters relating to the HWHL, the HWHL Committee shall determine the action to be taken.
17. The HWHL shall indemnify its committee members and any person appointed by and acting on behalf of the HWHL against any claim which may arise from any action taken with the authority of the HWHL.



## **Appendix A**

### **HWHL Administrator A**

HWHL Administrator: Richard Wood    hwhl@hampshireha.co.uk  
07717 765815

### **HWHL Committee**

HWHL Secretary:	Nicki Smith	Hwhl.secretary@hampshireha.co.uk 07970 031170
Non-portfolio:	Victoria Small	Kim Howarth

### **Address for completed match sheets**

By email:            hwhl@hampshireha.co.uk

## **Appendix B**

### **Definitions relating to umpires**

Competent: the principal measure of competence is that the umpire will make a decision whenever one is needed. At every incident in play, the competent umpire awards an appropriate penalty, or signals the 'advantage', or makes clear that there was no offence. Note that even competent umpires make mistakes, and an 'unusual' decision does not always indicate incompetence.

A competent umpire is familiar with the rule book - particularly rules 12 (Penalties) and 13 (Procedures) – and the basic umpiring skills (positioning, whistling, signalling, cooperation with partner) described in section 3 of the Umpiring part of the book.

L1 (Unassessed) The umpire complies with the rule by becoming an L1 (unassessed) umpire if the person has taken the L1 umpire course and received their L1 (unassessed) number from EH. By receiving this number, they have also passed an online self-check test (an EH requirement before attending the course). HWHL would expect a competent regular umpire to qualify within 6 months, and therefore umpires may only umpire as a L1 (unassessed) for one season



## **Appendix C**

### **HWHL Structure – Promotions & Relegations**

#### **Optimum Structure**

The optimum number of teams in each division is 12.

Where there are insufficient teams, the divisions are decreased in size by 1 or 2 teams, **starting at the bottom and working upwards though the divisions** until the number of teams entering is accommodated.

#### **Promotions & Relegations**

The number of teams in the HWHL does not just depend on the number of teams that enter the HWHL, but also on the number of teams promoted to, and relegated from, the higher South League divisions. These in turn can be dependent on the number of teams being promoted from the South League to the National League and relegated from the National League to the South League divisions.

As a result, the number of teams to be promoted or relegated from any division cannot be set with certainty at the start of any season. This will depend on the number of teams that will be competing in the HWHL for the following season.

#### **Principles**

The following set of principles will be applied in any year when there is no major restructure.

- (1) The principle is that 2 teams will be promoted and two teams relegated from each division. There obviously cannot be teams relegated from the lowest division and the number of teams promoted from the highest division is determined by the league rules of the higher leagues.
- (2) Where new teams enter the HWHL, or teams drop out of the HWHL, the number of teams in each division will be changed accordingly.
- (3) Where any division increases in size from the previous season by 1 team, the number of teams to be promoted from all lower divisions will be increased by 1 (i.e. typically 3 teams promoted).
- (4) Where any division increases in size from the previous season by 2 teams, the number of teams to be relegated from that division and any lower divisions will be reduced by one (i.e. typically one 1 team relegated) and the number of teams to be promoted from all lower divisions will be increased by 1 (i.e. typically 3 teams promoted).
- (5) Where any division decreases in size from the previous season by 1 team, the number of teams to be relegated from that division and all lower divisions will be increased by 1 (i.e. typically 3 teams relegated).



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- (6) Where any division decreases in size from the previous season by 2 teams, the number of teams to be relegated from that division and any lower divisions will be increased by one (i.e. typically 3 teams relegated) and the number of teams to be promoted from all lower divisions will be reduced by 1 (i.e. typically only 1 team promoted).
- (7) Promotions to, and relegations from, leagues above the HWHL would still be determined by the rules of that higher league.
- (8) Where no teams are relegated from the higher league and 1 promoted to it, the number of teams to be promoted from all HWHL divisions below Division 1 would be increased (or further increased) by 1.
- (9) Where two teams are relegated from the higher league but only 1 promoted, the number of teams to be relegated from all HWHL divisions would be increased (or further increased) by 1.
- (10) There is an underlying principle from England Hockey that in any league in England the division winners should be promoted or take part in a play-off process to determine promotion. As a result, where the above rules would result in a team that wins a division not being promoted, that team can elect to be promoted. Where they do, the lowest placed non-relegated team from the higher division would be relegated, with their place being taken by the lower division winners.

The above principles will determine the division structure for the following season. However, in any year where there are significant changes in the number of teams entering the HWHL (> 3 teams difference) the HWHL Committee would reserve the right to adapt the promotions and relegations to ensure that divisions are competitive, such changes to be agreed at the relevant annual meeting.