

5th October 2020.

Irish Hockey Challenge (Men) 2020/21.

Competition Format:

1. Competition will be played in three groups, 1 of 4 teams and 2 of 3 teams – each team plays every other team in their group once.
2. Composition of groups and quarter final pairing chosen to minimise travel requirements. All teams will have a minimum of two matches. Most will have a minimum of three matches.
3. Top two sides in each of the 3 team groups will qualify for Quarter-finals.
Winner Group 2 v. Runner up Group 3, Winner Group 3 v. Runner up Group 2.
Venue: Group winners shall have home advantage.
4. Semi-Finals: Winner Q/F 1 v. Runner up from 4 team group.
Winner Q/F 2 v. Winner from 4 team group.
Venue for semi-finals to be decided by the Cup Competitions SWG.
(2019/20 – s/finals played at Abbotstown, Dublin to limit travel.)
5. Group Positions:
Group table positions shall be determined by –
 - 1) Points Won.
 - 2) Goal Difference.
 - 3) Result between teams.
6. Points (Group matches):
Win 4 pts.
Draw* 2 pts for shoot out winner, Draw 1 pt. for shoot out loser.
Loss 0 pts.
 - *In the event of a draw, a shootout (see Appendix A, Cup Rules & Regulations) will take place to determine the allocation of a bonus point to the winner.
 - Where a team fails to fulfil a fixture their opponents shall be awarded a 5 – 0 win.
 - Teams failing to fulfil fixtures may face additional penalties to be determined by the Cup Competitions SWG. These penalties may include expulsion, suspension or monetary fine.
7. IHUA will endeavour to cover as many matches as possible. In the event of there being no IHUA appointee the match shall proceed as scheduled with club appointed umpires.
8. Clubs shall adhere to the Cup Competitions Rules & Regulations in relation to obligations relating to participation in Hockey Ireland Cup Competitions.

9. Fixtures:

Matches have been scheduled for the dates allocated to the Challenge in the Calendar for 2020-21. (Full list below.)

Group 1: Ulster (4 Teams).

Portrush, Antrim, Saintfield, PSNI.

Group 2: Leinster (3 Teams).

Mullingar, Wicklow, Portrane2.

Group 3: Leinster/Munster (3 Teams).

Naas, Limerick, Midleton.

Fixtures:	M1 31st Oct	G1	PSNI V. ANTRIM SAINTFIELD V. PORTRUSH
		G2	MULLINGAR V. PORTRANE2 Wicklow Free.
		G3	NAAS V. LIMERICK Midleton Free.
M2 Sat 28th Nov	G1	PORTRUSH V. PSNI ANTRIM V. SAINTFIELD	
	G2	WICKLOW V. MULLINGAR Portrane2 Free.	
	G3	MIDLETON V. NAAS Limerick Free.	
M3 Sat 23 rd Jan	G1	ANTRIM V. PORTRUSH PSNI V. SAINTFIELD	
	G2	PORTRANE2 V. WICKLOW Mullingar Free.	
	G3	LIMERICK V. MIDLETON Naas Free.	
M4 Sat 20 th Feb	QF1.	Winner Group 2 V. Runner up Group 3	
	QF2.	Winner Group 3 V. Runner up Group 2	
M5 Sat 20 th Mar Venue TBC.	SF1.	Winner QF1 V. Runner up Group 1.	
	SF2.	Winner QF2 V. Runner up Group 1.	
FINAL W/E 24/25 th April.		Venue TBC.	