

Hockey Ireland Cup Competition – Rules and Regulations 2022/23

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hockey Ireland Cup Competition Rules & Regulations cover all Cup Competitions under the auspices of Hockey Ireland, including Irish Senior Cup (ISC), Irish Hockey Trophy (IHT), Irish Hockey Challenge (IHC) and the Irish Junior Cup (IJC). The sponsor names, as above, must be so referred to in all correspondence and publicity and in any other circumstances in which the name of the IHL divisions are used.
- 1.2 The FIH Rules of Hockey, including any experimental rule changes approved by Hockey Ireland for use in Competitions shall be observed except as herein provided. A copy of these Hockey Ireland Cup Competition Rules & Regulations will be available on the Hockey Ireland website.
- 1.3 Hockey Ireland shall own the broadcasting rights to all games played in Hockey Ireland Cup Competitions be it, terrestrial, satellite, cable, or internet streaming. All other broadcast coverage may be permitted with the prior approval of Hockey Ireland.
- 1.4 Hockey Ireland has approved the use of photographic / film / video equipment at all games under the jurisdiction of the Association. All players who participate in these competitions shall freely permit their images to be used without any payment or compensation. It is the responsibility of participating teams to ensure they have appropriate parental consent for their players, where required.
- 1.5 Binding Force of the Regulations

Each club, by its entry into and participation in an Irish Cup Competition, and each player by registering to participate in the Cup Competition, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by the Rules of Hockey Ireland, the Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct, the Hockey Ireland Cup Competition Rules and Regulations and the Code of Ethics and to any amendments that may be ratified by the Board of Hockey Ireland or Competitions Working Group.

Each club and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Hockey Ireland Competitions Working Group in relation to these Rules & Regulations or any matter not covered in these Rules & Regulations and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.

The Board of Hockey Ireland reserve the right to update and/or amend all relevant regulations and codes during any season and will communicate any such updates or amendments to clubs or bodies competing in such competitions. All such updates or amendments shall be binding on participants from the date communicated by the Board of Hockey Ireland. In addition, the Board of Hockey Ireland reserve the right to interpret any Hockey Ireland rule, regulation or code governing competitions. Matters of interpretation shall be determined by the Board.

2. MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The Management of Hockey Ireland Cup Competitions will be under the auspices of the Cup Competitions Sub-Working Group (CCSWG) of the Hockey Ireland Competitions Working Group (CWG) who shall be responsible and answerable to the Board of Hockey Ireland.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Clubs may enter no more than one team per cup competition and no more than one cup competition per team subject to the qualification criteria contained in Appendix B of this document.
- 3.2 The qualification criteria should be reviewed annually by the CCSWG taking into account the provincial and Hockey Ireland league structures for the coming season.
- 3.3 The CCSWG shall have the authority, in exceptional circumstances, to permit entry to teams which fail to meet the qualification criteria stated above.
- 3.4 Player eligibility is as per the Hockey Ireland Player Eligibility Rules for all Cup Competitions.

4. TEAM ENTRY

- 4.1 Prior to the season starting, Club Secretaries (as advised to Hockey Ireland) will receive an Entry Form from Hockey Ireland detailing how to enter teams to the various Cup Competitions.
- 4.2 It is the responsibility of each Club to enter teams (subject to the qualification criteria) by the closing date as stated on the Entry Form.
- 4.3 For entries to the ISC, IHT, IHC and IJC to be accepted, each club must nominate a graded umpire(s) who has agreed to umpire firstly under the national appointments or, if not required nationally, under their provincial appointments.

For a club who has a team involved in the ISC, they are required to nominate one graded umpire for selection. If so desired, this umpire can be made from the list of national graded umpires.

For a club who has a team involved in the IHT, IHC and IJC, they are required to nominate one graded umpire per team for selection. **Important:** This umpire cannot be made from the list of national graded umpires.

5. TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 5.1 Registration requirements for players at the beginning of the season, or mid-season, is as per the Hockey Ireland Player Registration Rules for all Hockey Ireland Competitions.

The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on the club. Failure to abide by the Hockey Ireland Player Registration Rules can lead to a range of penalties as outlined in those rules.

6. CUP DRAWS

- 6.1 The dates for each round of every Cup Competition is set prior to the beginning of each season and published in the Events Calendar for the season and available on Hockey Ireland website.
- 6.2 The draw for the first round of each Cup Competition is made once the entry list is known. An open draw for subsequent rounds of each Cup Competition shall be held on a date(s) determined by the CCSWG.
- (a) The draw for the first round(s) of Irish Hockey Challenge will be made and the pairing drawn so as to minimise, where possible, the travel requirements for the participating teams. Teams will be drawn against opposition from their own province or adjoining neighbouring province where possible
 - (b) Irish Senior Cup, season 2022/23, all EYHL teams will receive a bye into the round of 16
 - (c) Each draw will be organised by the CCSWG with at least two scrutineers present.
 - (d) The location of each draw will be publicised in advance to facilitate clubs to attend.
- 6.3 The CCSWG shall have the authority to alter the format of any of the competitions under its control.

All Hockey Ireland cup competitions will be played under the prevailing Protocols issued by Hockey Ireland.

The CCSWG shall have the authority to alter the draw for any round(s) of a cup competition to avoid a fixture backlog and facilitate to orderly completion of any cup competition under its control where local lockdown or other restrictions prevent the playing of the original schedule. This may involve, but not limited to, a complete redraw of the round(s) affected.

7. PRE-MATCH DAY CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 The CWG shall be responsible for setting the dates for all rounds of the Cup Competitions.
- 7.2 Any club request to change the scheduled cup match date or to play outside the prescribed times must be requested through the Hockey Ireland competitions administrator competitions@hockey.ie a minimum of 16 days prior to the match OR within 48 hours of the draw for that round if the draw is held less than 16 days before the scheduled date for the match.

Consent will only be considered when there is agreement from the opposing club. Both clubs must make their own arrangements for any knock-on effects with their own provincial branch.

This includes requests to play a match on Friday or midweek evenings or to switch from Saturday to Sunday or vice versa, or to move the weekend of the match.

Note that the enactment of contingency plans under the Hockey Ireland Bad Weather procedure (for example, moving a match from Saturday to Sunday due to bad weather on Saturday) are exempt from this rule.

Note, the CCSWG may request a change to the date or time of a match due to operational reasons, weather reasons and /or conflict with the Hockey Ireland Calendar.

- 7.3 Unless otherwise agreed by the CCSWG, cup matches must be scheduled to start within prescribed times.

For matches involving Connacht-Ulster, Munster-Ulster, Leinster-Munster or SouthEast-Ulster pairings matches must be scheduled to start no earlier than 1.00 pm and no later than 3.30 pm.

For other pairings, matches must be scheduled to start no earlier than 12.30 pm and no later than 4.00 pm.

- 7.4 The first named team is the home team and has choice of ground except for the final and in the case of the ISC, the semi-final ground will also be appointed by the CCSWG.
- 7.5 The home club is responsible for inputting the start time of their game onto the IHUA umpires appointments system and the MyGameDay system. In order to facilitate umpire appointments and opposition travelling arrangements, the time of the match must be input onto these systems at least ten days in advance of the match.
- 7.6 The home club must contact their opponents to confirm arrangements by 8.00pm on the Monday prior to the match. Team colours to be established and if there is a clash, the away team must change.
- 7.7 The home club must contact both Umpires (and Technical Official if one is appointed) to confirm arrangements by 8.00pm on the Monday prior to the match. Travel arrangements, time of departure and any pick-up requirements should be confirmed.

8. BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

- 8.1 For all Cup Competition games, clubs must follow the Hockey Ireland Bad Weather Procedure. The Bad Weather Procedure provides guidance on actions to be taken by both clubs in the days prior to the match and on the match day itself.

9. MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Matches must start on time and if a team arrives more than 30 minutes after the appointed start time the match will be forfeited unless otherwise agreed by the two teams.

9.2 Pitches

- (a) All Cup Competition matches shall be played on a synthetic pitch except for the Challenge which may be played on shale provided the pitch is the regular home club's surface.
- (b) Umpires decide on the fitness of the pitch before and during the match and the Hockey Ireland Bad Weather Procedure shall be followed in case of poor weather conditions.
- (c) The pitch must be available to both teams for a minimum of 15 minutes warm up time prior to the scheduled start time.

9.3 Duration of matches

The duration of each match shall be 4 quarters of 17.5 minutes. There will be no extra time played.

Timekeeping will be controlled by the Umpires whose responsibility it will be to signal the end of any period of regulation time. Note, match duration of 17.5 minute quarters, with no stoppage time for penalty corners. Quarter time breaks to be 1 minute 30 seconds and the half time to 7 minutes 30 seconds or a duration agreed between the teams and the officials prior to the start of the game.

9.4 Drawn matches

In the event of a drawn match, the winners shall be decided by a shoot-out competition (in line with FIH Tournament Regulations). For details of shoot-out rules, please refer to Appendix A of this document.

9.5 Abandoned matches

- (a) Once a game has started, the decision on whether it should be abandoned rests with the umpires.
- (b) When a game has been abandoned, the Umpires should ensure the Match Card is completed and signed in line with the procedure for completed games.
- (c) The home club is responsible for returning the Match Cards to the Hockey Ireland Office within 24 hours.
- (d) In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of adverse weather (the bad weather protocol applies), serious injury or safety reasons re-fix must be arranged through the CCSWG. The re-scheduled match will be played in its entirety from the start.

- (e) Any disciplinary issues that occur prior to a match being abandoned will be dealt with under the Hockey Ireland Games Discipline Procedure and the Hockey Ireland Cup Competition Rules and Regulations, as appropriate.

9.6 Match Day Responsibilities – match cards, reporting results and hospitality

- (a) Both teams are responsible for entering their team lists into the MyGameDay system prior to the start of the match. Each team should print their match card (which should contain team lists for both teams) and bring it to the match.
- (b) Only players named on a team's match card may take part in the match.
- (c) After the match, details should be recorded on one match card (the one with the least amendments required) so that it contains both team lists, the result, scorers and disciplinary cards. It should be signed by both team's captains/managers and by the umpires as an accurate record of the match.
- (d) The winning team is responsible for returning a photo or scan of the completed match card(s) by email to the Hockey Ireland cup results account (hockeyirelandcups@gmail.com) to arrive within 24 hours of the completion of the game
- (e) Both teams must take a photo of the completed match card(s) and retain as a record in event of issues arising.
- (f) It is the responsibility of the home team to provide the result of the match and the names of the scorers immediately after the game in the requested format. This updates the results page on the Hockey Ireland website and missing scores will be shown as 'no results submitted'. A fine will be issued as per 14.6 if this is not completed.
- (g) Home clubs must provide post-match hospitality, including a post-match meal, to visiting teams and match officials where travel is from outside of the home Branch. Visiting clubs should notify home clubs in advance if they do not require post-match hospitality.

10. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS FOR MATCHES

- 10.1 A maximum of 18 players may be used by each club in each match (of whom 2 must be goalkeepers in full goalkeeping equipment). If a team chooses not to include a second goalkeeper on the bench, then they are limited to 16 players (in line with FIH Tournament Regulations).
- 10.2 Players must wear numbered shirts. This number must be of contrasting colour to the shirt. Each player's number must be the same as that submitted on the match card.
- 10.3 Teams must have player names on shirts for nationally televised finals, if there is a request by the broadcaster.

- 10.4 Each team must have a captain or acting captain who is responsible for the behaviour of the team players on the field of play and who must wear a distinctive arm band or ribbon on the field of play or the team bench at all times during a match. Upon suspension of the captain, a team player on the field of play or the team bench must take over the armband or ribbon and role of team captain.
- 10.5 Each team must have a minimum of 7 players on the field of play for a match to be started. In case a team does not fulfil this condition, the opposing team will be considered as having won the match by a score of 5-0.
- 10.6 The team manager, team coach, the physiotherapist and substitute players nominated for the match, plus the team medical doctor must remain seated on the team bench during regulation time, including time stoppages, unless the MTA/TD/TO or umpire(s) direct otherwise or when following the substitution procedures. The team manager, who is responsible for the conduct of all persons occupying the bench, must be present on the bench during the match and occupy the seat nearest the technical table.

11. DISCIPLINE

- 11.1 The Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct and the Hockey Ireland Games Discipline Procedure apply to Cup Competitions and any issues will be dealt with by Hockey Ireland Games Disciplinary Panel and the Hockey Ireland Appeals Committee, if necessary.
- 11.2 The Hockey Ireland Disciplinary Panel will review all Card Reports and may increase a suspension.
- 11.3 Suspension dates will be notified by Hockey Ireland Disciplinary Panel via the Club Secretary.

12. UMPIRES

- 12.1 Umpires for all Cup Competition matches will be appointed by the IHUA, where they have umpires available.
- 12.2 In a match where IHUA appointed umpires are not appointed or available, the game shall proceed with umpires appointed by both teams. In the event of no umpires being available the match shall proceed with a player from each team undertaking the umpiring role. A player so appointed cannot partake in the match as a player.
- 12.3 A Technical Official (TO) shall be appointed for the ISC semi-finals and finals and for the IHT, IHC and IJC finals.
- 12.4 In matches where a TO is appointed their duties, responsibilities and authority shall be as per Hockey Ireland Rules.

For clarity: After a match with an appointed TO, the home team should supply results in the appropriate manner (ref rule 9.6.f and the TO should return completed match cards to the Cups administrator by emailing photos if necessary (ref rule 9.6.d).

13. DISQUALIFICATION OR FAILURE/FAILURE TO PLAY

13.1 A team either disqualified or refusing/failing to play or to complete a match shall be considered as withdrawing from the Cup Competition.

13.2 A fine of up to €750 or Sterling equivalent and or a period of suspension may be imposed on Clubs withdrawing from Cup Competitions. Clubs will be asked to complete a report giving reasons for their withdrawal.

14. BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

14.1 Any club found to be in breach of the Cup Competition Rules and Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by a specific regulation herein.

14.2 The CCSWG shall at its discretion have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively fines, suspension of players, suspension of teams, and power to make teams play matches away from their home venue, on a club for breaches of any or all of the Hockey Ireland Cup Competition Rules and Regulations and/or the Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct.

14.3 In addition the CCSWG shall at its discretion have the right to require that clubs reimburse opposing clubs, officials and/or Hockey Ireland for any expenses incurred by breaches of the Cup Competition Rules and Regulations.

14.4 A fine of €50 or Sterling equivalent will apply for late payment of Cup entry fee. This will increase by €10 or Sterling equivalent for every week payment is late after a fortnight from when the payment was due.

14.5 A fine of €50 or Sterling equivalent will apply where the home team does not adhere to the Regulations in relation to setting the time of the match on MyGameDay System or the IHUA system (see 7.5) or contacting and hosting Umpires and Technical Officials (see 7.7 and 9.6.g) or returning the result and scorers to MyGameDay System (see 9.2.f).

14.6 A fine of €50 or Sterling equivalent will apply when the winning team does not adhere to the Regulations in relation to returning the completed match cards or returning the result of the fixture (see 9.6.d and 9.6.f).

15. APPEAL PROCEDURE

15.1 Teams and players have the right to appeal against a decision of the Hockey Ireland CWG or CCSWG to the Appeals Committee of the Hockey Ireland Board, in line with the Appeal process as described in the Irish Hockey Bye Laws.

- (a) 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
- (b) There shall be no appeal in respect of a decision where the Cup Competitions Rules and Regulations have been applied.

APPENDICES

1. Rules for Shootout Competition

Reference rule 9.4. A shootout competition is used to determine the winning team for drawn matches. The following, from Appendix 11 of the FIH Tournament Regulations, is provided here for ease of access and for clarification of roles.

For cup matches where there is no Technical Official appointed, all reference to the Technical Delegate shall be replaced by the umpires. [Items 3, 4, 5]

The umpires may choose to take the time themselves or to delegate that task to an appropriate person to act as timekeeper. [Items 4, 12e]

Shootout competition

In a shoot-out competition, five players from each team take a one-on-one shoot-out alternately against a defender from the other team as set out in this Regulation. The shoot-out competition comprises all series of shoot-outs required to determine a result.

The following sets out both the playing Rules and the procedures to be followed.

1. If the shoot-out competition takes place after the end of a match, the first shoot-out should take place within four (4) minutes of the end of regulation playing time.
2. The respective Team Managers provide five players to take and one player to defend the shoot-outs from those on the Match Report except as excluded below. A player nominated to defend the shoot-outs can also be nominated to take a shoot-out. No substitutions / replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition other than as specified below.
3. A player who is still serving a disciplinary suspension by the Technical Delegate at the time the shoot-out competition takes place or has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition, cannot take part in that shoot-out competition. A player who has been warned (green card) or temporarily suspended (yellow card) may take part in the shout-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match.
4. The Technical Delegate will specify the method of timing shoot-outs taking account of the facilities available and the need to control time accurately.
5. The Technical Delegate will specify the goal to be used.
6. A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot-out.

7. All persons listed on the Match Report other than any player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition are permitted to enter the field of play outside the 23m area used for the shoot-out but must be at least 10 metres from the spot where the ball is placed at the start of the shoot-out.
8. The goalkeeper / defending player of the team taking a shoot-out shall wait on the back-line outside the circle.
9. A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.
10. Players taking a shoot-out and also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents are allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put back on their protective equipment.
11. Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper / defending player of the other team making a total of 10 shoot-outs.
12. Taking a shoot-out:
 - a. The goalkeeper / defending player starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts;
 - b. The ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;
 - c. An attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;
 - d. The Umpire blows the whistle to start time;
 - e. An official at the technical table starts clock.
 - f. The attacker and the goalkeeper / defending player may then move in any direction;
 - g. the shoot-out is completed when:
 - i. 8 seconds has elapsed since the starting signal;
 - ii. a goal is scored;
 - iii. the attacker commits an offence;
 - iv. the goalkeeper / defending player commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle in which case the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper/defending player;
 - v. the goalkeeper / defending player commits an intentional offence inside or outside the circle, in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;

- vi. The ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper / defending player intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.
13. If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above, it can be taken and defended by any eligible player on the Match Report subject to the provisions of Articles 17, 18 and 19 of this Appendix.
14. The team scoring the most goals (or ahead by more goals than the other team has undertaken shoot-outs available) is the winner.
15. A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot-out competition.
16. If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:
- a. that player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper / defending player, cannot be replaced;
 - b. the replacement for a suspended goalkeeper / defending player can only come from the five players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition:
 - i. the replacement goalkeeper / defending player is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper/defending player they are replacing was wearing;
 - ii. for taking their own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
 - c. any shoot-out due to be taken by a suspended player is forfeited; any goals scored by this player before being suspended count as a goal.
17. If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper / defending player is incapacitated:
- a. that goalkeeper / defending player may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded in this Appendix or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition;
 - b. the replacement goalkeeper:

- i. is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper / defending player was wearing;
 - ii. if this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
18. If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded above or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition.
19. If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs:
 - a. a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix;
 - b. the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;
 - c. the team whose player took the first shoot-out in a series defends the first shoot-out of the next series;
 - d. when one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot-outs, that team is the winner.
20. If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, additional series of shootouts are taken with the same players subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix:
 - a. the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;
 - b. the team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.
21. Unless varied by this Appendix, the Rules of Hockey apply during a shoot-out.

APPENDIX 2 – Cup Competition Qualification Criteria

2. Cup Competition Qualification Criteria

The Cup Competition qualification criteria as called out in rule 3.1 are detailed below

a. Men's Cup Competition Qualification Criteria

Entry for the Irish Senior Cup & Irish Hockey Trophy is limited to club 1st XI's only.

- i. The following teams shall be eligible to enter the Irish Senior Cup:
 1. All EYHL teams for the current season.
 2. All EYHL2 teams for the current season.
 3. Ulster Premier teams ranked 1st to 4 th incl. in the previous season.
 4. Leinster Division 1 teams ranked 1st to 4 th incl. in the previous season.
 5. Munster Division 1 1st XI teams ranked 1st to 3rd incl. in the previous season, (3 Munster teams in EYHL2, therefore, not eligible for IHT)
- ii. The following teams shall be eligible to enter the Irish Senior Cup or the Irish Hockey Trophy:
 1. Ulster Premier teams ranked 5th and below in the previous season.
 2. Leinster Division 1 teams ranked 5th and below in the previous season.
 3. Munster Division 1 1st XI teams ranked 4th and below of 1st XI teams in the previous season. (Munster D1 1stXI's have to apply for an exemption under Rule 3.3 to play in Challenge)
 4. Teams promoted to the Ulster Premier, Leinster Division 1 and Munster Division 1 for current season (see note above)
- iii. The following teams shall be eligible to choose to enter either the Irish Hockey Trophy or the Irish Hockey Challenge:
 1. Ulster Intermediate teams ranked 3rd & 4th in the previous season.
 2. Leinster division 3 1st XI teams for the current season.
- iv. The following teams shall be eligible to enter the Irish Hockey Challenge:
 1. Ulster Intermediate teams ranked 5th and below in the previous season.

2. Leinster Division 4/5/6 & 7 1st XI teams.
 3. Munster Division 2/3 1st XI teams for current season.
- v. The following teams shall be eligible to enter the Irish Junior Cup:
1. Ulster 2nd XI teams competing in Junior 1, 2 & 3.
 2. Leinster 2nd XI teams competing in Divisions 2, 3 & 4.
 3. Munster 2nd XI teams competing in Divisions 1 & 2.

b. Women's Cup Competition Qualification Criteria

Entry for the Irish Senior Cup & Irish Hockey Trophy is limited to club 1st XI's only.

- i. The following teams shall be eligible to enter the Irish Senior Cup only:
1. All EYHL teams from the previous season
 2. All EYHL Division 2 teams for current season – excl. Connacht.
 3. Ulster Premier teams ranked 1st to 4th in the previous season.
 4. Leinster division 1 teams ranked 1st to 4th in the previous season.
 5. Munster division 1 teams ranked 1st and 2nd in the previous season.
- ii. The following teams shall be eligible to choose to enter either the Irish Senior Cup or the Irish Hockey Trophy:
1. Ulster Premier teams ranked 5th and below in the previous season.
 2. Leinster division 1 teams ranked 5th and below in the previous season.
 3. Teams promoted to Ulster Premier or Leinster Division 1 for the current season.
 4. Munster division 1 teams ranked 3rd in the previous season.
 5. Connacht division 1 winners and 2nd place team from the previous season.
- iii. The following teams shall be eligible to enter the Irish Hockey Trophy:
1. Ulster Senior 1 teams for current season.
 2. Leinster Challenge A teams ranked 1st to 4th incl. in the previous season

(Above criteria based on cup entries from last season)

3. Munster Division 1 teams ranked 4th 5th & 6th in the previous season.
 4. Teams promoted to Munster Division 1 for the current season.
 5. Connacht division 1 1st XI team ranked 3rd in the previous season.
- iv. The following teams shall be eligible to choose to enter either the Irish Hockey Trophy or the Irish Hockey Challenge:
1. Ulster Senior 2 teams for the current season.
 2. Leinster Challenge A teams ranked 5th to 8th in the previous season.
(this would include any team relegated to Challenge B)
 3. Teams promoted to Leinster Challenge A for the current season.
 4. Munster division 2 1st XI teams for the current season.
 5. Connacht division 1 1st XI teams ranked 4th and below in the previous season.
- v. The following teams shall be eligible to enter the Irish Hockey Challenge:
1. All 1st XI teams that are not eligible for the ISC or IHT.
 2. Leinster Challenge B teams for current season (Leinster Challenge B 1stXI's have to apply for an exemption under Rule 3.3 to play in Trophy)
 3. Connacht 2nd XI teams from clubs with a 1st team in the IHT.
- vi. The following teams shall be eligible to enter the Irish Junior Cup:
1. Ulster 2nd XI teams competing in Junior 1 & 2.
 2. Leinster 2nd XI teams competing in divisions 2, 3 & 4.
 3. Munster 2nd XI teams competing in divisions 2 & 3.
 4. Connacht 2nd XI teams from clubs with a 1st team in the ISC.