

IRISH HOCKEY LEAGUE – REGULATIONS 2023/24

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Irish Hockey League (IHL) consists of the following:

- IHL Premier league (18 rounds of the league), referred to here as EYHL
- IHL Champions Trophy (top 6 finalists)
- IHL Division 2, referred to here as IHL Division 2
- IHL Division 2 Play-off Finals

For the season 2023/24 the IHL Premier Division and the IHL Champions Trophy are sponsored by EY and shall be called the EY Hockey League or EYHL and the EY Hockey Champions Trophy. For the purposes of these Regulations below, the EY Hockey League has been abbreviated to EYHL.

For the season 2023/24 IHL Division 2, and the IHL Division 2 Play-off Finals are sponsored by EY and shall be called the EYHL Division 2. For the purposes of these Regulations below, the EYHL Division 2 has been abbreviated to EYHLD2.

When referring to the entire competition collectively, the term IHL will be used.

- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The IHL falls under the scope of national all Ireland competitions as defined within the Hockey Ireland Memorandum & Articles of Association and Bye-Laws and is managed under the auspices of the Competitions Committee specifically through the IHL Sub Working Group. The Competitions Committee is answerable to the Hockey Ireland Board.
- 1.4 The FIH Rules of Hockey shall be observed except as herein provided. A copy of the FIH Rules of Hockey and the FIH Tournament Rules are available on the FIH website and a copy of these IHL Regulations are available on Hockey Ireland website. The IHL has received a derogation from the FIH to play 17.5 minute quarters with no stoppage time for penalty corners.
- 1.5 Hockey Ireland shall own the broadcasting rights to all games played in the IHL, including the EY Hockey Champions Trophy be it, terrestrial, satellite, cable, or internet streaming. All other broadcast coverage may be permitted with the prior approval of Hockey Ireland.
- 1.6 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 the IHL 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. The flying and operating of drones in Ireland is subject to the European Union Regulation 2019/947. The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) supervises and implements this regulation in Ireland.

1.7 Binding Force of the Regulations

All members of Hockey Ireland (Clubs, IHUA and Provincial Branches) are bound by the Regulations as outlined herein and each club, by its entry into and participation in the IHL, and each player by registering to participate in the IHL, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by the Rules of the Hockey Ireland, Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct, the IHL Regulations and the Code of Ethics, and to any amendments that may be ratified by the Board of Hockey Ireland.

Each club and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the IHL Sub Working Group in relation to these Regulations or any matter not covered in these 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 other members competing in such competitions. All such updates or amendments shall be binding on participants and other members from the date communicated by the Board of Hockey Ireland. In addition, the Chair of the Competitions Committee reserves the right to interpret any Hockey Ireland rule, regulation or code governing competitions. Matters of interpretation shall be determined by the Chair of Competitions at his/her sole discretion.

2. COMPETITION HIERARCHY WITHIN HOCKEY IRELAND

2.1 The IHL and the Irish Senior Cup are the premier club competitions within Hockey Ireland.

- Both competitions sit above the club competitions structures of every provincial branch.
- Both competitions are open only to the 1st team within a club.

2.2 Promotion to the EYHL is via EYHLD2, which in turn is based on nominations from each province as per their qualifying regulations (Per 2.3). Relegation from the EYHL is to the top league within each province. The IHL was established via the Hockey Ireland EGM October 2014 and enshrines the principle of an open pathway for every club within Hockey Ireland from the lowest provincial league to the top of IHA club league competition, i.e. IHL.

- 2.3 The competition to determine the finishing position within each province and qualification to EYHLD2 is managed within each province separately. The league qualifiers from each province to be provided at a date set by Hockey Ireland so that invitations to participate in EYHLD2 can be issued and entry confirmed.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Any bona fide member of a club who meets Hockey Ireland Club Outdoor Competition Eligibility Rules for HI Competitions may play in the IHL.
- 3.2 Registration of players is as per Hockey Ireland Player Registration Rules for all HI Competitions.
- 3.3 A player may play for more than one IHL club in one season, provided that the transfer is executed and completed in line with the receiving club provincial rules AND meets Hockey Ireland Club Outdoor Competition Eligibility Rules for HI Competitions (note regulations for players transferring from outside of Hockey Ireland). The process for executing a player transfer is contained within Hockey Ireland Player Registration Rules.
- 3.4 The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on the registering team. The IHL Sub Working Group shall decide any dispute regarding eligibility and shall be entitled to request such written or oral evidence, as it considers necessary.
- 3.5 Any appeal against a decision of the IHL Sub Working Group on eligibility shall be made in accordance with the Hockey Ireland Bye Laws Section 18. An individual shall not play in an IHL game pending the outcome of an appeal.

4. THE COMPETITION

The IHL SWG shall have the authority, subject to the approval of the Board of Hockey Ireland, to alter the format of any of the constituent parts of the IHL in the event of circumstances arising not directly covered by these regulations.

- 4.1 The 2023/24 IHL (men's and women's) consists of:
- EYHL of 10 clubs (see 4.2)
 - EY Hockey Champions Trophy (see 4.3)
 - EYHLD2 consisting of 10 teams (men), 10 teams (women) (see 4.4)

- EYHLD2 Play-off Finals (see 4.5)

No participating club may alter its title, nor incorporate any part of a sponsor's name therein, without the prior approval of Hockey Ireland.

4.2 EYHL – League stage

- All clubs who qualify for EYHL must confirm their participation by the due date requested.
- Each club will play all other clubs on a home and away basis on the dates specified by the IHL Sub Working Group
- The top two finishing clubs in the home and away league format, as per the Points Scoring System below will qualify for the EY Hockey Champions Trophy. The next four finishing clubs (3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th) will qualify for the EY Hockey Champions Trophy Play-offs.
- The winner of the home and away league format, as per the Point Scoring System below, will also qualify for Europe as (minimum) Ireland Representative No. 2 in the following season.
- The EY Hockey Champions Trophy Play-offs will see the club finishing 3rd play 6th and 4th play 5th, with the winner of each match qualifying for the EY Hockey Champions Trophy. The higher ranked team has home advantage.
- The clubs finishing 9th and 10th in the home and away league will be relegated to their home province top division for the following season and will also play in the EYHLD2.

4.3 EY Hockey Champions Trophy

- The EY Champions trophy will be played over one weekend with semi-finals on Day 1 and the Final the next day.
- The EY Champions Trophy semi-final line up will be 1st versus (winner of 4th v 5th play off) and 2nd versus (winner of 3rd v 6th play-off).
- The match schedule will be determined by the IHL Sub Working Group.
- The winner of the EY Hockey Champions Trophy will be declared the Irish Champion for that season and will qualify for European club competition as the Number 1 representative from Ireland.

- Should the winner of the EY Hockey Champions Trophy also have won the EYHL League stage, then the runner up in the EY Hockey Champions Trophy will qualify for European club competition as the Number 2 representative from Ireland.
- Matches shall be played under the IHL Regulations with regulations to facilitate a tournament format (see Appendix 1).
- The EY Hockey Champions Trophy Weekend will be played at a venue decided by the IHL Sub Working Group.

4.4 EYHLD2 – League stage

(a) 4.4.1 EYHLD2

- The clubs will be split into two pools of five playing each other on a home and away basis on the dates specified by the IHL Sub Working Group.
- The provincial leagues will be structured /scheduled in parallel to the EYHLD2 to ensure the EYHLD2 can be spread throughout the season and completed in parallel to provincial leagues.
- The winner of each pool will progress to the Semi Finals on the Play off Finals weekends. The teams finishing 2nd & 3rd in each pool will progress to the quarter finals in a venue to be decided by the IHL Sub Working Group which may be at a neutral venue

EYHLD2 Quarter Finals:

QF1. Pool 1 2nd Place v. Pool 2 3rd Place

QF2. Pool 2 2nd Plae v Pool 1 3rd Place

First named team shall have home advantage.

Semi-Finals:

SF1. Pool 1 Winner v Winner QF2

SF2. Pool 2 Winner v Winner QF1

4.5 EYHLD2 Play-off Finals

- The winner of the EYHLD2 Play-off Finals will be declared the EYHLD2 Champions for that season and will be promoted to the EYHL in the following season.
- The Runner Up of the EYHLD2 Play-off Finals will also be promoted to the EYHL in the following season.

- Matches shall be played under the IHL Regulations with regulations (see Appendix 1).
- The EYHLD2 Play-off Finals Weekend will be played at a venue decided by the IHL Sub Working Group.

4.6 EYHLD2 qualification

- Each year EYHLD2 will 're-constitute' based on nominations from provinces and the EYHL in the previous season.
- Each province has a number of allocations for EYHLD2 as follows:
- Men: Ulster 1/2/3; Leinster 1/2/3; Munster 1/2/3; The 10th place in the EYHLD2 competition will be alternated between Ulster 4 and Leinster 4 (in season 2023/24 Ulster 4 will be the 10th place) or as decided by the IHL WG.
- Women: Ulster 1/2/3; Leinster 1/2/3; Munster 1/2; Connacht 1/2
- Clubs fill the provincial allocations when demoted from EYHL or based on their placing position in the provincial league in the current season.
- Irrespective of the number of allocations per province to EYHLD2, only demoted EYHL clubs and the provincial league winner are guaranteed a place in EYHLD2 in the following season.
- Where a club is demoted from EYHL, they will be allocated the highest ranking within their province for consideration for EYHLD2 in the following season. Where 2 clubs from the same province are demoted from EYHL, then the 9th place finisher will hold the highest provincial ranking.
- All clubs who qualify for EYHLD2 must confirm their participation by the due date requested.
- If a club is unable/un-willing to take up its qualifying place in the EYHLD2 a further invite will be offered to the next highest finishing club from that province to a maximum of one further invitation per province.
- If a qualifying club declines to take up its qualifying place and there is another lower qualifier(s) from the same province, then the clubs 'shuffle up' in position to leave any gap(s) in the lowest qualifying position(s).
- If the competition club quota is not achieved, then it is a decision of the IHL Sub Working Group as to how the competition will be run.

- These Regulations will be updated in advance of the start of the season in which either there are 2 Munster or 2 Connacht clubs in EYHL to cover the impact to EYHLD2 in the following season were either the 2 Munster clubs or 2 Connacht clubs to be demoted.
- Season 2023/24: (To comply with Regulation 4.6.4)
- In the event of a Munster teams being demoted from the EYHL Division1 this season, Munster’s allocation of teams in EYHL2 shall increase to three. (EYHL x1 and two Munster nominations, per provincial regulations)
- If one of the three qualifying clubs is unable/un-willing to take up its qualifying place in the EYHLD2 then the Munster allocation shall revert to two teams.

4.7 Point Scoring System (EYHL and EYHLD2 league stages)

Points allocations is as follows:

EYHL	EYHLD2
3 points for a win	5 points for a win
1 point for a draw	2 points for a draw
0 points for a loss	1 point for a loss by 1 goal
	0 points for a loss by more than 1 goal

Difference in points scoring approach reflects EYHLD2 pools are much smaller.

Ranking position shall be determined by consideration of each of the following order:

EYHL and EYHLD2 League Stage
Points
Goal difference
Highest number of goals ‘for’
Matches won
Where 2 teams of equal standing, higher cumulative home/away results of both, based on above order (Points, Goal Difference, Goals For)
Decision of IHL Sub Working Group

5. LIAISON, ADMINISTRATION AND PRE MATCH DAY ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Each IHL participating club must appoint a Liaison Officer who must be freely available to the IHL Sub Working Group representative (IHL Administrator) by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address, and telephone/fax numbers of the Liaison Officer, the Registration Secretary and the Fixtures Secretary must be advised to the IHL Administrator. Additionally the name, e-mail address and telephone numbers of the team Manager must also be advised. Any change in details of the above must be advised to the IHL Administrator immediately.
- 5.2 Each participating club shall appoint a Club Press Officer (PR/Communications and Social Media). The Club Press Officer is responsible for social media live match updates (home only), match previews, club/team profiles, arranging/interviewing players/coaches, supplying general information on home match-day events, including photos after each game and video clips when scheduled etc. The name and contact details of the Club Press Officer to be forwarded to the IHL Administrator one month prior to the start of the league.
- 5.3 Each participating club shall send a representative to any IHL meeting or Forum called by the IHL Sub Working Group, Hockey Ireland or the IHUA. In addition, each club shall respond to requests for information by the IHL Sub Working Group or representatives by the due date. A fine may be levied for failure to comply with this regulation.
- 5.4 All matches shall be played on the weekend set (or re-arranged) by IHL Sub Working Group and on the date and time agreed by both clubs with the IHL Sub Working Group. Pre-Christmas matches need to be agreed by latest 16 September or any other date set by the EYHL WG, post- Christmas agreed by latest 31 December. Mutually agreed match day may be Friday, Saturday or Sunday except in the following cases:
- EYHLD2 games to be scheduled on a Saturday to facilitate the Sunday being available for provincial league (Postponed matches will however take precedence and may be re-arranged for a Sunday or midweek)
 - Where a double weekend is scheduled when the day will be stipulated
 - Where the IHL Sub Working Group has indicated a mandatory Sunday date
 - Where the IHL Sub Working Group request a change in date after the match schedule has been published
 - In Province EYHL Division 1 matches that have been postponed or rescheduled may be played mid-week subject to the approval of the IHL Sub Working Group.

When the date has been mutually agreed the match times may be set between Friday 7pm through to Sunday 4pm on the following basis:

- In Province (i.e, both teams from same Province)
- Friday night: by home team, but no later start than 8:15pm
- Saturday 1pm-5pm: Home team's preference. Post 5pm by mutual agreement
- Sunday: by mutual agreement
- Out of Province (i.e. away team from out of Province)
- Friday night: by mutual agreement but no later start than 8:15pm
- Saturday 1pm-5pm: Away team's preference (to facilitate travelling school players).
- Post 5pm by mutual agreement
- Sunday: by mutual agreement

5.5 Clubs participating in EHF club competitions, on the same scheduled date as an IHL fixture, shall be entitled to claim a postponement to participate in that event and must play the postponed game on the date set by the IHL Sub Working Group.

5.6 Any club request to change the scheduled league stage match date/times must be requested by the club match secretary through the IHL Fixture Secretary a minimum of 16 days prior to the match. Consent will only be considered when there is agreement from the opposing Club. Note, the IHL Sub Working Group may request a change to the date/time of a match due to operational reasons, weather reasons and /or conflict with the Hockey Ireland calendar.

5.7 The home club must setup the match date and time on both Gameday and the Umpires Appointments System at a minimum of two weeks in advance of the match or as per the notification period requested by the IHUA and Technical Officials and/or IHL Sub Working Group.

5.8 The home club must contact the visiting team to confirm arrangements by 8.00pm on the Monday prior to the match day. Team colours to be established and if there is a clash, agreement to be reached that the away team need to change.

- 5.9 The home club must contact Umpires to confirm arrangements by 8.00pm on the Monday prior to the match day. Travel arrangements, time of departure and any pick-up requirements should be confirmed.
- 5.10 Both clubs must create their Team List on the Gameday system, including shirt numbers by 8.00pm on Tuesday evening prior to the game.
- 5.11 The home club can use the Match Card, containing both Team Lists from 8.00pm on Tuesday evening prior to a game to transpose the team lists to the match programme.
- 5.12 Both teams must print and bring the printed Match Card to the game.
- 5.13 The Home Club are responsible for updating the final result of the match to the Gameday System within 1 hour of the game finishing. This is to include the result and the scorers. This updates the league table on the website automatically.

6. MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION (IHL League stage)

All clubs must be familiar with and ensure that matches are played within the parameters of all Protocols issued by Hockey Ireland.

- 6.1 The home club must ensure that the ground is set-up to meet the minimum IHL standard, which is:
- Table and chairs for match officials at halfway line
 - Two team dugouts
 - Chairs for possible offenders
 - Scoreboard
 - Erect the Branding items: For EYHL these include, 2 x EY/Hockey Ireland PVC banners (1 behind each goal), 1 x Tear Drop and Pull Up banner(s). For EYHLD2 erect branding provided by Hockey Ireland.
 - PA System (highly desirable)
 - Ball patrol (minimum of 4) and a sufficient quantity of good quality hockey balls
- 6.2 The home club must ensure that detailed information required on the match card must be accurately recorded. If a MTA/TO has been appointed the completion of the match card will be undertaken by them. Whoever has the responsibility to ensure the match card is

completed must send on completed match card to registrations.eyhl@hockey.ie within 24 hours of the match finishing.

6.3 Both clubs must take a photo of the completed match card at the end of the match and send it electronically to their home branch, in line with their branch rules for the return of match cards.

6.4 Pitches

- All matches are to be played on artificial turf pitches. Clubs are recommended to use water-based pitches, if possible. It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure the markings, goals and nets are satisfactory.
- Where matches are played under floodlights, clubs need to be aware that the FIH recommendation for floodlights is minimum average maintained output of 500 lux.
- If the pitch facilities are inadequate, the umpires and/or officials, may direct that the match be postponed or the venue changed.
- Every effort must be made to find a suitable replacement pitch should a club's regular venue be unfit.
- Spectator viewing areas must be separated from the pitch either by a fence or by roping off a specific section of the ground. – Please refer to Government Guidelines regarding spectators at sporting events.
- Home clubs must provide Stewards or have an official responsible for spectator control for all games. – Please refer to Government Guidelines regarding spectators at sporting events.

6.5 The pitch must be available to both teams for a minimum of 20 minutes warm up time prior to the scheduled start time.

6.6 Home clubs should produce a digital programme for every match – The IHL programme cover design will be supplied by the IHL Sub Working Group and must be used for digital programmes unless prior approval is received from the IHL Sub Working Group. There will be space available for clubs to add in their own sponsors and/or messages. Clubs need to include an insert to include accurate team lists and team management details. Clubs are encouraged to add further content to their programmes.

6.7 Home clubs are encouraged to hold an additional organised event suitable for encouraging children to the IHL match. The participation of the away club should be sought in any additional events and, at a minimum they should be informed of the events

in the week prior to the match. – Please refer to Government Guidelines regarding spectators at sporting events.

6.8 Clubs are encouraged to collect a Gate with a recommended €5 (or Stg equivalent) charge for adults, with school-going children free. – Please refer to Government Guidelines regarding spectators at sporting events.

6.9 Home clubs must offer the option of post-match hospitality, including a post-match meal, to the visiting team only when they are travelling from out of province. The visiting team must confirm whether to take up the offer of hospitality no later than 3 weeks before the game (ideally at the match time fixing conversation at the beginning of the season), to allow the home club make arrangements.

6.10 Press, Publicity and Social Media

- Home clubs must tweet a minimum of 4 tweets per match (at the end of each quarter), from the club twitter account. Tweets need to conform to the standards outlined in Appendix 3.

6.11 Pitch / Match Programme Advertising

- No restrictions will be in place in relation to potential conflict between Club and IHL sponsor organisations
- Clubs do not require pre-approval from the IHL Sub Working Group for their own sponsors, pitch or additional match programme adverts
- Clubs must facilitate the display of temporary pitch advertising boards and displays of the IHL Sponsor for the duration of the match event, if requested
- All pre and post match interviews for any visual media must only have the IHL sponsor supplied pop up branding item in the background and visible during the interview.
- The use of the following logos: EY, EYHL, Hockey Ireland and any other IHL sponsor, must have prior permission from Hockey Ireland before they can be used.
- All IHL sponsors supplied branding items are the property of Hockey Ireland and must be returned when requested or when the club is relegated. Any damage to the items in possession must be repaired /replaced at the club expense.

7. DURATION OF MATCHES AND TIME-KEEPING

- 7.1 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 2 minutes and the half time to 7 minutes 30 seconds or a duration which has been clearly agreed between the umpires or officials and teams prior to the start of the game.
- 7.2 The umpires shall blow a whistle to start or restart the game.
- 7.3 Where a ground clock is available and in use, it is for spectator information only and not the official time of the match.
- 7.4 Abandoned Matches
- Clubs must follow Hockey Ireland Bad Weather Procedure & Postponement /Abandonment. The procedure provides guidance on actions to be taken by the home club in the days prior to the match and on the match day itself.

8. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS FOR MATCHES

- 8.1 A maximum of 16 players may be used by each club in each match.
- 8.2 For the IHL league stage matches, each team manager must be able to provide as requested by an Official, a printed teamsheet (from the Gameday system) of up to 16 eligible players who will play in that match, not less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of the match. If a player is injured during warm-up, they may be substituted on the teamsheet at any time up until the start of the match. Using the printed Gameday list, provides assurance to the club that their player list is properly registered, mitigating against an inadvertent eligibility issue
- 8.3 The teamsheet number must correspond to the number on the player's shirt. The shirt number should also align with the teamsheet setup on the Tuesday and used by the home side for the match programme.
- 8.4 Teamsheets must also contain:
- The name of the team manager, not being the team coach or team medical doctor;
 - The name of the team coach, team physiotherapist and any team medical doctor, if present and wishing to be authorised to sit on the team bench;

- Any team doctor included on the list must be a fully qualified and licensed Medical Doctor.

8.5 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.

9. TEAM BENCHES AND SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS

9.1 The team manager, team coach, the physiotherapist and substitute players nominated for that match, up to a maximum of eight persons, plus the team medical doctor, if registered (see 9.3), must remain seated on the team bench during regulation time, including time stoppages, unless the 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.

9.2 The substitution of players during the match must be in accordance with the Rules of Hockey. The substitute player(s) will be chosen from amongst the players nominated for that match.

9.3 The interchange of any player entering the field of play as a substitute, must take place at the the halfway line. After leaving the pitch having been substituted, a player must immediately go to his team bench. The team manager of the players concerned is responsible for the proper application of the procedure.

9.4 **Vocal communication by team officials and/or players on the team bench must not in any way be directed at the umpires and/or the players of the opposing team. The umpire, to temporarily suspend or remove any player or official from the team-bench due to acts of misconduct. Any communication to an umpire must be via the team manager only.**

10. ADMISSION TO THE FIELD OF PLAY

10.1 The team coach may not enter the field of play at any time under any circumstances (for the purposes of this rule relating to injuries).

10.2 No incapacity treatment will be permitted on the field of play except for goalkeepers.

- 10.3 If a player becomes incapacitated on the field of play, one of the umpires may stop the match and assess whether or not the player requires attention.
- 10.4 In the case of an injury to a field player, the umpire may authorise the registered team medical doctor and/or physiotherapist or, if a team does not have such registered officials, the on-duty doctor and/or team manager, to enter the field of play to assist and remove the player concerned from the field of play as soon as it is safe to do so. The umpire may also authorise, if necessary, the stretcher-bearers to enter the field of play. Please note where any possible head injury/concussion is suspected all participants should be aware of Hockey Ireland Concussion Guidelines as outlined at http://www.hockey.ie/contentPage/318327/concussion_policy.
- 10.5 If any person from the team bench and/or the on-duty tournament doctor enters the field to attend to a player other than the goalkeeper, that player must leave the field of play and return to the team bench area for a minimum of 2 minutes. The player required to leave the field may be substituted, subject to the provisions of the Rules of Hockey. However, if a team has decided not to put a reserve goalkeeper (in goalkeeping equipment) on the bench then no time will be allowed to pad up another player.
- 10.6 If a player sustains an injury which causes bleeding, then that player must leave the field of play as soon as possible and shall not re-enter until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is adequately covered. Blood stained clothing must be replaced and equipment cleaned before re-entry to the field of play.
- 10.7 If blood staining to the field of play occurs then immediate cleaning must take place by rubbing with a cloth soaked in 80% alcohol solution for approximately one minute. During this operation there will be a time stoppage of play.
- 10.8 No liquid or other refreshment may be consumed on the field of play. Any player wishing to take refreshment during a match, including during time stoppages, must leave the field of play and is permitted to re-enter as specified in the Rules of Hockey (not between 23 metres lines and the back lines). A goalkeeper may leave and re-enter the field of play adjacent to the goal.
- 10.9 Goalkeepers must wear protective headgear at all times during a match, including when defending a penalty stroke. When required to take a penalty stroke, then the protective headgear may be removed. If a team opts to play with only field players, no player has goalkeeping privileges or wears a different colour shirt; no player may wear protective headgear except a face mask when defending a penalty corner or a penalty stroke; all team players wear the same colour shirt

10.10 Team officials and players may leave the area surrounding the field of play during half time only with prior permission of the umpire but, in doing so players must leave their sticks and goalkeepers their sticks, hand protectors and headgear at or near the team bench, and must return not less than two minutes before the match is due to be restarted.

11. DISCIPLINE

11.1 Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct and Hockey Ireland Games Disciplinary Procedure apply to the IHL and any issues will be dealt with by an HI Games Disciplinary Tribunal and HI Appeal Committee, if necessary.

11.2 The EY Hockey Champions Trophy and the IHL Division 2 Play-off weekends will be played under the disciplinary regulations relating to Tournaments.

12. TEAM CLOTHING, COLOURS AND ADVERTISING

12.1 Preventing a clash of colours- On the Monday prior to each IHL league game, the home Team must contact the opposition to establish the team colours. In the case of a clash, the away team need to change to their alternative colours (or confirm a partial change of the clashing item).

12.2 Each team must wear the colours of its club (either first choice or alternative, as directed by the umpire) as specified on the teamsheet. Each team must have available at each match in which they play their 2 sets of kit (in first choice and alternative colours).

12.3 The alternative set must be of a colour completely different from the dominant colour in the primary set for each of shirts, shorts/skirts and socks. Any additional items of clothing worn by a player during a match (e.g. cycle shorts or long sleeved shirts) must be of the same colour as specified for the adjoining corresponding piece of clothing.

12.4 If, in the opinion of the Umpires, the colours of 2 opposing teams might lead to confusion, the away team must change. This decision will be at the discretion of the Umpires.

12.5 For clear vision of the ball the following rules apply:

- Goalkeepers must wear a shirt of a colour different from that of their own team and that of their opponents. The shirt must not be white. Leg guards and kickers and hand protectors must not be white.

- The stick, including any tape added to it, may not be coloured white over the lowest 100mm, as measured from the lowest part of the stick.

12.6 Each player's number must be the same as that submitted and appearing on the match program. This number must be of a contrasting colour to the shirt.

12.7 Each goalkeeper must also wear a number on the front of his shirt which must be not less than 7cms and not more than 20cms in height.

12.8 All players must be uniformly and neatly dressed at all times during a match

12.9 In relation to playing equipment worn by field players they must:

- wear shin guards worn inside of socks, at all times when on the field during a match.
- wear any body protection (including leg protection) underneath/inside normal playing clothing.
- Be permitted to wear a face mask while defending a penalty corner provided that the face mask has a smooth surface and fits flush with the face.
- Be permitted to wear a soft face and head protection throughout the match for medical reasons subject to the equipment specification being in line with the FIH Rules of Hockey and an appropriate medical certificate being submitted to the umpire before the start of every game. It is recommended that the player receives pre-clearance of the equipment from HI Technical Officials before first usage.

12.10 No advertisement may appear on any item of clothing used by any player, umpire or official except as may be permitted by these Regulations and subject to any additional restrictions of the club's own Branch. Under EHF regulations Hockey Ireland currently permits the following advertising on players' uniforms:

- All advertising must be the same for all players of the team. Advertising in the form of a company's name, logo or trademark is permitted:
- on shirts and shorts/skirts as follows and is measured as the area within a rectangle drawn around the advertisement:
- on the front of the player's shirt - size not exceeding 500 sq cm;
- on the upper arm of the shirt sleeve - size not exceeding 80 sq cm; (note, clubs playing in EHL will need to have EHL logo on one sleeve)

- on the reverse of the player's shirt below the player's name/number - size not exceeding 200 sq cm;
- on the front of the shirt collar (both sides) - size not exceeding 40 sq cm;
- on the side panels of the shirt (both sides) - size not exceeding 100 sq cm each;
- on the back of the player's shorts/skirt below the waistline - size not exceeding 100sq cm;
- on one front leg (left or right) of the player's shorts/skirt - size not exceeding 80 sq cm
- on the front of the shirt chest (both sides) - size not exceeding 40 sq cm;
- on the reverse of the player's shirt above the player's name/number - size not exceeding 100 sq cm;
- Advertising is not permitted in any other location on playing strip.
- The Shirt can have up to 9 commercial & club logos, excluding the IHL sponsors logo.
- The Shorts/Skirts can have up to 3 commercial & club logos plus 1 manufacturers logo.
- The Socks can have the club logo, but not any commercial logo
- Temporary skin tattoos are not permitted as advertising media.
- The IHL sponsors logo to be appended must be placed on the back of the shirt below the player number in line with the size requirements above. Any contention on location needs to be discussed with the Hockey Ireland Marketing Manager.

12.11 Manufacturer's Identifications

An article of clothing or equipment may, when worn or used by a player, official or umpire whilst playing or officiating in any event, display the name, trademark or logo or any other distinctive sign of the manufacturer. The display may appear once only on any article of clothing and may not exceed an overall size of 20 sq cm per article.

12.12 Teams must have player names on shirts for a nationally televised final, if there is a request by the Broadcaster.

13. MATCH DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

13.1 Umpires are advised that if they experience indiscipline from the non playing staff on the bench, then the captain, who is responsible for the conduct of their team, may receive a personal penalty.

13.2 If a postponement / abandonment should occur it must be communicated by the home club to the IHL Administrator and IHL Fixture Secretary immediately.

13.3 The completed Match Card and Card Incident Report (if needed),

- must be sent by the home club to the IHL email address (registrations.eyhl@hockey.ie) to arrive by 11am the day following the fixture (photo and/or scanned image) or 7pm on the day of the match if it is a double weekend.
- It is the responsibility of the home club to print and provide these forms as well as complete the quarter time, half time, three quarter time and full-time scores.
- It is also the responsibility of the home club to complete the goals scorers section with type of goal (field, penalty corner etc.) and time scored.
- The Umpires will confirm the full-time score, tick the player number who receives cards, sign the match sheet after the managers, and complete any relevant yellow/red card report forms.
- The form shall be signed by both Managers, and both Umpires.

13.4 The officials shall time the suspension applicable for the issue of a yellow card by the umpire and the two minute suspension applicable for the issue of a green card by the umpire. The player will return to the pitch in a standardised manner... with the use of the whistle to bring them back onto the pitch at the next break in play after the suspension has elapsed. Umpires will not bring a player on while the ball is in play. Teams will have to accept that this may mean that suspended players are sidelined for additional time.

14. UMPIRES

14.1 Umpires for all IHL matches will be notified by the IHUA, via the Umpires Appointment System at least two weeks prior to the match.

14.2 Should an Umpire fail to arrive to fulfil an appointment, the home club shall make every endeavour to find another Umpire to enable the match to be played on the same day.

14.3 Should no Umpire be appointed by Wednesday prior to an IHL match, both teams shall endeavour to find an Umpire each to enable the match to be played as scheduled. The match must be played and can proceed with club umpires.

14.4 Umpires will wear the standard IHUA uniform and/or a uniform colour and kit agreed between the two Umpires.

15. BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE / WEATHER RE-SCHEDULING

15.1 For all IHL games, clubs must follow Hockey Ireland Bad Weather Procedure which includes guidelines on weather postponement/abandonment. The Procedure provides guidance on the contingency planning by both clubs to ensure every chance possible to have the match played on the designated weekend as well as the actions on the match day itself including immediate discussions on re-fixing and the fines and penalties should the procedure not be followed.

15.2 If both clubs have not agreed the re-scheduled date and time for the weather postponed match within 72 hours, as per the Bad Weather Procedure, the IHL Sub Working Group will provide the following:

- For cross province matches or where substantial number of matches weather postponed, the IHL Sub Working Group will nominate the date(s) for the lost matches to be played
- For an in-province weather postponed match, the IHL Sub Working Group will nominate the week that match has to be played. The 2 clubs concerned must agree the day of that week that the game will be played.

15.3 Subject to BOTH clubs mutually requesting an alternative date to the date nominated by the IHL Sub Working Group AND the alternative date being agreed by the IHL Sub Working Group, the postponed match can be played on a different date.

16. DISQUALIFICATION OR FAILURE/REFUSAL TO PLAY

16.1 A team either disqualified or refusing to play or to complete a match shall be considered as withdrawing from the IHL.

16.2 If a team so withdraws from the EYHL league or EYHLD2 pool stage, then the results of any matches already played by that team shall be removed from the records and the pool points table shall be corrected accordingly.

16.3 If a team so withdraws from the competition, during the EY Hockey Champions Trophy or EYHLD2 Playoffs, then the opposing team will be considered to have won the match.

16.4 Please note section 17 in relation to fines and penalties.

17. BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

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

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

In addition the IHL Sub Working Group shall at its discretion have the right to require that clubs reimburse opposing clubs, officials or Hockey Ireland for any expenses incurred by breaches of the IHL Regulations.

17.2 Penalties

Any club found to be in breach of Hockey Ireland Code of Conduct or Regulation 3.2 may be subject to the following penalties:

- A fine and/or
- deduction of a number of points, and/or
- suspension of players and/or
- Such other penalties as the IHL Sub Working Group consider appropriate.

17.3 Fines

To facilitate the smooth running of the IHL and ensure fairness for all, the IHL Sub Working Group will impose fines when a club fails to meet its obligations and responsibilities. Automatic fines and the amount will apply in the following situations:

- Failure to fulfil a fixture - €500/ STG equivalent at prevailing rate
- Failure to adhere to the contacting Regulations for Umpires (see 5.9) - €50 /STG equivalent at prevailing rate
- Failure of the away club to provide squad details by 8pm Tuesday evening prior to an IHL game and/or to have inaccurate shirt numbers from those being worn - €50/ STG equivalent at prevailing rate
- Failure of the home club to provide the match result via the Results Text service within 1 hour of the game completing - €50 / STG equivalent at prevailing rate
- Failure of the home club to adhere to the Social Media reporting or provision of video highlights - €50 / STG equivalent at prevailing rate
- Failure to have an attendee at any meeting or Forum held for IHL clubs - €100/ STG equivalent at prevailing rate
- Failure to have the ground set up to minimum standards (6.1, 6.5 and 6.6) - €100/ STG equivalent at prevailing rate
- Failure to pay the entry fee on time - €50/STG equivalent at prevailing rate. This will increase by €10 or Sterling equivalent for every week payment is late after a fortnight from when the payment was due

17.4 Fines by Provincial Branches

Note, a club may be fined by their home branch for not returning a copy of the match card for any IHL league stage match they participate in, in line with provincial league rules.

18. APPEAL PROCEDURE

18.1 Teams and players have the right to appeal against a decision of the IHL Sub Working Group to the Appeals Committee of Hockey Ireland Board, in line with the Appeal process within Hockey Ireland Constitution as if the said decision of the IHL Sub Working Group was a decision of the Disciplinary Committee as described therein.

18.2 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.

19. DOPING

- 19.1 The anti-doping rules of Hockey Ireland are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time. Doping and doping offences are sanctioned under the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Rules and Procedures as provided by Sport Ireland
- 19.2 The latest version can be downloaded from [Anti-Doping Rules | Sport Ireland](#)
- 19.3 Decisions of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Disciplinary Bodies are recognised by Hockey Ireland and such decisions shall be rendered effective by Hockey Ireland.
- 19.4 In the event of any contradictions between national regulations and the World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA) regulations, the provisions set out in the WADA shall prevail.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – TOURNAMENT FORMAT RULES (*amended 16th April 2024*)

This Appendix summarises the Rules for Tournament format competition. The following IHL competition dates are played under these Tournament Rules:

- EY Hockey Champions Trophy
- EYHL Division 2 Playoff Finals
-

For this Appendix the word ***Final/Playoff*** is used to cover each of the above competition dates.

If there is any conflict between this Appendix and the main body of the IHL Regulations, the Appendix take precedent for the competition dates above.

Tournament Director

A Tournament Director will be appointed by the IHL Sub Working Group to run the ***Final/Playoff***. The Tournament Director has full power and authority of the IHL Sub Working Group in matters concerning the conduct of the ***Final/Playoff*** in accordance with the IHL Regulations.

The Tournament Director shall appoint the Technical Officer and Judges to each match from those previously selected for the ***Final/Playoff***.

The Tournament Director has the authority to suspend players, team officials or other officials, who, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, are guilty of misconduct. In deciding the length of any suspension, the Tournament Director is not limited to the remaining matches of the ***Final/Playoff*** but may impose a suspension that has effect beyond the conclusion of the ***Final/Playoff***.

Tournament Director's (TD) Meeting

It is mandatory for each participating team to send the Team Manager to the TD's Meeting which will be held prior to the start of the ***Final/Playoff***. Details of the meeting will be notified to the participating teams 8 days prior to the ***Final/Playoff***.

Team colours for each match will be agreed at the TD's meeting.

Composition of Teams

For the ***Final/Playoff***, each team manager must submit a list of up to 20 eligible players to Hockey Ireland Office eight days before the ***Final/Playoff*** in order that the tournament program can be produced. As per FIH Tournament Regulations, the (maximum) 18 players for the ***Final/Playoff*** are permitted, provided two are goalkeepers wearing full protective equipment. If one of the goalkeepers becomes injured or is suspended during the ***Final/Playoff***, that team can continue to use 17 players including only 1 goalkeeper. If a team chooses not to include a second goalkeeper in the 18 players, they are limited to using 16 players in a match. If a player(s) has been suspended by

the Tournament Director for one or more matches then, for those matches, the number of players the team concerned may use will be reduced by the number of players suspended.

The teamsheet for the **Final/Playoff** must be provided to the TD by the start of the TD's Meeting. Refer to section 8.3 to 8.5 of the IHL Regulations covering the teamsheet and composition of teams.

Match Results

For matches drawn at the end of regulation time a Shootout Competition will occur as per the FIH Tournament Rules for Shootout Competition (no extra time).

Discipline

Refer to section 11 of the IHL Regulations. It should be noted that Hockey Ireland Games Disciplinary Procedures for Tournaments will apply to the **Final/Playoff** – see HI website.

Hockey Ireland Games Disciplinary Procedures includes the process for handling appeals related to red cards.

Protests

When signing the match sheet at the end of the game the Team Manager must indicate on the match sheet that a protest is to follow. The written protest must follow within 15 minutes, accompanied by a €200 (STG equivalent at prevailing rate) fee, otherwise any protest is invalid.

The Tournament Director must make a decision and publish it within 2 hours of the protest being lodged. The decision will be communicated to the Team Manager.

No protest can be lodged from a field of play decision made by the umpires.

The Tournament Directors decision regarding the protest is final.

Disqualification or Failure/Refusal to Play

Refer to section 16 of the IHL Regulations.

Interrupted Matches

In the event of a match being interrupted (e.g. weather), the match will re-commence as directed by the Tournament Director and the time remaining shall be completed.

APPENDIX 2 – EYHL & EYHL2 League Variations

Introduction

These regulations are issued by the IHL Sub Working Group (IHL SWG) and will be applied to the EYHL and EYHL2 for season 2023/24.

The EYHL & EYHL2 leagues will operate the existing rules as published and these regulations to be applied where a variation to the existing rules is required to offer a consistent framework for the management of issues that may impact the leagues.

The IHL SWG will be responsible for managing any issues that arise in relation to these regulations, any issue not covered by these regulations, any issue that may arise for non-compliance with these regulations, any issue arising from the spirit of the regulations not being applied.

Hockey Ireland Protocols for Returning to Competition

- This details the conditions under which hockey may be played in the 2023/24 season. It supersedes all existing league regulations where relevant. The Protocols are updated as and when required and will be posted on the Hockey Ireland website and social media platforms. It is important that all clubs take steps to ensure that they are aware of the most up to date edition of the Protocols prior to any fixture. Hockey Ireland will take every step to ensure that any changes to the Protocols are made in good time prior to fixtures. However as this is often in response to Government guidance, this may not always be practical.
- The Protocols shall be applied to all fixtures.
- Where there is a major breach of the Protocols a fixture should not go ahead or continue. A major breach is one that clearly contravenes Protocols and as a result causes significant risk to a participant or participants.
- The breach should be reported to the IHL SWG by the team(s) and/or appointed umpires and match officials and the IHL SWG will adjudicate on the matter in line with these regulations.

Scheduling of Fixtures

The IHL SWG shall have the authority to alter the format of the EYHL or EYHL2 in response to prevailing circumstances. The IHL SWG shall have the authority to reconstitute the EYHL and impose a shortened season or apply the curtailed season formula to enable the playing of the EY Hockey Champions Trophy and EYHL Division 2 Play-offs.

- **A: Delayed season.** Each team shall play all other teams in its division on a home and away basis on revised dates specified by the league.
- **B: Shortened season.** Each team shall play all other teams in its division on a home or away basis on dates specified by the league.
- **C: Curtailed season.** Where circumstances do not permit the completion of a full league programme the IHL SWG shall have the authority to determine the final outcome of the league on a points per game (PPG) basis. PPG represents the number of points gained by teams divided by the number of fixtures played. (see Promotion/Relegation)

EYHL.

- C1. Where the season is curtailed with more than 70% (63+matches) or more of the matches played the final league table shall be determined by applying PPG.
- C2. Where the season is curtailed with fewer than 70% (46-62 matches) of the matches played the final table shall be determined by applying PPG.
- C3. Where the shortened season has been adopted and is subsequently curtailed final placing shall be determined by applying PPG.

EYHL Division 2.

- C i. In a curtailed season where teams have completed at least one fixture against each other team in its Pool, the final Pool standings shall be decided based on results achieved where each team has played each other once only. Where teams have completed both fixtures, home and away, the first played fixture only shall apply.
- C ii. Where the season is curtailed and all teams have not completed at least one fixture against each other team in its Pool, the final Pool placing will be determined by applying PPG.

EYHL Promotion, Relegation, Title & Play-off places.

- Any team that has secured a) the EYHL winners title, or b) an EY Hockey Champions Trophy Play-off place prior to the season being determined Curtailed shall be declared a) EYHL Champions and b) be allocated a place-off place.
- Play-off ranking may alter due to application of PPG.
- Delayed season and Curtailed season, C1, standard EYHL promotion and relegation regulations shall apply.
- Curtailed season, C2 & C3, There will be no automatic relegation from the EYHL. Only one team, EYHLD2 Play-off Finals Winner, shall be promoted to the EYHL.
- The EYHL shall consist of ten teams for season 2024/25.
- Curtailed season, C2, Relegation: Where a team cannot mathematically avoid relegation prior to the season being determined Curtailed they shall be relegated provided a position arises due to promotion from EYHLD2.
- In the event of the EYHLD2 Play-off Finals failing to take place due to restrictions, there will be no relegation from or promotion to the EYHL for the following season.
- In the event of the EYHL Hockey Champions Trophy failing to take place due to restrictions the allocation of EHF Ranking places shall be determined by the final EYHL placings. The team finishing 1st in the EYHL shall be allocated Hockey Ireland's #1 European seeding and the team finishing 2nd shall be allocated Hockey Ireland's #2 European seeding.

EYHL & EYHL2 Fixtures

- EYHL & EYHL2 matches are played subject to the Hockey Ireland Return to Play Protocols.
- The Return to Sports Expert Group, Sports Ireland has determined that EYHL and EYHL2 matches are considered as being a 'senior club championship' and can proceed under Level 3, RoI, restrictions.
- Hockey Ireland shall update and amend the Return to play Protocols to reflect prevailing restrictions.
- Regarding travelling to and from these fixtures, Hockey Ireland is following current Government advice as it relates to travel to and from areas under restriction.

Failure to fulfil fixtures

- A team refusing to fulfil a fixture played under Hockey Ireland Return to Play Protocols, citing health concerns, shall be considered to have forfeit the fixture.
- The match will be recorded as a 5 – 0 loss for the defaulting team and the match awarded to the opposing team. The defaulting team will also forfeit home advantage in their next scheduled home EYHL/EYHL2 fixture between the clubs.
- Where both teams refuse to fulfil a fixture a 5 – 0 loss will be recorded against both teams. Both teams will also forfeit home advantage for a future EYHL/EYHL2 match to be determined by the IHL SWG. A club cannot gain an advantage from forfeiting a match.
- The IHL SWG shall have the authority to increase the penalty for a second or subsequent forfeit.
- The IHL SWG shall have the authority to deal with repeat breaches of this regulation under
- Regulation 16: DISQUALIFICATION OR FAILURE/REFUSAL TO PLAY of the Irish Hockey League regulations.

Local Lockdown

- Where a team is subject to local restrictions due to the impact of a pandemic or similar that mean it is unable to fulfil a fixture it may request a postponement of the fixture from the IHL SWG.
- A team subject to local restrictions may apply to forfeit a match. If a forfeit is sanctioned a 3 – 0 loss will be recorded for the fixture and no further penalty imposed.
- Where both clubs are subject to local restrictions due to the impact of restrictions they may request a postponement or apply to forfeit the fixture at no penalty other than the fixture being recorded as a 0 – 0 draw.
- The IHL SWG shall adjudicate on all forfeit requests.
- Where a postponement is granted the match shall be played on a date determined by the IHL SWG or an earlier date if agreed by both clubs and the IHL SWG.

Matters not covered by these regulations

The IHL SWG shall have the authority to adjudicate on any issues arising not covered by these regulation.

APPENDIX 3 – SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Twitter

Twitter is used widely by the hockey community and the Press to get up to the minute updates and match information. The Press have provided feedback on their frustration with the absence and the quality of some tweets in helping them to do their job. We cannot complain about the lack of publicity for our sport if we do not provide the information to enable reporters to write reports and copy of our sport and premier competition.

It is mandatory for all home clubs to tweet and below are the guidelines that all tweets need to follow. **Please note that fines will be applied if home clubs do not tweet OR if the quality of the tweets do not meet the standards below.**

- Home clubs must tweet throughout the game – with a minimum of 4 tweets per game, at the end of each quarter stating the quarter completed and the score.
- The end result with the **goalscorers** must be tweeted and the final tweet must be within 5 minutes of the game finishing (media often has tight deadlines for submission depending on the time of the game)
- Remember you are tweeting to a wide audience not your friend or just your club audience. Use of nicknames, in jokes, etc. are meaningless and frustrating for the media. Best practice would be to use first and second names, and not nicknames, only first name or Twitter handles. If a player has a less than obvious twitter handle, then use their full name in the tweet.
- Include all scorers names, home AND away teams, and when a goal is scored included approx. times – twitter often ‘arrives’ out of order, so it enables the flow of the game to be understood.
- Any additional information as to how goals came about e.g. assists or open play or penalty corner would also be helpful to the media.
- Tweet names of players who receive green or yellow cards, time of same.