

APPENDIX A

EYHL REGULATIONS

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1. THE IRISH HOCKEY LEAGUE COMPETITION

The IHL (men's and women's) consists of:

- EYHL of 10 clubs
- EY Hockey Champions Trophy
- EYHLD2 consisting of 10 teams (men), 10 teams (women)
- EYHLD2 Play-off Finals

1.1 EYHL – League stage

- Each club will play all other clubs on a home and away basis on the dates specified by the Outdoors SG.
- Where a match ends in a draw, a shootout competition will be held, with an extra point available to the winner (see the Points Scoring System below).
- 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 the 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. All clubs who qualify for EYHLD2 must confirm their participation by the due date.
 - If a club declines to enter the EYHL in the coming season, it will be a decision of the Outdoor SG as to how to fill the quota of 10 clubs.

1.2 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 Outdoor SG.
- 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 Club Outdoor Regulations with regulations to facilitate a tournament format (see Appendix C- Tournament Regulations).
- The EY Hockey Champions Trophy Weekend will be played at a venue decided by the Outdoor SG.

1.3 EYHLD2 – League stage

- Provincial Branches must provide their qualifiers by the 31st December within the season.
- 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 Outdoor SG, with the first round starting no earlier than mid-January.
- The winner of each pool will progress to the Semi Finals on the Play-off Finals weekend. The teams finishing 2nd & 3rd in each pool will progress to the Quarter Finals.
- The EYHLD2 Quarter Finals will see the club finishing 2nd in Pool A playing 3rd in Pool B and 2nd in Pool B playing 3rd in Pool A with the winner of each match qualifying for the EYHLD2 Play-off Finals. The first named has the home advantage.

1.4 EYHLD2 Play-off Finals

- The EYHLD2 Play-off Finals will be played over one weekend with semi-finals on Day 1 and the Final the next day.
- The EYHLD2 semi-final line up will be Winner Pool A versus (winner of QF Pool B 2nd place v Pool A 3rd place) and Winner Pool B versus (winner of QF Pool A 2nd place v 3rd place Pool B).
- The match schedule will be determined by the Outdoor SG.
- 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 Club Outdoor Regulations with regulations to facilitate a tournament format (see Appendix C- Tournament Regulations).
- The EYHLD2 Play-off Finals will be played at a venue decided by the Outdoor SG.

1.5 EYHLD2 qualification

- Each year EYHLD2 will ‘re-constitute’ based on placing position in the provincial league.
- 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 Outdoors SG.

Women: Ulster 1/2/3; Leinster 1/2/3; Munster 1/2; Connacht 1/2

- 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 invitation 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 Outdoor SG as to how the competition will be run.

1.6 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
1 point for a shootout win (drawn match)	1 point for a loss by 1 goal
0 points for a loss	0 points for a loss by more than 1 goal

The difference in points scoring approach reflects smaller EYHLD2 pools.

1.7 EYHL – League stage

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 teams are still of equal standing, higher cumulative home and away results solely between the teams concerned, based on above order (Points, Goal Difference, Goals For)
Decision of Outdoor SG

1.8 Club Withdrawal / Disqualification

If a team withdraws or is disqualified 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.

If a team withdraws or is disqualified from the competition during the EY Hockey Champions Trophy or EYHLD2 Playoffs or any Quarter Final Play-offs, then the opposing team will be considered to have won the match.

2. MATCH SCHEDULING

All matches shall be played on the weekend set (or re-arranged) by the Outdoor SG and on the date and time agreed by both clubs with the Outdoor SG. Pre-Christmas matches need to be agreed by latest 16 September or any other date set by the Outdoor SG, post-Christmas matches agreed by latest 31 December. Mutually agreed match day may be Friday, Saturday or Sunday except in the following cases:

- Where a double weekend is scheduled when the day will be stipulated
- Where the Outdoor SG has indicated a mandatory Sunday date
- Where the Outdoor SG request a change in date after the match schedule has been published
- In Province matches that have been postponed or rescheduled may be played mid-week subject to the approval of the Outdoor SG.

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. **Post 5pm** by mutual agreement
Sunday: by mutual agreement

3. MATCH CARD SETUP

Both clubs must create their Team List on the Gameday system including shirt numbers by 8.00pm on Tuesday evening prior to the game.

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.

4. EYHL HOST MATCH DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Digital Program

Home clubs should produce a digital program for every match – The EYHL program cover design will be supplied by the Outdoor SG and must be used for digital programs unless prior approval is received from the Outdoor SG. There will be space available for clubs to add in their own sponsors and/or messages. Clubs need to include accurate team lists and team management details. Clubs are encouraged to add further content to their programs.

4.2 Spectator Involvement

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

5. PITCH AND GROUND SETUP

5.1 Minimum Requirements

The home club must ensure that the ground is set-up to meet the minimum IHL standard below and the pitch must be available to both teams for a minimum of 20 minutes warm up time prior to the scheduled start time:

- Table and chairs under a covered area for match officials at halfway line
- Two team dugouts
- Chairs for possible offenders
- Scoreboard
- Erect the EY Branding items: 2 x EYHL PVC banners (1 behind each goal)
- EYHLD1 ONLY: Ball patrol (minimum of 4) and a sufficient quantity of good quality hockey balls
- Spectator viewing areas must be separated from the pitch either by a fence

5.2 Recommended Requirements

- Use of water-based pitch, where possible
- 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.
- PA System for announcements
- Steward or club official responsible for spectator control at all matches

6. MATCH CARD

6.1 Printed Teamsheet (Match Card)

Team Managers need to have their printed Teamsheet of up to 18 eligible players (from the Gameday system) ready not less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. 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 (noting the risk that to the club that any manual amendments risk that the player is not registered on Gameday). Only players named on the Match Card may participate in the match.

The Team Manager must check that the Teamsheet number corresponds to the number on the player's shirt and if not, manually correct on the Teamsheet.

The Teamsheet must also contain:

- The name of the team manager, not performing any other role on the bench
- The name of the team coach and, if present, team physiotherapist
- If requested, a fully qualified doctor may be included on the bench and must provide evidence of being a licensed Medical Doctor

6.2 Official (MTA) Present

If an MTA/TO has been appointed, the MTA is responsible for the completion and return of the Match Card to Hockey Ireland, plus any other paperwork (e.g. Match Incident Report, Yellow / Red Card report), within 30 minutes of the match finishing.

6.3 No Appointed Official (MTA) Present

In the absence of an appointed MTA/TO being present for the match, the home club must appoint a person to record on one of the printed Match Cards from either team, the following information:

- The result (noting quarter and half time scores)
- The scorers, type of goal and time scored (in the bottom table)
- Any cards (in the appropriate column)
- Strike through any player on the Match Card not used in the match

Both team managers and the Umpires need to check the Match Card and sign as an accurate record of the match.

The home team manager or appointed person needs to photograph and send the completed and signed Match Card immediately after the game to Hockey Ireland at (registrations.eyhl@hockey.ie). Failure to return the Match Card may result in a fine.

Where there is no MTA appointed, the Umpires will complete any relevant yellow/red card report forms and return them to Hockey Ireland.

7. EYHL PENALTIES AND FINES

7.1 Penalties

Any club found to be in breach of these Hockey Ireland Club Outdoor Regulations or Code of Conduct 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 Outdoor SG consider appropriate.

7.2 Fines

To facilitate the smooth running of the IHL and ensure fairness for all, Outdoor SG will impose fines when a club fails to meet its obligations and responsibilities. Automatic fines and the Euro amount that will apply (STG at the equivalent prevailing rate) in the following situations:

- Failure to fulfil a fixture - €500
- Failure to adhere to the contacting Regulations for Umpires and Officials - €50
- 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
- Failure of the home club to provide the match result via the Results Text service within 1 hour of the game completing - €50
- Failure of the home club to adhere to the Social Media reporting - €50
- Failure to have an attendee at any meeting or Forum held for IHL clubs - €100
- Failure to have the ground set up to minimum standards - €100
- Failure to pay the entry fee on time - €50. This will increase by €10 for every week payment is late after a fortnight from when the payment was due