

APPENDIX D

CLUB OUTDOOR COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

Table of Contents

1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS.....	2
1.1 Registered Bona Fide Player	2
1.2 Club Outdoor Competition Eligibility.....	2
2. NEW MEMBERS.....	2
2.1 New Members Eligibility Date.....	2
2.2 New Members Coming / Returning from Outside of Hockey Ireland	2
2.3 Right to Live & Work in Ireland	2
2.4 Clearance to Play.....	3
3. ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS.....	3
3.1 In Season Transfers	3
3.2 Age Limit Restriction	3
3.3 Current International Player Eligibility Restriction	3
4. EXCEPTIONS REQUESTS	3
4.1 Exception Requests	3
5. AUTHORITY	4
5.1 Eligibility Authority.....	4
5.2 Eligibility Queries	4
6. FINES AND PENALTIES	4
6.1 Fines.....	5
7. EUROHOCKEY CLUB COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY	5

1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

1.1 Registered Bona Fide Player

Every player of each competing team in HI Club Outdoor Competitions must be a bona fide member of the club, i.e. must be registered on GameDay system in the current season to the Club in which they are a bona fide member (*refer to Appendix E - Clubs Player Registration Regulation*).

A player IS NOT considered a bona fide member if registered in two hockey jurisdictions at the same time (see section 6 – Fines and Penalties).

1.2 Club Outdoor Competition Eligibility

In order to be allowed play for a club in HI Club Outdoor Competitions every bona fide member of a club wishing to play must have played for their club by (and including) 15th January in the current season or have played for their club in the preceding season, provided that they have not played competitive hockey* anywhere else in the world in the intervening period (**in which case they are deemed to be a new member** – see section 2 below).

2. NEW MEMBERS

2.1 New Members Eligibility Date

Any **new member** to a club wishing to play in any HI Club Outdoor Competitions must have **played** for the club prior to and including January 15th in the current season.

2.2 New Members Coming / Returning from Outside of Hockey Ireland

Any **new member** to a club coming from outside of Hockey Ireland and intending or likely to play in EYHL Division 1, must provide a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their National Association, or if returning to Ireland a Release Letter from their last club, to Hockey Ireland. The NOC must conform to the FIH prescribed template, including the competition event and dates for release. A Release Letter must be on the club's headed paper, contain the player's name and DOB, the date of release and be signed by a Club Official (*see HI website for guidance on Registration, Player Transfers abroad*).

Players are required to provide an NOC from their National Association at the start of each season they intend to participate in in EYHLD1.

2.3 Right to Live & Work in Ireland

Where a player is from outside of Hockey Ireland does not qualify to live or work in Ireland on foot of holding an IRL / UK / EU passport and intending or likely to play in EYHL Division 1, the player will need to provide additional information along with the NOC to Hockey Ireland to receive clearance to play for the duration given on the NOC as follows:

- Evidence of an employment permit for a role other than employment with a hockey club or evidence of attending a second or third level college
- Where a player is employed by a hockey club, evidence of holding a Sports & Culture Employment Permit or a Working Holiday permit (ROI) or NI equivalent, will be required.

A club intending to register a player in this category will need to provide the player with the HI contact details (competitions@hockey.ie) and allow sufficient time for the processing of documentation to receive HI confirmation of clearance to play.

2.4 Clearance to Play

Subject to the Release Letter / NOC and any other requested paperwork being in order, the Hockey Ireland Office will provide **email confirmation** of Clearance to Play to the player and club and that they can complete registration on GameDay to then be considered a bone fide member of their new club for the coming season / duration of the NOC. Evidence of player clearance to be retained by the club in case of future queries.

3. ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS

3.1 In Season Transfers

No player may play for more than one club in Hockey Ireland **Cup** Competitions in one season.

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 contained herein.

3.2 Age Limit Restriction

No player may play in a Hockey Ireland Club Outdoor Competition until they attain their 15th birthday.

If the 15th birthday occurs after 31st December and the player member has not yet played for the club due to an age restriction, the club must write to Hockey Ireland (competitions@hockey.ie) to seek confirmation to play in an HI Club Outdoor Competition.

3.3 Current International Player Eligibility Restriction

No current international (as defined by Senior National Coach) may play for a team lower than the club 1st XI in a Hockey Ireland Club Outdoor Competition.

4. EXCEPTIONS REQUESTS

4.1 Exception Requests

In the event of an exceptional circumstance clubs must write to the HI Chair of Competitions for consideration to be given an exemption.

Exemptions will only be considered in cases such as genuine error leading to a delayed registration or in the case of injury preventing play, with satisfactory medical evidence being furnished to support the exemption request.

5. AUTHORITY

5.1 Eligibility Authority

The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on the registering team. The Outdoor SG shall decide any dispute regarding eligibility and shall be entitled to request such written or oral evidence, as it considers necessary. In the case of players returning /new to Ireland, clubs should retain the Hockey Ireland email that provides clearance to play.

The Outdoors SG shall have the right to restrict a player from playing below their clubs' 1st team.

Any appeal against a decision of the Outdoor SG on player eligibility shall be made in accordance with the Hockey Ireland Bye Laws Section 18. A player shall not play in a Hockey Ireland Clubs Outdoor Competition pending the outcome of an appeal.

5.2 Eligibility Queries

Queries relating to player eligibility should be emailed to the Hockey Ireland Office (competitions@hockey.ie) by the latest time of 5pm on the Tuesday in advance of a weekend competition. Queries must be from the Club Secretary, Match Secretary or the Team Manager. Clubs are encouraged to seek clarification on eligibility queries in advance of a player taking the field.

6. FINES AND PENALTIES

Fielding of an ineligible player is a very serious matter and can lead to expulsion of the team from the relevant competition and/or a fine of up to €1,500 and/or deduction of points and/or award of a 5-nil walkover to an opposing team. Such situations include:

- Playing a player whose last club was outside of Ireland prior to receiving Clearance to Play from HI following production and vetting of the Release Letter
- Playing a player whose home nation is not Hockey Ireland prior to receiving Clearance to Play from HI following production and vetting of the No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Right to Live & Work evidence where required
- Playing a player who is registered and competing in another hockey jurisdiction
- Playing a player who is not registered on the GameDay System
- Playing a player who is not eligible to play in a specific Cup Competition

Such matters will be considered by the Outdoors SG in accordance with these Regulations and the process outlined in the Hockey Ireland Constitution and the penalty to be applied shall be at the discretion of the Outdoors SG.

6.1 Fines

Failure to correctly complete player registration in the following instances will incur an automatic fine:

- Duplicating a new player on GameDay System, without executing the player transfer procedure from previous club - €100

7. EUROHOCKEY CLUB COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for Hockey Ireland Club Competitions does not automatically confer eligibility for EuroHockey Club Competitions. Any club participating in EuroHockey competition needs to familiarise themselves with EuroHockey player eligibility rules, particularly with regard to new members within the season.