

APPENDIX A

EYHL REGULATIONS

Table of Contents

1. THE IRISH HOCKEY LEAGUE COMPETITION	2
1.2 EY Hockey Champions Trophy	2
1.3 EYHLD2 – League stage	3
1.4 EYHLD2 qualification	3
1.5 Point Scoring System (EYHL and EYHLD2 league stages)	3
1.6 EYHL – League stage	4
1.7 Club Withdrawal / Disqualification	4
2. MATCH SCHEDULING	4
3. MATCH CARD SETUP	5
4. EYHL HOST MATCH DAY RESPONSIBILITIES.....	5
4.1 Digital Program	5
4.2 Spectator Involvement	5
4.3 Match Video Sharing (EYHLD1 only)	5
5. PITCH AND GROUND SETUP	6
5.1 Minimum Requirements.....	6
5.2 Recommended Requirements.....	6
6. MATCH CARD/LIVESCORE	6
6.1 Printed Teamsheet (Match Card)	7
6.2 Technical Official (TO) Present	7
6.3 No Appointed Technical Official (TO) Present and EYHLD2 matches	8
7. EYHL PENALTIES AND FINES.....	8
7.1 Penalties.....	8
7.2 Fines	9

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)

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 Outdoor SG will determine the match timings for the final rounds of both EYHL and EYHLD2. In each competition, all matches will commence at the same time.
- 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 EYHLD2 League will be played in a single league format with all teams playing each other once
- Points awarded will mirror the EYHLD1 League
- The teams finishing in 1st and 2nd place will be deemed to be promoted to EYHLD1 the following season.
- 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).

1.4 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 2026-27 Leinster 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.

1.5 Point Scoring System (EYHL and EYHLD2 league stages)

Points allocation is as follows:

EYHL
3 points for a win
1 point for a draw
1 point for a shootout win (drawn match)
0 points for a loss

1.6 EYHL – League stage

Ranking position shall be determined as follows:

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

1.7 Club Withdrawal / Disqualification

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

If a team withdraws or is disqualified from the competition during the EY Hockey Champions Trophy 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 (dates & start times) need to be agreed by latest 31 August or any other date set by the Outdoor SG, post- Christmas matches agreed by latest 31 December. Any changes to match times must be agreed with the Hockey Ireland Competitions Manager, opposition, umpires and technical officials. 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 stipulate 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 Player Team List with correct shirt numbers (for all players) and include the Management Team on the Gameday system by 8.00pm on Tuesday evening prior to the game for weekend matches. For midweek matches the Player Team List must be created on the Gameday system a minimum of five days prior to the fixture. The team lists must be in numerical order. Teams appearing on match sheets without the correct player shirt numbers will incur a fine. (look at no of players listed etc). Incorrect team sheets will be subject to sanctions as determined by the Outdoor Competitions SG.

The home club can use the Match Card containing both Team Lists and management teams, from 8.00pm on Tuesday evening prior to a game to transpose the team lists to the match programme. (Note all squad players and members of the management team, other than Doctors, must be members of Hockey Ireland and have a valid and current membership number).

Changes to the teamsheet can be made up to the start of the match where players become unavailable. The team sheet and Livescore App will be updated with the replacement player name and shirt number.

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 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.

4.3 Match Video Sharing (EYHLD1 only)

The home club must video record and share the video

Sharing / Availability

- Match recording to be available no later than 24 hours of match finishing
- Must be available:

- To the nominated person(s) from the 9 other clubs for game analysis
- To the IHUA nominated persons (for umpire development /discipline matters)
- To the HP nominated persons for player identification / development
- To HI Communication persons to support highlights and promotion of the EYHL

Quality Recording

- To commit to achieving the highest possible video recording standard for the benefit of all the stakeholders involved

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 three (3) chairs under a covered area for match officials at halfway line
- Two team dugouts
- Four (4) 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. Ball Patrol teams must wear tops of a distinctive colour and wear shinguards and have mouth protectors. (Note Ball Patrol teams are not required for midweek matches played).
- Spectator viewing areas must be separated from the pitch
- Hockey balls should never be left around the pitch and must be collected and stored prior to the start of the match.

5.2 Recommended Requirements

- Use of water-based pitch, where possible. For water-based pitches all water jets must be in working order and access to a water hose is recommended.
- Pitch markings must be clear and visible. Faded or non-existent markings will deem the pitch unplayable.
- 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. Substandard lighting will deem the pitch unplayable.
- PA System for announcements
- Steward or club official responsible for spectator control at all matches

6. MATCH CARD/LIVESCORE

The home team is responsible for ensuring that there are two judges available for the Technical Table – one judge to act as the Scoring Judge (see details below) and the second judge who will be responsible for recording match events (goals, cards, scores at Q1, HT, Q3 and Full Time on the Hockey Ireland Livescore app (Gameday).

6.1 Printed Teamsheet (Match Card)

Team Managers need to have their printed Teamsheet including the management team and up to 18 eligible players (from the Gameday system) ready not less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. The starting line-up, captain and goalkeepers must be indicated on the teamsheet. 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 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 team lists must be in numerical order. Teams appearing on match sheets without the correct player shirt numbers will incur a fine (exceptions only for new/replacement players (see masters document))

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 (no requirement to be a Hockey Ireland member)
- Assistant coach(es) must be listed at the bottom of the sheet under their squad.

6.2 Technical Official (TO) Present

If a Technical Official (TO) has been appointed, the TO is responsible, with the assistance of the local team judges) for the completion and immediate return of the Match Card to Hockey Ireland EYHL Match Reports WhatsApp group for social media purposes. The Match Card plus any other paperwork (e.g. Yellow / Red Card report), also need to be emailed to competitions@hockey.ie for review checks on the following working day.

Team managers must report to the technical table within five (5) minutes of the final whistle to sign the match report. Failure to do so will result in a fine and repeated instances may result in a Code of Conduct charge.

Any incidents at the match will be recorded in the body of the email for Hockey Ireland information (eg., no ball patrol, no confirmation of timings etc). At the end of the match, it is the responsibility of the team managers to ensure that all goals, cards and the result of the match is accurate, the match report is then signed by the team managers, umpires (who will complete any card reports), the local scoring judge and then the Technical Official. Managers are encouraged to take a photo of the match report.

6.3 No Appointed Technical Official (TO) Present and EYHLD2 matches

In the event of no appointed TO being present, then the local judge (scoring judge) will complete the paper work as above and this must be sent to Hockey Ireland EYHL Match Reports Whats App Group for social media purposes. The Match Report, Shoot Out form and any card reports need to be emailed to for review checks on the following working day. Umpires are requested to take a copy of the card reports and email to competitions@hockey.ie within the time frames specified on the card reports.

- All match reports should have the starting 11 marked
- All subs should be recorded at the time they enter the match (round up the minute)
- Record the score at each quarter break and half time
- Record the team, time, player and type of goal scored (in the bottom table)
- Any cards – opposite the player who got the card, list the minute (round up) in the relevant column
- Strike through any players on the Match Card that did not play

Both managers **MUST** report to the technical table within 5 minutes of the final whistle to sign the match report – failure to do so will result in a fine

In the absence of an appointed 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 the EYHL Match Reports WhatsApp group (provided at the beginning of the season) . Failure to return the Match Card will result in a fine.

Where there is no TO appointed, the umpires will complete any relevant yellow/red card report forms and return them to Hockey Ireland via competitions@hockey.ie.

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 & Officials (in first instance, increasing by €50 per instance for subsequent breaches)	€50
Failure of teams to upload squad details onto Gameday by 8pm Tuesday evening prior to an IHL game (or Saturday for midweek game)	€50
Incomplete or inaccurate shirt numbers (per instance/player)	€25
Failure of home club to send the completed Match Card to the nominated Application (WhatsApp) immediately after the game, increasing by €50 per instance for subsequent breaches	€50
Video Sharing – check this out (CK) increasing by €50 per instance for subsequent breaches	€100
Failure of home club to adhere to the Live Score requirements	€100
Failure to have a representative at a Club Forum/Meeting	€100
Failure to have the ground set up to minimum standard	€100
Failure to pay the entry fee on time (Increase by €50 per week thereafter)	€100
Failure to provide Ball Patrol or insufficient Ball Patrol Team (in the first instance, will increase by €25 per instance for subsequent breaches)	€100
Shirt numbers to not correspond to the player (or are missing)	€25 per instance