



**Manx Hockey Association (MHA) Rules and Bye-laws for the
2019/2020 Season onwards
Effective 8th October 2019**

**(Reviewed & approved annually at the MHA AGM
and in 2019 ratified at the October 7th Clubs Meeting))**

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A DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

1 Abbreviations

- ASC - the Appeals Sub-Committee
- RBSC - the Rules and Bye-laws Sub-Committee
- IOMHUA - the Isle of Man Hockey Umpires Association
- MHA - the Manx Hockey Association.

2 Definitions

- “The Leagues” Shall mean together the Mixed Leagues, the Men’s and Ladies’ Leagues formed by the Rules and Bye-laws. They shall be called “The Isle of Man Hockey Leagues” or by such title or titles as may be deemed appropriate by the Board to reflect sponsorship of the League.
- “The Mixed Leagues” Shall mean the Mixed Leagues (Outdoor, Indoor and Junior) formed by the Rules and Bye-laws.
- “The Men’s Leagues” Shall mean the Men’s Leagues (Outdoor, Indoor and Junior) formed by the Rules and Bye-laws.
- “The Ladies’ Leagues” Shall mean the Ladies’ Leagues (Outdoor, Indoor and Junior) formed by the Rules and Bye-laws.
- “The Rules” Shall mean the rules of the MHA.
- “The Bye-laws” Shall mean the bye-laws of the MHA.
- “The Executive” Shall mean the Board created by the Rules and Bye-laws to administer the League and Club Representatives.
- “The RBSC” Shall mean the Rules and Bye-laws Sub Committee created by the Rules and Bye-laws to adjudicate on match decisions
- “The ASC” Shall mean the Appeals Sub Committee created by the Rules and Bye-laws to hear appeals on RSC decisions.
- “The Chairman” Shall mean the Chairman of the Board as elected Annually.
- “The Board” Shall mean the Board of the MHA being the Chairman, Vice- Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Commercial Director, Performance Director, Fixtures Secretary and Lay members as elected Annually.
- “The Treasurer” Shall mean the Treasurer of the Board as elected Annually
- “The Season” Shall mean from 31st August through May 31st incorporating all leagues and cup competitions inclusive.
- “The Secretary” Shall mean the Secretary of the Board as elected Annually

“The MHA Press Officers”	Shall mean any person or persons who are appointed by the Board to receive results of League matches and to distribute them to the various media outlets used by the MHA from time to time.
“Club”	Shall mean any club which has at least one team participating in the League, except where the context requires otherwise.
“Active Umpire”	<p>An umpire is considered active when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The umpire is registered with the IOMHUA and has an online account on the IOMHUA appointments website, and 2. The umpire has paid their annual membership fee to the IOMHUA or has agreed to have their membership fee deducted from their umpire expenses. In the latter scenario, the umpire will need to complete a minimum of four appointments per season in order to pay the membership fee by deduction from their umpire expenses.
“Fixtures Secretary”	Shall mean a duly appointed individual in charge of scheduling all fixtures in the league.

Throughout the Rules and Bye-laws, any reference to a governing body of hockey shall be taken to mean the MHA or its successor in function.

B MANX HOCKEY ASSOCIATION RULES

1 ASSOCIATION'S NAME

The association shall be called 'THE MANX HOCKEY ASSOCIATION' (MHA).

2 OBJECTS

- 2.1 To promote the game of hockey on the Isle of Man and to encourage fair play amongst all members and to strive to achieve the highest level attainable by our representative teams in England and Inter Island tournaments.
- 2.2 The control of the game in the Island and to assist in the improvement of the standard of play of Mixed, Ladies' and Men's teams.
- 2.3 The selection and authorisation of teams to represent the Island and to support them in achieving success on and off Island.
- 2.4 The encouragement of the game of hockey amongst junior players and in the schools of the Island and providing them with the highest level of coaching and support available from the MHA resources.

3 MEMBERS

The MHA shall consist of six sections:

- 3.1 Mixed Section;
- 3.2 Ladies' Section;
- 3.3 Men's Section;
- 3.4 Junior Section;
- 3.5 Hockey Development Section;
- 3.6 Promotional Board;

4 FOUNDER MEMBERS

The following clubs shall be founder members;

Castletown, Cushags, Fencibles, Harlequins, Ravens, Vikings, Peel, Castletown Ladies, Peel Ladies, Ramsey Scholars Ladies.

CURRENT MEMBERS

The following clubs are current members and consist of men's, ladies and mixed teams;

Castletown, Harlequins, Vikings, Valkyrs, Ramsey, Bacchanalians, Saracens

5 NEW MEMBERS

Other clubs provided that they are properly constituted may be admitted to the MHA at the discretion of the Board.

6 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

At the Annual General Meeting there shall be elected the President, and any Vice-Presidents the meeting may consider desirable, provided that the number of Vice-Presidents shall not at any time exceed two.

7 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

7.1 Persons who have served the MHA may be elected to Honorary Life Members of the MHA, such election to take place at a General Meeting, and that such Life Members shall be nominated by the Board.

7.2 Honorary Life Members shall be entitled to attend, speak, move or second resolutions or amendments and vote at all General Meetings, and shall be entitled to attend to speak at monthly meetings but shall **not** be entitled to vote. Neither shall any Life Member be entitled to speak at a Board Meeting dealing with any dispute in which the club to which he was attached when elected a Life Member or to which he may be attached at the time of the dispute is concerned.

8 RULES

The rules of the MHA shall not be added to or amended except at a General Meeting and after at least a fortnight's notice of the alteration suggested has been given to all member clubs.

9 AFFILIATION

The MHA shall be affiliated to **England Hockey and Northern Counties Hockey Association**.

10 DOPING

Doping in Hockey is prohibited and doping in hockey means the taking or use of substances or participation in doping methods prohibited by the International Olympic Board and by the International Sports Federations. In addition, assisting or inciting others to contravene doping regulations is also considered a doping offence. All members of the MHA are to be subject to the methods and procedures of testing and refusal as dictated by England Hockey and may if they refuse or fail the test result in their names being entered on a list of defaulters.

C MANX HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BYELAWS

1 STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUES

1.1 Membership and Affiliation requirements

- a) Any team which is debarred from playing against other teams by reason of disaffiliation will be suspended from the Leagues.
- b) All teams shall pay an annual subscription in respect of each team participating in the Leagues. This shall be paid to the League Treasurer before the 30th September. Failure to pay by the 30th September shall incur a fine; failure to pay by the **31st October** shall incur such additional penalties under Bye-law 15.1 as the Board may decide.
- c) The members of the Leagues will be:
All teams which were members of the Leagues in the previous season except any team which withdrew or has been suspended or expelled from the League; and
 - (i) All teams whose application for admission has been accepted by the Board.
 - (ii) Entry is subject to being able to prove to the Board that the club has sufficient players and funds to meet the requirements placed upon it by participating / joining the league, and if the Board does not feel that there are sufficient resources then it may turn down the club's application on this basis.
 - (iii) Any club affiliated with the MHA may apply to enter a team in the Leagues subject to 1.1 (c)(ii).
 - (iv) Team entries for the Leagues must be sent to the Secretary no later than 6 weeks prior to the scheduled league fixture. The Board shall determine whether to accept any such application.
- d) Any club wishing to withdraw a team from the League shall notify the League Secretary in writing, or by e-mail, 6 weeks before the scheduled first day of the respective leagues, otherwise it shall be liable to pay subscriptions for the following season. Any club which withdraws a team from the League later than this may not be eligible to enter a new team into the League for two seasons (including the season in which a team has withdrawn) and may be liable to a financial penalty, at the discretion of the Board.
- e) Prior to the start of the season, each club **must** submit a list of two "active" umpires and a goalkeeper per senior team they are entering into the Leagues to the Board. Failure to do so may result in that team being refused entry into the competition for that year, this is to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of "active" umpires to satisfy the requirements of the IOMHUA in their appointments
- f) No player owing monies to their previous club may play for another Club until they have paid in full or agreed an acceptable repayment plan. In the latter case, if they fail to repay the sum in full they will be barred from playing until they do so.

1.2 Mixed Divisions

- a) The Mixed Leagues shall comprise Divisions as agreed by the Board. The Board shall have the power to alter the divisional structure of the Mixed Leagues and shall give not less than one month's notice of its intention to exercise this power. The Board shall have the power to increase or decrease the number of Divisions preceding any season and the exercise of that power shall not constitute alteration of the divisional structure within the Rules.
- b) The allocation of teams to Divisions at the start of each season shall be determined by:

- i) Any team which was a member of the League in the previous season will be placed in the same Division unless it was promoted or transferred or relegated in accordance with Bye-law 1.5; and
- ii) Any team admitted in accordance with Bye-law 1.1(c)(ii) will be placed in the appropriate lowest ranked Division.

The Board reserves the right to vary the make-up of the Divisions to ensure that there are where possible of equal size but above all, competitive. This includes promoting and relegating teams to meet these criteria

1.3 Men's and Ladies Divisions

- c) The Men's Leagues and Ladies Leagues shall comprise Divisions as agreed by the Board. The Board shall have the power to alter the divisional structure of the Men's Leagues and Ladies Leagues and shall give not less than one month's notice of its intention to exercise this power. The Board shall have the power to increase or decrease the number of Divisions preceding any season and the exercise of that power shall not constitute alteration of the divisional structure within the Rules.
- d) The allocation of teams to Divisions at the start of each season shall be determined by:
 - i) Any team which was a member of the League in the previous season will be placed in the same Division unless it was promoted or transferred or relegated in accordance with Bye-law 1.5; and
 - ii) Any team admitted in accordance with Bye-law 1.1(c)(ii) will be placed in the appropriate lowest ranked Division.
- e) The Board reserves the right to vary the make up of the Divisions to ensure that there are where possible of equal size but above all, competitive. This includes promoting and relegating teams to meet these criteria.

1.4 Teams' positions in Divisions

- f) Points shall be awarded for each completed League match, with teams scoring two points for each match won and one point for each match drawn.
- g) The position of teams in each Division shall be determined by:
Number of Points scored.
In the event of a tie between two or more teams the following will decide the final positions in the following order:
 - i) Goal difference from all fixtures
 - ii) Goals scored from all fixtures
 - iii) Points scored in the fixtures between the tied teams
 - iv) Goal difference from the fixtures between the tied teams
 - v) Goals scored against the tied team

If they are still tied, a Play Off will be arranged to decide the final positions with Penalty Strokes if necessary.

- h) The Fixtures Secretary shall update all of the League tables of the current position in all Divisions via the Fixtures Live link on the MHA website.

1.5 Promotion and Relegation

- a) At the end of each season the winner in each lower Division will be promoted to the next higher Division until they reach the Premier division and such promotion is compulsory subject to ratification by the Board
- b) At the end of each season, the bottom placed side of each Division shall be relegated to the appropriate lower Division and such relegation is compulsory subject to ratification by the Board or in the case of league restructure as previously stated.

1.6 Junior Players

U16 League – is a developmental league and is run in accordance with the rules outlined in this document for the Mixed Leagues, it runs parallel to the Mixed Leagues and, subject to eligibility, players may play in both the Junior and Senior Leagues:

- a) It is permissible for players to borrow players from other clubs in the event that it becomes necessary owing to lack of available players.
- b) Junior players in junior and senior competitions
 - i) Junior players are allowed to play up ONE age group level.
Junior players may play in senior competitions when they reach the age of 13, this does not affect their eligibility to play U13 hockey
U13 age group players (ie U13 on 31st August) are permitted to play in the U16 competition
U11 age group players (ie U11 on 31st August) are permitted to play in the U13 competition
 - ii) The decision as to whether a junior player is ready to play up an age group level is the responsibility of the Club's qualified coach and must be made in the best interests of the player concerned.
 - iii) The Club coach must obtain written consent from the player's parents/guardians before a junior player plays at a higher age group level.
 - iv) Junior players that play up an age group level in a competition are NOT restricted from playing in their own age group competition, subject to Bye-law 6.5.

2 MHA LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Board/Executive

- a) The control of the Leagues shall be vested in the MHA Board. Should any disagreement arise, it should be referred to England Hockey.
- b) The ordinary business of the MHA shall be conducted by the Board consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Commercial Director, Performance Director, Treasurer and Fixtures Secretary who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and lay members as deemed to be required. All elected officers (excluding the Auditor) shall be entitled to vote at Board Meetings.
- c) Each member club shall be entitled to send one representative (chair or their appointed representative) to the quarterly Club Representatives Meetings to vote. The Board will report all relevant business to the clubs at these meetings. Additional meetings may be called as and when the need arises e.g. prior to AGM.
- d) Five voting members, three of whom must be club representatives, shall form a quorum at Executive Council meeting.
- e) The Board will meet every month unless so notified by the Secretary.
- f) All votes in Board meetings shall be decided by simple majority but, if voting is equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.
- g) Clubs wishing to have any general matters brought before the Board should notify the Secretary no later than 4 days prior to the meeting.

- h) The Board shall have the power to warn or expel from the MHA any member club which it considers to have acted in a manner contrary to the best interests of the game or the reputation of the MHA.
- i) Such action shall not be taken, however, unless agreed by at least three-quarters of the Board members present at a meeting competent to decide the matter.
- j) Any club so warned or expelled shall have the right to defend its conduct at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose and move for a reversal of the Board's decision.
- k) Voting on this motion shall be by ballot and members of the club concerned shall not be allowed to vote. Individual players whose action in connection with the game tend to bring it into disrepute shall be dealt with in a similar matter.
- l) The MHA Press Officer(s) and Indoor Secretary who shall be entitled to attend and speak at Board Meetings but not vote in such capacity. However, they will be permitted to vote as their club's representative.

2.2 Sub-Boards

- a) The Board may at their discretion appoint sub-Boards for any purpose whatsoever. The Chairman of any such sub-Board shall be appointed by the Board.
- b) Sub-Boards appointed under this Bye-law shall not (unless re-elected) serve after the date of the Annual General Meeting next following their appointment.

2.3 Annual General Meetings

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the MHA shall be held between the 1st June and the 31st August and will be notified in writing no later than 21 days prior to the meeting being held.
- b) The Board shall meet in April, May, or at least prior to the Annual General Meeting of the MHA, and shall seek nominations for the posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, MHA Press Officer(s), Performance Director, Commercial Director, Indoor Secretary and Fixtures Secretary and at least two lay members from among its members at that meeting.
- c) The Board shall have the power to co-opt additional members for specific purposes only, such membership shall cease after completion of the purpose for which the person was co-opted.
- d) An Auditor who shall not be a member of the Board shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- e) A Special General Meeting may be called by the Chairman at any time and shall be called by the Secretary within two weeks from receipt of written requests (which shall specify the reason for the meeting) from any member club.
- f) All member clubs shall receive no less than one week's notice of a Special General Meeting called, and of the subject for discussion. No subject shall be discussed which has not appeared on the notice of convening the meeting.
- g) Voting shall be show of hands, but a ballot may be substituted for a show of hands at any time if a motion to that effect is properly put and carried.
- h) Officers of the MHA and every person who is a full member of any member club shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings. Honorary members of clubs shall not be so entitled.

- i) Should there be any doubt of a person's right to vote the Chairman of the meeting may demand from him or her proof that he or she is a paid-up member of an affiliated club.

2.5 Club Liaison Officer

- (a) Each participating club must appoint a Liaison Officer who must be freely available to the Board at all times by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address, postal address and telephone/fax numbers of the Liaison Officer and a second contact must be advised to the Secretary.
- (b) Any change in details of the above must be advised to the Secretary immediately.
- (c) Each team shall respond to requests for information by the Board by a due date. A fine may be levied by the Board for failure to comply with this regulation.

2.6 Finance

- a) All clubs shall pay an annual affiliation fee to the MHA in respect of each of its teams for participation in the League. Payment shall be made in accordance with Bye-law 1.1(b). The amount of the subscription shall be determined by the Treasurer and agreed at the Adjourned Annual General meeting.
- b) The accounts of the MHA shall be Reviewed by the Auditors and thereafter presented at the AGM or Adjourned AGM.
- c) A statement duly reviewed by the Auditor (who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting) shall be prepared by the Treasurer and presented to the Annual General Meeting.
- d) Surplus funds shall be invested for hockey related purposes at the discretion of the Board.

2.7 Bye-laws

In accordance with the byelaws of the Association, the Board may from time to time at their discretion make or amend such Bye-Laws as they consider desirable. These must be ratified at a Special General Meeting (or a full Executive meeting) and all Clubs must be informed prior to the Bye-Law change being implemented.

2.8 Advice

Advice on any part of the Bye-laws may be obtained from the Board by e-mailing the Secretary.

3 FIXTURES

- 3.1 Each team shall play all other teams in its Division at least once.
- 3.2 All League matches shall be arranged to take place on such dates as shall be determined by the Fixtures Secretary.
- 3.3 The Fixture Secretary shall notify each club of the details of its opponents for its Mixed League matches at least 2 weeks prior to scheduled start date.
- 3.4 The Fixture Secretary shall notify each club of the details of its opponents for its Men's and Ladies League matches at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled start date.
- 3.5 All fixtures must be completed prior to the Annual Dinner; this may mean having to play additional fixtures midweek in the weeks after Easter.

4 MATCH ARRANGEMENTS.

4.1 Notifying opposition and umpires

- i) Both clubs shall notify any umpires appointed (please see Bye-law 7) of the match details at least 3 days in advance of the match date. Persistent failure to do so may incur penalties.
- j) If an appointment has not been confirmed by the club by the said date and time, then responsibility for the appointment of a suitably qualified umpire (at least Level 1) for the game shall lie with the club.
- k) Failure to confirm an appointment or supply a substitute suitably qualified umpire (at least Level 1) as defined will normally be considered as failure to fulfil the fixture without prior notice and valid reason.

4.2 Pitch surface requirements

All matches shall be played on the MSR Regional or at KWC artificial turf pitches.

4.3 Pitch restrictions

Studded astro-turf boots, Alcohol, Smoking (including e-cigarettes), Dogs are banned from all pitches. All teams must comply with these restrictions and will not be permitted to postpone a game if their players do not have appropriate footwear. Any restrictions imposed by the pitch owners must also be respected.

5 PLAYER QUALIFICATION AND TRANSFERS

5.1 Qualification

- a) Only bona fide members of a club may be registered for and play for that club in League matches.
- b) Any player who has already played for another club in the League in the current season may not play for a second club unless he has transferred in accordance with Bye-law 5.2.
- c) Players who are registered with UK clubs that participate in EH sanctioned Saturday leagues in the UK may not play in Single sex League matches on the Isle of Man unless a transfer of registration has taken place.

5.2 Inter club Transfers

- a) The transfer process should be completed on-line using Fixtures Live.
- b) The Fixtures Live process requires both clubs to agree to any transfer before it is Authorised by the Fixtures Live MHA Administrator; players must be deregistered from departing club and re-registered in new club and the Fixtures Live MHA Administrator should approve on the system and confirm to both clubs that the process is complete before the transferee can play for the new club.
- c) Clubs can hold back their permission until any outstanding monies are paid and/or outstanding disciplinary actions are resolved.
- d) Where a ban or suspension has been imposed on any player by a Disciplinary Body authorised by the Board and/or EH, such ban or suspension shall remain in full force and effect regardless of the player's change of club.

- e) Once a league has commenced players have up until the half-way point in that league to transfer. Transfers will not be allowed in any current league once 50% of the matches have been played.
- f) In those circumstances where a club has disbanded, then any player who was previously registered with that club shall be free to transfer to another club.

6 TEAM SELECTION AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

6.1 Suspended players

No team shall contain a player who is suspended in accordance with the disciplinary code of England Hockey.

6.2 Selection

- a) All clubs shall select their teams within the spirit of the league structure, so that the strongest available team is put out at each level, commencing with the 1st team.
- b) If any of a club's teams are not involved in a match, the club shall select its League teams as if that team were playing, save as provided in Rule 6.3.
- c) Clubs shall not strengthen a lower team with players from a higher team to gain an advantage at any time. If a team is perceived to be deliberately strengthening lower teams with higher league players then the Board will have the discretion to take action against that team.
- d) Players are only able to drop down one team from that team to which they are registered on fixtures live but may be promoted up an unlimited number of teams within that club.
- e) If a player plays more than 5 games for a higher team, they should be re-registered to that team.
- f) If a club has a deficiency of players, it shall cancel its lowest team(s)'s match(es) first.
- f) All clubs must ensure that their higher teams have a full compliment of players for each match. If circumstances arise where this is not possible, then they must take players from their lower teams to make up the difference. Under no circumstances should a 1st team match be called off for reasons other than those prescribed in byelaw. Exceptions to this are where clubs with only one team are experiencing difficulties in getting a full compliment of 11. They may then play with fewer than 11.
- g) If a 1st team match is called off or 11 players do not enter the field of play during the match and any of their lower teams play with 11 or more then penalties may be imposed.

6.3 Playing for more than one team

No player may play for more than one team in scheduled League matches in the same match day, unless exempted under Bye-law 6.5. A player who was an unused substitute in one match shall be deemed not to have played in that match. For the purposes of this rule, rearranged league fixtures will be deemed to be played on the match day to which they were originally scheduled to be played as determined by the Fixtures Secretary.

6.4 Specific mixed league requirements

A mixed team shall consist of no more than 5 male players on the outfield at any one time, except where a team has decided to play with no goalkeeper and the 6th male is the goalkeepers replacement.

6.5 Under 18s

Players who are under 18 on the 31st August will be exempt from Bye-law 6.3 and may play in any two League matches on the same Match Day. (subject to Bye-law 6.2 d)

6.6 Goalkeepers

Goalkeepers playing in goals for one team may also play outfield for any other team in that club and in doing so that outfield game represents their “second game” of the day.

Goalkeepers can effectively play 2 games:

- 1- Two games in goals – Goalkeepers are subject to byelaws 6.2d and 6.2e
Or
- 2- One complete game in goals AND one game outfield in any other team in the club on the same day.

7 UMPIRES

The Board is not responsible for appointing umpires to League games. Umpires are appointed to League games wherever possible by IOMHUA, but for other games, particularly in the lower divisions, clubs may have to provide their own. As far as possible each umpire will be neutral to the clubs involved in the games to which they are appointed. No authority exists for umpires to make any decision upon the Rules or Bye-laws.

7.1 Qualified umpires

- a) No League match shall be played without two qualified umpires, save as provided in Bye-law 7.1(b).
- b) Umpires must be members of an appropriate Regional Umpires' Association and be qualified to at least Level 1, however, one umpire is allowed to be a Level 1 candidate and be in the process of obtaining his/her Level 1 qualification.

7.2 Appointed umpires

- a) An “appointed” umpire is an umpire appointed to a League match by the IOMHUA who may require a qualification above Level 1.
- b) It is the responsibility of clubs to notify and confirm with appointed umpires the match arrangements under Bye-law 4.1(b).

7.3 Where there are no umpires appointed, the following shall apply:

- a) 1 appointed umpire: Unappointed club provides the other qualified umpire.
- b) No appointed umpire: 1st named club provides one qualified umpire and the 2nd named club provides one qualified umpire.

7.4 If an appointed or club umpire fails to arrive by the start time or a club umpire is not provided under Bye-law 7.3 the following shall apply:

- a) Appointed umpire is absent: Start may be delayed by 15 minutes; if still absent, a “temporary” suitably qualified umpire may take his place with the agreement of the other umpire and the two captains. If no such agreement is possible, the match shall not count as a League match. If a “temporary” suitably qualified umpire is a player from one of the teams, which thereby reduces the number of players available to it on the pitch, the other team shall withdraw one of its own players from the pitch, otherwise the player shall withdraw from the squad. Both the “temporary” suitably qualified umpire and withdrawn player

may resume playing at the same time as soon as the absent suitably qualified umpire arrives and takes over from the “temporary” suitably qualified umpire.

- b) A “temporary” suitably qualified umpire: Must not be part of rolling substitutions with players and must not be replaced at half-time by a player who has participated in the first half of the game.

7.5 Penalties for breach of Bye-law 7

- a) The lack of an appointed, or club, umpire is not grounds for postponement. Clubs are expected to have sufficient umpires to support their teams. If appointed umpires are withdrawn at short notice, then the Secretary MUST be consulted immediately if this causes a problem.
- b) If a match is not played for lack of an appointed or club umpire and either club is found to be at fault, the Board may in accordance with the byelaws of the Association impose a fine, award the match, deduct points or order the match replayed under such conditions as they may deem appropriate.
- c) If a match is played with a “temporary” suitably qualified umpire and either club is found at fault for the absence of an appointed or club umpire, the Board may impose a fine on the offending club.

8 CONDITIONS OF PLAY

8.1 Rules of Hockey

All League matches shall be played in accordance with the current Rules of Hockey. The introduction of any experimental rule shall be subject to the agreement of England Hockey and the MHA.

8.2 Numbered shirts

In any League match, all players should wear shirts bearing numbers of at least 9” in height in the centre of the back of the shirt and of contrasting colour from the shirt.

8.3 Clash of playing colours

If two teams have the same or similar playing colours, the 1st named team shall change its playing strip to a contrasting colour.

8.4 Pitch and equipment

- a) The 1st named team captain shall be responsible for ensuring an adequate supply of match balls.
- b) The match umpires shall be responsible for ensuring the goals and nets are in good repair and the pitch clear of debris before the start of the match.

8.5 Team clothing

All players must wear a shirt and socks of the same colour(s) as the shirt and socks of the rest of the outfield players. Goalkeepers must wear clothing which contrasts with the colours of the outfield players and umpires. The playing kit must correspond to the colours notified to the Board, and should be plain excepting for the Club Crest, Sponsors name, and Numbers. ‘Tour Shirts’ with nicknames are not permitted in official League fixtures. Player’s surname is permitted on the back of the shirt.

8.6 Late starts and uncompleted matches

- a) Both teams must be ready to start at the time in compliance with Bye-law 3. If a full match cannot be completed because of the lateness of one or other team, the Board or the RBSC in accordance with the byelaws of the Association may impose a fine, deduct points, award the match, reverse the result or order the match to be replayed under such conditions as they deem appropriate.
- b) A result shall stand if at least 60 minutes' play has taken place. If not, the Board may decide that the score at early termination of a match shall stand.

8.7 Authority of umpires

As soon as a League match commences, the captains of both teams shall be deemed to have passed all authority for completion of the match to the umpires, but no authority exists for umpires to make any decision upon the Rules or Bye-laws.

8.8 Club Sponsors

Sponsors' advertisements are allowed on clothing, shoes, tracksuits and sports bags but not on players' sticks or goalkeeper's pads other than the manufacturer's logo. No club shall change its name nor incorporate any part of the name of a sponsor in its title without the prior approval of the Board and England Hockey.

9 SPECIFIC LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITION RULES

- 9.1 No player may play for more than one club in any one cup competition. To be eligible they must be registered to that club before the first round draw is played.
- 9.2 All players are restricted to playing in one mixed cup competition and one men's/ladies cup competition each season only.
- 9.3 A full compliment of 11 players (10 outfield and 1 goalkeeper) is required for each team entered into cup competitions.
- 9.4 In Cup games, if the tie is unresolved after normal time then the match will be decided by penalty strokes. A draw shall take place for the opponents for each round.
- 9.5 In mixed league games there can be no more than 5 outfield male players on the pitch at any one time, except where a team has decided to play with no goalkeeper and the 6th male is the goalkeepers replacement

10 SPECIFIC INDOOR COMPETITION RULES

Players must be registered to the club that they are playing for. Transfers and registration should be in accordance with byelaw 5.2.

11 POST-MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES

11.1 Communicating results

- a) Both team captains shall, on the day of the match, telephone/text the result of the match and the details listed in Bye-law 11.1.b as follows:

b)

Manx Radio Sports Desk	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
Energy FM Sports Desk	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
3FM Sports Desk	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
MHA Press Officer	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
Website	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
MHA Indoor Secretary	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match

This includes matches that are league or cup games that are played on a Saturday, Sunday or a midweek fixture.

- c) The result must be communicated by telephone/text stating:
- i) the Division;
 - ii) the half time score;
 - iii) the names of both teams
 - iv) the scorer's names of the communicating team.
- c) If a match is abandoned or not commenced for any reason, that information must be communicated by telephone/text to the Manx Radio Sports Desk, Energy FM Sports Desk, 3FM Sports Desk, MHA Webmaster and the MHA Press Officers.

NOTES NOT FORMING PART OF THE RULES:

- a) Multiple results are acceptable in one call, provided:
- b) The number of results being reported is stated first; and
- c) The results are in descending order from the highest team.

11.2 Match Reports on Fixtures Live

Both team captains shall enter the result on to Fixtures Live and ensure that:

- a) both umpires' names and the venue are clearly recorded;
- b) the score and scorers are clearly recorded;
- c) That all the names of the players including who the Goalkeeper is and teams are clearly recorded along with any cards given; and
- d) That the Match Report is to be entered via Fixtures Live within 96 hours of the completion of the match.

11.3 Umpire Feedback on IOMHUA Website

Both team captains shall provide constructive comments re the Umpires within 96 hours, but any defamatory comments will be dealt with accordingly.

12 POSTPONEMENTS, ABANDONMENTS AND UNPLAYED MATCHES

12.1 Postponements

- a) Only the Board may authorise postponement of a match for any reason, save if the pitch is unplayable due to weather conditions. (and see Bye-law 12.2)

- b) A team may apply to the Secretary (who will bring the matter to the attention of the Board) for postponement of a match if it has registered players participating (as players or officials) on a scheduled League weekend:
 - i) In a County or EHA tournament or county or higher representative trials or training (must be at least 3 players);
 - (ii) On Club or school hockey business (must be at least 3 players); and
 - (iii) With an Island representative team (must be at least 3 players).
 Postponement under this Rule must be made by the Board. Application for postponement under this Rule must be made by the club to the Secretary immediately its players' involvement is known and at least 10 days before the scheduled fixture, unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

The rearranged game must be played on the following Slip-Day if a slot is available. In any event the fixture must be played within seven days of the original date. This must be agreed and communicated to the Secretary. Please note Bye-law 6.3

It is the responsibility of the team requesting a fixture change to organise the new fixture on the nearest available slip date or during a mutually agreed training session.

- c) Applications for postponement for any other reason must be made to the Secretary as soon as the circumstances are known. However, unless there are exceptional circumstances it is unlikely the request will be granted for any team other than the lowest within the Club as to do so would disadvantage other teams.
- e) A club may apply to the Secretary (who will bring the matter to the attention of the Board) for postponement of a match on a specific date if it has 5 or more players unavailable on a particular date. This application must be made by the date specified by the board for the entry of teams

12.2 Bad Weather Procedure

The Umpire, Board or 1st named team should follow the following procedure.

- a) It is the responsibility of the 1st named team and/or umpires to inspect the pitch as early as possible on a fixture date if bad weather is likely to affect any fixture. A representative of the 1st named side and/or one of the scheduled umpires should do this and notify the Chairman or Vice Chairman. They will take a realistic view at this stage. If the pitch is unfit and is likely to remain so, the game should be postponed and reported as such under Bye-law 12.4(a).
- b) If there is an adverse weather forecast e.g. Snow or Storm force winds, the board will monitor the situation and make regular announcements via the media and the website. This will be best guess on the information and advice provided by Met Office and Emergency services.

12.3 Abandonments

A match, once commenced, may only be abandoned by the decision of the umpires. The result will stand if at least 60 minutes' play has taken place (subject to Rule 8.6(a) and (b)), but otherwise at the discretion of the Board

12.4 Reporting postponement, abandonment or un-played matches

- a) Unless instructed by the Secretary, whenever a match is postponed, abandoned or is un-played for any reason, the 1st named team must immediately inform:
 - i) the opposition;
 - ii) the umpires;
 - iii) the Manx Radio Sports Desk, Energy FM Sports Desk, MHA Webmaster and the MHA Press Officer; and

- iv) the Secretary.
- b) In addition, if there is any dispute over the circumstances, both clubs must report the circumstances in writing, or by e-mail, to the Secretary within 7 days of the scheduled date of the match.

12.5 Re-scheduling postponed, abandoned or un-played matches
All Rearranged games should be played on the next available slot from the original scheduled date (pitch availability may affect this).

If clubs cannot, within play on this date, the Fixtures Secretary may dictate the date and venue for it to be played.

12.6 Slip Dates

The Saturday immediately following the end of the scheduled dates in the first half of the season and immediately preceding the start of the scheduled dates in the second half of the season shall be deemed as official League "slip dates" for games properly postponed from the first half of the season. The Saturday immediately following the end of the scheduled dates in the second half of the season shall be deemed to be the official League "slip date" for games properly postponed during the second half of the season.

The Fixtures Secretary may also use free Sundays or weekday evening if he/she feels that would be more appropriate.

12.7 Board's powers

If a match which has not been properly postponed under Bye-law 12.1:

- a) does not take place; or
 - b) is not completed; or
 - c) is abandoned before 60 minutes' play has been completed;
- the Board in accordance with the byelaws of the Association shall make a decision as to the outcome and, if appropriate, refer the matter to the RBSC for consideration.

13 MISCONDUCT

13.1 Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials and supporters and any conduct, on or off the pitch, which is liable to bring the MHA into disrepute may be penalised under Bye-law 17.1 and the EH Disciplinary code. This includes any written or electronic communications published in newspapers, newsletters and websites and social media.

13.2 It is the primary responsibility of clubs forming part of the MHA to regulate the behaviour of their players, officials, members and spectators. This Bye-law requires participating clubs to confirm by entering the Leagues that they have established an internal disciplinary procedure to deal with SERIOUS, DISORDERLY, ABUSIVE, OFFENSIVE OR IMPROPER behaviour by players, officials, members and spectators prior to, during and after any League, cup or friendly match involving a MHA club.

13.3 It shall be presumed by the MHA that each participating club has such an internal procedure as referred to above.

13.4 Any behaviour, as shown in Bye-law 13.1 and 13.2 above, that is reported to the Board may be considered as a disrepute offence under 13.1, above, will be dealt with by the CDO under the EH Disciplinary code.

14 REPRESENTATIVE ISLAND HOCKEY

- 14.1 For each representative team the Hockey Development Board shall appoint a manager and a coach.
- 14.2 No player may represent the Island who is not a member of an affiliate club or who is a debtor of the MHA.
- 14.4 All costs/fees incurred by a hockey player that plays representative hockey for the MHA off-Island should be repaid to the MHA within four weeks of having played the final representative match, unless dispensation is provided by the Board.
- 14.5 Players failing to comply with this byelaw will be automatically banned from playing in any competitive tournaments organised by the MHA (i.e league and cup events) until such a time that the debt has been repaid or an alternative course of action has been agreed with the Treasurer or Board.
- 14.6 The Secretary will be responsible for advising club secretaries of hockey players who are banned and the subsequent removal of those bans.

15 ENFORCEMENT AND INTERPRETATION

15.1 Board powers

The MHA hereby delegates to the Board, in addition to any specific provision in the Rules and Bye-laws, the following powers to exercise on its behalf:

- a) to make decisions as to interpretation of the Rules and Bye-laws in so far as they relate to the playing of matches and to impose such conditions as they may deem appropriate to ensure fulfilment of fixtures within the Rules and Bye-laws and
- b) to impose penalties for breach of the Rules by way of fines, deduction of points, awarding of matches, reversal of results and ordering payment of expenses by one club to another.

16 PROTESTS, RATIFICATION AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

16.1 Protests

- a) All protests, complaints of breach of the Bye-laws or questions of interpretation of the Bye-laws shall, in the first instance, be made to the Secretary who will bring it to the attention of the Board and the club in question.
- b) The Board will reach a final decision by majority vote and the Chairman will advise the League Liaison Officer/s of the club/s involved of the decision by letter or e mail, copying the Secretary, Treasurer (if a fine has been awarded) and (if a result is to be altered or a match awarded) the MHA Press Officer, and the decision and the amended table will be posted on the League website

16.2 Appeals

- a) A right of appeal to the Board exists for either of the clubs whose teams were the opposing teams in a match in respect of which a decision has been made under Bye-law 16.1.
- b) An appeal from a decision shall be made within 14 days of notification of the original decision to the clubs and shall be sent in writing or by e-mail to the Secretary.

- c) Upon receipt of a valid appeal, the Secretary shall inform the Chairman, who shall consult with the Board and decide if there are grounds to hear the appeal or if the matter will be dealt with by the Appeals Sub Committee.
- d) Within 21 days of the receipt of a valid appeal, the Secretary shall advise the clubs of the date (which shall be at least 14 days thereafter) and location of the appeal hearing to be heard. The clubs may be represented at the hearing or send written representations via their League Liaison Officer to the Secretary.
- e) The outcome of the appeal hearing shall be confirmed in writing, or by e-mail, within 7 days of the hearing to the clubs involved in the match in question and those who made written representations.
- f) Any decision at the Appeal hearing shall be final and binding.

17. BOARD POWERS AND BINDING FORCE OF RULES

17.1 Board powers

The Board shall have the power in accordance with the byelaws of the Association, to impose such penalty for breach of the Rules and Bye-laws as it may deem appropriate. However, the expulsion of a club or team, suspension of a club for up to three years, relegating a team to a lower Division must be agreed by the full Board at a specially convened meeting.

17.2 Binding force of Rules and Bye-laws

Each club by its entry into the League shall be deemed to have given its consent to the Rules and Bye-laws and to any amendments which may from time to time be adopted in proper form. They also agree to abide by the spirit of the rules and byelaws and not seek to gain any unfair advantage from loopholes or 'grey' areas.

18 MHA SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

The MHA has its own Safeguarding & Protecting Young People policy that complies with EHB's Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy, Procedure and Good Practice Guidance and associated Regulations (Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Complaints and Disciplinary Regulations).

Links are as follows;

**MHA Safeguarding & Protecting Young People policy – www.manxhockey.org
 EHB Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy, Procedure and Good Practice Guidance and associated Regulations (Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Complaints and Disciplinary Regulations – www.englandhockey.co.uk/safe**

18.1 The MHA believes:

- (a) that safety and welfare of children should always be of paramount importance, whatever the circumstances;
- (b) that everyone with a role in working with children has a moral and a legal responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse; and
- (c) that special care is needed in dealing with children whose age, inexperience or physical state makes them particularly vulnerable to abuse, and therefore:

- (i) has adopted a child protection policy (a hard copy of which is available from the MHA secretary or downloadable from the MHA website) to ensure that the welfare and safety of children in England Hockey's care or custody is always the primary consideration; and
- (ii) committed itself to providing an environment where children can learn about, participate in and enjoy hockey free from harassment or abuse.

18.2 The child protection policy is predicated on the following three principles:

- (a) a child's welfare is the paramount consideration;
- (b) a child, regardless of age, ability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation has a right to be protected from abuse; and
- (c) the rights, dignity and worth of a child should always be respected.

19 EQUALITY POLICY

19.1 Statement of Intention

- (a) The MHA is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity. The MHA aims to ensure that all people, irrespective of age, gender, ability, race, religion, ethnic origin, creed, colour, social status or sexual orientation have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in hockey at all levels and in all roles. This includes, job applicants, employees, participants, volunteers and spectators.
- (b) MHA shall:
 - (i) ensure that there will be open access to all its services;
 - (ii) eliminate prejudice against any group by removing barriers;
 - (iii) select, recruit, promote and train all personnel working for or on behalf of the MHA solely on the basis of merit and ability and by adapting facilities and equipment where necessary;
 - (iv) communicate to all employees and volunteers its commitment to equal opportunities;
 - (v) fulfil its social responsibility to all employees and volunteers, ensuring that appropriate support is given;
 - (vi) make every reasonable effort to prepare, produce and market materials that are appropriate for all persons in respect of language, format and approach;
 - (vii) modify any existing rules and regulations that may inhibit the inclusion of any groups, provided this does not result in the deterioration of equality required by the MHA.

19.2 Definitions

- (a) Direct discrimination is defined as treating a person less favourably than others would be treated in the same circumstances.
- (b) Indirect discrimination occurs when a job requirement or condition is applied, which, whether intentional or not, has an adverse effect on one sex or racial group or marital status because fewer representatives of that group are able to comply with it, and that requirement or condition cannot be justified on grounds other than race, gender or marital status.

19.3 Harassment

Harassment can be described as inappropriate actions, behaviour, comments or physical contact that are objectionable or cause offence to the recipient. It may be directed towards people because of their age, sexuality, disability or some other characteristic

19.4 Conduct

The MHA regards discrimination and harassment as outlined above as gross misconduct and any employee of the MHA, participant or volunteer who so discriminates against any other person shall be liable to appropriate disciplinary action.

19.5 Implementation

- (a) A copy of the policy shall be available to all persons working or assisting the MHA. All these persons shall respect, act in accordance with and thereby support and promote the spirit and intentions of this policy.
- (b) A planned approach shall be adopted to remove discrimination against any group.
- (c) The MHA shall be committed to working only alongside those individuals or organisations who are prepared to demonstrate the principles and practice of equity as laid out in this document.

There is also a link to the EHB's Equality Policy;

<http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=89§ionTitle=Equality+Guidance+and+Documents>

There is also a link to the EHB's Code of Ethics and Behaviour and Associated Disrepute Regulations, as all clubs are bound by these as part of the affiliation process.

<http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=450§ionTitle=Respect+%2D+Code+of+Ethics+%26+Behaviour>

Appendix 1

PENALTIES AND FINES FOR BREACH OF THE RULES AND BYE-LAWS

1. Penalties and Points Deductions

The Board reserves the right, in the case of persistent failure or unreasonable delay by a club in the payment of fine(s) or compliance with any other sanction properly imposed by the Board, to add substantially increased sanctions in addition to the original punishment. In the event of a gross failure by a club to comply with the Board's instructions relegation or expulsion will be applied.

This table sets out the recommended penalties which **may** be applied, **but the Board reserves the right to alter the punishment imposed, at its discretion, taking into account the spirit of the byelaws.** Where any substantial alteration is made the club will be informed of the reasons. Application of these penalties and points deductions is subject to any appeals as per the League Rules.

	RULE	PENALTY	NOTES
1	Failure to fulfil an outdoor fixture	Loss of game by 5 goals to nil and pay pitch costs for both clubs	
2	Failure to fulfil 2nd fixture in one season	Loss of game by 5 goals to nil, additional 2pts deducted and pay pitch costs for both clubs	
3	Failure to fulfil more than 2 fixtures in any season	As above but 4pts	Possible Relegation
4	Playing an ineligible player, including one serving any form of suspension	Points deduction and pay pitch costs for both clubs	Deduct number of points that would have been awarded for a win, regardless of whether the team won or not.
5	Playing a player(s) under an assumed name	Points deduction and pay pitch costs for both clubs	Deduct number of points that would have been awarded for a win, regardless of whether the team won or not.
6	Playing Under18s or GKs more than permitted by exemptions	Points deducted for all games played in by the player and pay pitch costs for both clubs	Deduct number of points that would have been awarded for a win, regardless of whether the team won or not.
7	Playing suspended "red" card player	Points deduction and pay pitch costs for both clubs	Possible Disciplinary Offence to be dealt with by CDO. Increased Ban for player and sanctions against team which may include point deductions and or fines
8	Failure to fulfil an indoor fixture		Indoor Secretary's discretion
9	Failing to provide an umpire to a match	Loss of game by 5 goals to nil and pay pitch costs for both clubs	If no umpire is appointed/available, the captain of the team without the umpire is responsible for getting a replacement.
10	Playing a cup-tied player in a cup competition	Loss of game by 5 goals to nil and pay pitch costs for both clubs	
11	Fielding a First team with less than a full compliment of players (11)	Loss of game by 5 goals to nil and pay pitch costs for both clubs	Each lower team shall be deemed to have lost their match by a score of 0-5 if they have more players than the first team

Notes

Relegation: Where a team is going to be forcibly relegated it is still expected to complete its fixture list. Failure to do so will count as additional failure to fulfil and be punished accordingly. It will be placed bottom of the League but all results will count.

Expulsion: This will occur immediately and all that team's results will be expunged

2. Fines

This table sets out the normal tariff of fines which will be applied, but the Board reserves the right to alter the punishment imposed, at its discretion. Where any substantial alteration is made the club will be informed of the reasons.

	DESCRIPTION	FINE
1	First Offence of late/non advise of result to Media	Warning
2	First Offence of late/non advise to MHA press Officer	Warning
3	Second offence of late/non advise to Media	£25
4	Second offence of late/non advise to MHA press Officer	£25
5	For each additional offence of late/non advise of result to Media	Additional £25 on the amount previously fined
6	For each additional offence of late/non advise of result to MHA press Officer	Additional £25 on the amount previously fined
7	If a team fails to submit or submits a late/incorrect/incomplete team sheet	Warning
8	If a team commits a second offence of failing to submit or submitting a late/incorrect/incomplete team sheet	£25
9	For each additional offence of failing to submit or submitting a late/incorrect/incomplete team sheet	Additional £25 on the amount previously fined
10	Clubs withdrawing a team after the 31 st July deadline, and which cannot be replaced.	Liable for any pitch fees

Note 1 Consistent breaches of the above offences or any other league rules may lead to further fines and/or points deductions. Consistent breaches where offences have occurred in 50% of matches will receive a 2 point deduction and £100 fine on top of the above

Note 2 Any Club failing to return a Trophy at the Annual General Meeting will be fined £50 and will also be charged for the cost of a replacement.

Appendix 2

Player Registration

1.	<p>Only bona-fide members of a league club who are 13 years of age or older on the date of the game shall be entitled to be registered and to play in league matches for that club (Rule taken from the North Hockey Association Handbook)</p> <p>This rule allows players to play senior hockey when they attain the age of 13 but does not affect their eligibility to play U13 hockey</p>
2.	<p>All players must be registered to one of their club teams in a competition before they can play in that competition. A player can be registered to more than one club but can only play for 1 club in a competition (eg Senior Single Sex, Senior Mixed, U16 Mixed, indoor)</p>
3.	<p>All teams except the bottom team should maintain AT LEAST 11 registered players including 1 goalkeeper.</p>
4.	<p>A player can play one level lower than their registered team (A can play for B but not for C).</p>
5.	<p>Players can play for any team in the competition which is at or above the team, for which they are Registered.</p>
6.	<p>Junior players can play in the U16 league and any senior league, but should be registered to a senior team if playing senior hockey regularly (i.e., more than 3 matches in any given season). This does not affect their ability to play in the junior league.</p>
7.	<p>Goalkeepers can play in goal down one team from that team to which they are registered on fixtures live but may be promoted up an unlimited number of teams within that club. If a Goalkeeper plays more than 5 games in goal for a higher team(s), they should be re-registered to a higher team</p>
8.	<p>Goalkeepers can play one complete game in goals; subject to byelaws 6.2d and 6.2e, AND one game outfield in any team on the same day.</p>
9.	<p>If a player needs to moved to a lower team, that player can be transferred to a lower team but must be replaced to ensure all teams have at least 11 players.</p>
10.	<p>Players should only have 1 Fixtures Live membership</p>
11.	<p>No players except U18s can play for more than 1 team in a competition for a scheduled fixture date. The rules 5 and 6 still apply.</p>