

ENGLAND HOCKEY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS 2017-2018.

COVERING

MENS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS,.

1. AUTHORITY

1.1 The Rules of Hockey, including the recent changes implemented by England Hockey, shall be observed

1.2 The Disciplinary Code of England Hockey shall be applied at all matches.

1.3 Binding Force of the Regulations

Each team, by its entry into and participation in the competitions shall be deemed to have given its consent to abide by the competitions' regulations and to any amendments which may be ratified by the England Hockey Knockout Competitions Committee. Each team shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of England Hockey in relation to these regulations or any matter not covered in these regulations, and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.

1.4 For the purposes of these regulations a Season is defined as from 1 September in any one year to 31 August in the following year, both dates inclusive.

2. MANAGEMENT

2.1 The England Hockey Competitions Department, based at England Hockey Office, will oversee the general running of the Competitions and their publicity and promotion. The staff of this department is responsible to the Knockout Competitions Committee.

3. LIASION

3.1 Each participating team must appoint a Liaison Officer who must be freely available to The England Hockey Competitions Department at all times by the usual channels of communication. The name, address, telephone/fax numbers and e-mail address of the Liaison Officer and an e-mail address must be advised to The England Hockey Competitions Department.

3.2 Any change in Liaison Officer details must be advised to The England Hockey Competitions Department immediately.

3.3 All teams participating in the competition shall provide The England Hockey Competitions Department with all requested information by the due date.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Players

For the purpose of these competitions a player shall be eligible to compete through qualification as follows:-

4.1.1. by being born in that County or

4.1.2. by bona fide playing membership of a Club affiliated to that County or

4.1.3. by bona fide residence in that County or

4.1.4. by attending, as a full time student, a University, College or School in that County

4.1.5. This qualification is retained until such time as the player becomes eligible and elects to play for another County.

4.1.6. No player shall represent at any level more than one County in any one Season.

4.2.1 A player whose name appears on any Result Card/form listing those players eligible to play in a match will be considered to have played in that match.

4.2.2 Any team that plays an ineligible or suspended player will be disqualified from the competition in which they were participating.

4.3 Teams

The tournament shall be open to representative teams from the constituent Counties of England Hockey. who confirm their entry to the Competitions Department by the due date.

5. COMPETITIONS

1. Men's County Championship

5.1.1. The Preliminary Round shall be between those Counties eligible and wishing to take part and shall consist of pools of teams as decided by England Hockey Knockout Competitions Committee.

5.1.2. The top 10 Counties qualifying from last season's event shall be placed in the A Division playing in two pools of five teams.

5.1.3. The next 10 Counties qualifying from last season's event shall be placed in the B Division. playing in two pools of five teams.

5.1.4. The remaining Counties shall be placed in the C Division playing in two pools of five teams

5.1.5. After each team within a pool has played all other teams, teams will qualify for the Final stages of the relevant tournament in line with reg 5. 1..8 below.

5.1.6. The teams finishing last in the two pools of the A Division tournament shall be relegated to the B Division for the following season's event.

5.1.7. The teams finishing last in the two pools of the B Division tournament shall be relegated to the C Division for the following season's event.

5.1.8. Final Stages - The four qualifying teams in each Division shall play in the semi finals. This shall consist of the top two teams in each of the A Division, B Division and C Division pools with the top of one pool playing the 2nd in the other pool.

5.1.9. The winners of the semi finals shall qualify for the final of the competition and the B and C Division winning semi finalists shall also be promoted for the following season.

5.1.10. The Competitions Committee reserve the right to agree arrangements for pools should any qualifying team withdraw or entry numbers be fewer than shown in 5.1.1 – 5.1.4

5.2 Scoring Systems

In all competitions played on around robin basis teams will be awarded three points for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat

5.3 Procedure to be followed where teams are level on points in round robin competitions

The final placing shall be decided as follows:

5.3.1 Goal difference

5.3.2 The team having scored the greater goals

5.3.3 The result of the match between the two teams

5.3.4 If all of these are equal, and the outcome will decide who finishes winner or runner up in a round robin competition or who finishes bottom of a pool in the Preliminary Round, then the final placing match shall be determined by a series of penalty strokes taken under the conditions detailed in the Rules of Hockey.

5.4 Procedure to be followed if the scores are level at the end of full time in semi finals and finals.

If the scores are level at the end of full time the outcome of the match shall be determined by a series of penalty strokes taken under the conditions detailed in the Rules of Hockey.

6. TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

6.1 Tournament Directors shall be appointed to all competitions by England Hockey Knockout Competitions Committee who may delegate appointments to Regional Associations. Tournament Directors are empowered to apply the regulations of the Tournament at their discretion and their ruling on any matter shall be final. Tournament Directors shall be empowered to suspend any player or official for one or more matches for misconduct on or off the field of play during the tournament.

6.2 Should there be a need for a protest to be made, it shall be made by the Team Manager or Captain in writing to the Tournament Director within one hour of the termination of the match. The Tournament Director should communicate the decision on such a protest to both teams involved within one hour of receipt of such a protest. A protest cannot be made regarding an umpiring decision.

7. MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

7.1.1 All matches shall be played on approved artificial turf surfaces on the dates set by England Hockey.

7.1.2 All matches must start at the advertised time. However Tournament Directors may, at their discretion, allow a delay or make alterations to the match schedule.

7.1.3 If one team is ready to start but the other is not, the umpire concerned shall blow the whistle for the game to start and the match shall be awarded to the team which is ready to begin.

7.1.4 Unless otherwise directed teams must provide a sufficient quantity of good quality hockey balls which must be of the same type and colour and suitable for the surface on which the match is to be played.

7.2 Team sheets

7.2.1. Each team must submit a completed teamsheet for the Tournament to the Tournament Director as directed. Each team will be entitled to nominate up to 18 players for the tournament. The teamsheet must be signed by the Manager who in so signing will be deemed to vouch for and confirm that each player listed is eligible to play. A player whose name appears on any teamsheet listing those players eligible to play in the tournament will be deemed to have played in that tournament.

7.2.2. Each team must have a Manager. The manager and two further officials are entitled to occupy the team bench. Additionally a qualified Medical Doctor, whose name appears on the teamsheet, may sit on the team bench.

7.2.3. A team shall be entitled to nominate up to 16 players of its squad for each match and only those listed may sit on the team bench.

7.2.4 No player named on the team sheet may act as Manager for that match.

7.3 Blood Borne Diseases

Any player sustaining an injury that bleeds or any player with an open wound must leave the pitch immediately to receive treatment and have the wound covered prior to returning.

8. DRESS

8.1 Field players must wear uniform shirts, shorts and knee length socks.

8.1.2 Field players shall wear uniform shorts.

8.1.3 Any additional clothing (e.g. cycle shorts or long sleeved tee-shirts) must be of the same colour as the corresponding item of clothing shown on the teamsheet

8.2 All teams shall take alternative colour shirts and socks to the tournament and, if required by the Tournament Director or either Umpire to do so, shall wear them.

8.3 Goalkeepers must wear shirts contrasting in colour with those of both teams and must wear protective equipment as specified in the Rules of Hockey. A team whose goalkeeper is not properly equipped shall forfeit the match.

8.4 Players shall wear on the back of their shirts the numbers allocated on the teamsheet.

8.5 All numbers shall be no less than 8" (20cm) in height and shall contrast with the colour of the shirt. Taped numbers may only be used in an emergency.

8.6 The Captain must be identifiable on the pitch by a band worn on the arm. This band must be transferred to another player should the named captain leave the pitch.

9 UMPIRES

9.1 Umpires will be appointed by National Programme Umpires Association who may delegate appointments to Regional or County Umpiring Associations.

10. POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

10.1 At any time prior to the commencement of a match, the decision on whether or not the pitch is fit for play shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Director but once a game has started, the decision on whether it should be abandoned rests with the Umpires.

10.2 In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of a serious injury to a player, adverse weather conditions or the decision of the Tournament Director or Umpires, the Tournament Director will decide on the action to be taken. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture, depending on the circumstances at the time of the abandonment.

10.3 The KO Knockout Competitions Committee will determine any action to be taken in the event of the tournament being abandoned.

11 FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE

11.1 A team which fail to honour a fixture shall forfeit any entry fee and shall be deemed to have taken no part in the competition. (I.e. their record and the record of any team that has played them will be expunged)

11.2 In addition England Hockey shall at its discretion have the right to ensure that a team which fails to honour a fixture reimburses the opposing team, officials and/or England Hockey for any expenses incurred in relation to the tournament.

12 BREACHES OF REGULATIONS

12.1 Any team found to be in breach of these regulations may be subject to further penalties in addition to any penalty imposed by a specific regulation.

13 APPEAL PROCEDURES

13.1 Teams, players and officials have the right to appeal to the Appeals Panel against a decision by the KO Knockout Competitions Committee.

13.2 Any appeal must be in writing and received at England Hockey Office within 3 days of the notification to the offender of the original decision. A deposit of £100 must be sent within 7 days of the date of the sending of the appeal. This will be returned, all or in part, if the appeal is successful.

13.3 Any other team which may be directly affected by an appeal shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be notified of the date of that appeal hearing and subsequently the outcome of the appeal.