

# Masters Competition Framework

As part of the AGM Resolution voted through by the membership in September 2020 a revised and more consistent Masters competition framework was included.

The full original proposal can be found here:

[www.Englandhockey.co.uk/astructurefitforthefuture](http://www.Englandhockey.co.uk/astructurefitforthefuture)

The intent in developing a framework for Masters hockey is to ensure there is sufficient alignment in approach nationally, to create a more equitable range of Masters hockey provision.

The delivery of the framework is likely to vary due to the different geographical areas, constituent clubs in an Area, effectiveness of Sub-Areas/Counties in supporting Masters hockey.

The recommendations contained within the review that pertain to Masters hockey are reproduced below.

*“Based on the consistent growth the proposal recommends increasing the provision of Masters’ hockey.*

*At club level the provision for Masters’ hockey has grown fairly organically through local leagues and the England Hockey competition programme.*

*Through working with existing league and competition providers and aligning the provision of England Hockey club competitions, a more systematic approach would help to increase the consistency of opportunities.*

*In the proposal the new Area bodies have a clearly defined function for Masters’ hockey, both representative teams and club level provision.*

*Any existing Masters leagues will be expected to align to the new Areas. In some areas there may need to be collaboration between Areas to provide activity for club teams of a suitable standard for the different age groups.*

*There is also an appetite for Masters’ competitions in the summer as players from across club teams join up with ex-players and enter England Hockey Masters Summer Championships with year-on-year entries for this growing.*

*The good practice examples of County Masters teams, as currently run in the East and West Regions, will be built upon as an outlet for players that want to start to play for representative teams.*

*The intent is that these tournaments will be locally run within Areas, cost effective to deliver and aimed at providing enjoyable experiences for players*

*At this stage of development there isn't the intent for a national competition but that could be reviewed over time.*

*At Area level the current Regional championships of five teams would aim to develop into a competition structure including the eight Areas.*

*In the initial years it may be necessary to merge Areas to create teams, particularly at older age groups, but as the number of participants and administrative structures develop to support the growth in Masters' hockey this structure will be deliverable.*

*For the sake of clarity International Masters hockey was outside the scope of this review.*

## **Proposal for Club Masters competition**

The provision of Masters hockey at club level falls into two categories:

1. A masters knockout competition provided by the England Hockey Competitions Department (EHCD)
2. Either formal local leagues, or informal "friendlies" against local opposition.

Given the success of the EH knockout competition in previous years, it is not proposed to make any changes to the existing format. - [Link to Masters club comps page of website](#)

The provision of formal Masters leagues is sporadic across the country. Some feedback was that the creation of Masters leagues that played at the weekend would detrimentally impact senior leagues. Feedback stated that by formalising leagues, players eligible for Masters hockey would be unavailable to play for their club teams. However, to provide a systematic approach, it is proposed that Areas provide Masters Leagues.

To avoid the impact on Senior leagues, the proposal is that all Masters leagues have fixture windows, i.e. teams are free to arrange when they play providing the games take place within a given timeframe.

Masters leagues should take place at Sub-Area or Part-Area (i.e. local) level to minimise travel distances. Where there are not sufficient teams to run a league at Sub-Area level, clusters that cut across boundaries may be possible.

As Masters hockey ranges from 35+ - 70+, it is suggested that (where possible) leagues be divided by age group, 35 - 49\* and 50+.

\* To enable greater participation, it is suggested that 2 players per squad could fall into the 30-35 age range.

The winners of each Sub-Area/Cluster league should progress to an Area finals competition that would take place over a weekend, with a round robin format.

### Club Leagues (formalising existing activity)

Age/Gender	Activity	Format	Deliverer
M 35-49	Part Area League	Open Window Fixtures	Area
M 50+	Part Area League	Open Window Fixtures	Area
F 35 - 49	Part Area League	Open Window Fixtures	Area
F 50+	Part Area League	Open Window Fixtures	Area

### Club League Championships (new activity)

Age/Gender	Activity	Format	Deliverer
M 35-49	Area Championships	Round Robin	Area
M 50+	Area Championships	Round Robin	Area
F 35 - 49	Area Championships	Round Robin	Area
F 50+	Area Championships	Round Robin	Area

EH run a very successful Masters club competition. There are no proposed changes to this competition.

### Winter EH Club Competitions (Existing Activity)

Age/Gender	Tier	Activity	Format	Deliverer	20/21 Entries
W O35	1, 2, 3	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	79
M O40	1, 2, 3	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	86
W O45	1, 2, 3	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	33
M O50	1, 2, 3	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	70
M O60	1, 2, 3	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	28

### Summer EH Club Competitions (Existing Activity)

Age/Gender	Tier	Activity	Format	Deliverer	20/21 Entries
M O30	1 & Plate	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	12
W O30	1 & Plate	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	40
M O40	1 & Plate	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	12
W O40	1 & Plate	Club Championships	Knockout	EHCD	14
M O50	Festival	Club Championships	Festival	EHCD	8

## Sub-Area/County Masters Provision

Currently there is some County competition, mainly in East & West regions. In these counties the age groups are M40+ M50+ and W40+. It is recommended that Counties follow this format with the possibility to add age groups as the popularity of this competition grows.

- Proposal will provide opportunity for all Counties to be represented at Area level to determine Area County Champions.
- It is not proposed to take Area County Champions to National finals, but that can be reviewed after time.
- Not all Counties will be able to field teams at all age ranges.
- Some Counties may be able to field multiple teams at each age group.

## County Championships (revision to existing activity)

Age/Gender	Activity	Format	Deliverer
M 40+	County Championship	Round Robin	Area
W 40+	County Championship	Round Robin	Area
M 50+	County Championship	Round Robin	Area

## Area Championships (continuation of existing activity)

- Current Regional Championships are well represented across both ages and genders.
- There is no perceived need to change the format.
- The current competition format will switch from 5 Regions to 8 Areas.
- There will be a transition year in which Areas may merge to provide teams, e.g. Yorkshire & NE & North West.

Age	Activity	Format	Deliverer
M O35	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
M O40	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
M O45	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
M O50	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
M O55	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
M O60	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
M O65	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
M O70	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD

Age	Activity	Format	Deliverer
W O35	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
W O40	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
W O45	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
W O50	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
W O55	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
W O60	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD
W O65	Area Championships	Round Robin	EHCD

## Appendix 1

### Area Masters Representation Eligibility

The following criteria should be used when selecting players for Area Masters squads.

#### Players

- i) Shall reach the qualifying age for a competition by 31 December of the same playing year.
- ii) Shall primarily be a bona fide member of a club in the Area they are representing.
- iii) May qualify by being a resident in the Area they are representing, particularly if not a member of a club. Other possible exceptions see below.
- iv) Shall only be eligible to represent one Area in a given year.
- v) Shall only be eligible to play in one age group competition each year.

Where point iv) or v) may threaten the entry of an Area team into a competition, that Area should make representation to the 8 Area Masters group (contact details to follow) for a waiver at least two months in advance of the first tournaments in which the individual intends to play.

If a player wishes to represent an Area on the basis that they live in an area, previously played for that area (or region) and have relocated or were born in that Area, then a request should be put to the 8 Area Masters Group (contact details to follow) with said details and proof. A log of approved exceptions will be maintained.

Should that request be granted, the player must seek selection to play for that Area for a minimum of 3 years.

#### Notes:

*The intention of these principles is to allow Areas to field teams based on players who play for the clubs in their Areas.*

*Should a player play for a team that plays in a masters league in a different Area, they should play for the Area where their club is based/affiliated to. There may be exceptions for a few men's and women's sections of border clubs but needs approval as above.*

*Movement of Areas should ideally only be around changing clubs.*

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