

## London Hockey FAQ Sheet July 2021

### Governance

**Q – Why has a London Hockey Limited company been set up for the area?**

**A –** The 2020 AGM Resolution passed by England Hockey members adopted the governance changes proposed (86% voted in favour), moving from 5 regions to 8 Areas. The changes included each of the 8 Areas to be set up as limited companies responsible for all hockey provision within its area, for example, Greater London.

**Q – What are the 8 Areas?**

**A –** North West, Yorkshire & North East, Midlands, London, East, South East, South Central and West.

**Q – When will responsibilities transition to the 8 new Area Companies?**

**A –** In accordance with the England Hockey Articles of Association adopted at the March 2021 AGM and the Transition Regulations issued under them, the new Area Companies are now established. On the 1st July 2021, the new Area Companies were admitted to England Hockey as Voting Members and England Hockey withdrew the existing regulatory hockey functions from the Regional Associations on this same date.

**Q – What is happening to the County Hockey Associations?**

**A –** Many County Hockey Association will continue, with responsibilities for Junior Development and representative hockey. However, this is not the case in Greater London where London Hockey will assume responsibility for these activities.

**Q – What will happen with the existing Umpiring Associations?**

**A –** The existing umpiring associations will dissolve / be wound up, pursuant to their constitutions, as London Hockey will take over all their functions, including appointing for mid-week and BUCs fixtures.

**Q – How will the existing leagues be dissolved?**

**A –** The existing leagues will dissolve their organisations as per their constitution. This will take place over several months as activities conclude.

**Q – What happens to my Life Membership of a governing body ceasing to exist?**

**A –** You may opt to become a Non-Voting Member of London Hockey Limited.

### Finance

**Q – Why is there no budget presentation at the AGM?**

**A –** As this is the first year of running of the London Area, the plans against actual costs are difficult to accurately predict. As such the transition team in conjunction with input from England Hockey, other Areas and their own estimates have generated a draft budget of income and expense. It was deemed that a budget

presentation was not practical for the inaugural AGM. A budget will be presented at next year's AGM for approval.

**Q – Will London Hockey have their own banking facilities?**

**A –** Yes, and clubs will pay membership subscriptions and fees into this account. Bank details will be shared when invoices are sent out.

**Q – Are the fees consistent across the 8 areas?**

**A –** Membership fees and league entry fees are set by each of the Areas independently and vary. The split between “membership fee” and “league entry” fees differs across the 8 Areas.

Several of the new Areas are having discounted rates to bring down historic reserves (from contributing defunct bodies and leagues). London Hockey has set fees on the basis that it receives no seed funding/reserves from former regional and county bodies or leagues. Add in several unknowns in our expenses and we have opted to set fees to allow us to break even on hockey delivery for the 2021/22 season.

At the next AGM we will review our financial position based on possible reserves received and a clearer picture of expenses and investment proposals.

**Q – What is the difference between Area and Sub Area Membership Fees?**

**A –** In 7 of the 8 Areas there are Sub Areas delivering part of the hockey offering. Within Greater London it is one and the same, London Hockey. However as per the Articles of Association we do need to charge separate fees for Area and Sub Area activity.

### **Comms & Branding**

**Q – Will there be new branding for London Hockey?**

**A –** There will be new branding for the 8 Areas using a common design framework. Logos are expected to launch in August.

We will be known as London Hockey - providing hockey for Greater London.

**Q – Is there a website for London Hockey?**

**A –** Each of the 8 Areas will have their own website, integrated with the England Hockey platform. A new London Hockey website will go live by September with fixtures, league tables, Area information etc. In the meantime clubs will be able to find London Hockey information on a dedicated page on the England Hockey website until we go live with our own website.

[www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/about-england-hockey/8-areas/london-hockey](http://www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/about-england-hockey/8-areas/london-hockey)

**Q – What social media platforms will be available?**

**A –** London Hockey will be operating accounts on Twitter and Instagram with others possibly added in the future. Follow us on these accounts:

Instagram : [www.instagram.com/hockeyforlondon/](https://www.instagram.com/hockeyforlondon/)  
Twitter : [twitter.com/hockeyforlondon](https://twitter.com/hockeyforlondon)  
[twitter.com/JuniorsLondon](https://twitter.com/JuniorsLondon)

### **Game Management System**

**Q – What is GMS?**

**A** – England Hockey are introducing a new Game Management System (GMS) across the areas which will be integrated with other platforms e.g. OMS, Area websites. Player registration, fixture management and appointment of officials will all be managed within the GMS. It will allow us to see all competitions and leagues in real time on one website, there will be a mobile solution (as we know a lot of hockey admin is done pitch side), it will be easy to use, moving team sheets online and eventually removing the paper trail and automating the process.

**Q – When will the new Game Management System (GMS) be launched?**

**A** – The rollout of GMS will be phased; phase one for the new season is prioritising the users' functionality for members. The system will give much greater flexibility for administering the league; many of the existing systems are clunky and cumbersome. Onboarding of admin users will take place in July with full launch with club and team administrator onboarding from early August through to September (initial focus is on adult leagues).

You can sign up to online GMS training via this [link](#)

**Q – Who do I contact if I can't access the GMS?**

**A** – The contact for London Hockey is David Lloyd Williams however the initial roll out is managed by England Hockey. Contact details will be made available as we onboard clubs.

### **Adult Hockey**

**Q – Are the Adult League structures consistent across the 8 areas?**

**A** – Each of the 8 areas have developed the Adult League structures for their individual area, bearing in mind that no two areas are the same. The transition team has consulted with clubs in online group engagement and individual sessions from December 2020 onwards to satisfy as many of the clubs' needs as possible given the constraints of team entries, geographical locations etc. At the end of the 2021/22 season, we will re-engage with the membership and, if agreed, we will make amendments to the structure(s) for the following season if deemed appropriate.

**Q – When will adult league fixtures be available?**

**A** – These have now been released on a temporary website until GMS / Area websites launch.

<http://fixtures.englandhockey.co.uk> Select your area and choose from the filters at the top of the page to find your fixtures.

**Q – When will the Adult League Regulations be published?**

**A –** The League Regulations are in the final stages of review; the process has consisted of amalgamating 55 sets of rules into one set of Regulations for hockey that is graded throughout the divisions. The League Regulations are currently being finalised by the 8 Area working group.

**Q – What will happen with league and player registration?**

**A –** Clubs have already submitted details of adult and masters teams they wish to enter in the new London Hockey League for the 2021/22 season with the process for junior teams under way. The new GMS will be the single system for all 8 areas for; player registration (done by the individual); fixtures; umpiring; match sheets; stats and plenty more over time. Rollout for club administrators and player registrations will be happening over the summer ready for the start of the league season. The GMS will be used for league hockey from September 2021 onwards.

**Junior Hockey**

**Q – When will junior fixtures be made available?**

**A –** Junior fixtures will be available in August.

**Q – Who is responsible for Player Pathway?**

**A –** In Greater London the new London Hockey organisation will be taking over the responsibility for Player Pathway with immediate effect.

**Q – Who is responsible for Junior Talent and Academy Centres?**

**A –** England Hockey are responsible for Junior Talent and Academy Centres.

**Masters Hockey**

**Q – What is happening with Masters hockey in the 2021/22 season?**

**A –** The original plan was for Masters hockey to remain in its current format for the 2021/22 season, and to be brought into the London Hockey family for the 2022/23 season.

**Q – How can we enter a team into the London Hockey Masters League?**

**A –** We are expanding the offering to include women's divisions. If you are interested in participating (Men and Women's divisions) please contact Sara Walker via [masters@london.hockey](mailto:masters@london.hockey)

**Q – When will the London Hockey Masters League fixtures be published?**

**A –** The fixtures will be shared with participating clubs at the end of July and added to the GMS system in August.

## **Officiating**

### **Q – At what level do London Hockey plan to appoint umpires?**

**A –** The current plan is to appoint umpires for the London Premier divisions and divisions 1s as a minimum. Consideration will be made to appoint for divisions further down if there are sufficient numbers of umpires willing and able to take appointments.

Our longer-term plan is to appoint equally to both genders across the London Area, so we are putting in place a development plan with the intent of increasing the numbers of people willing and able to take neutral appointments.

### **Q – Are clubs required to nominate umpires for a pool for appointments?**

**A –** No. Umpire nominations are not required and umpires will be voluntary.

### **Q – Why do umpires require a EHO gold membership to take appointments?**

**A –** Both the gold and silver membership provides insurance for the neutral umpire, who would not be covered by any club insurance, whilst the gold also qualifies for coaching and assessing within the Area, and allows access to online coaching and development resources to help build the quality of our officiating pool.

### **Q – Can umpires take appointments in other areas?**

**A –** Yes. Although umpires will identify their primary area, umpires may take appointments from other areas, subject to agreement with the appointers in both primary and secondary areas, although consideration will be made for travel and expenses.

### **Q – Do EHO memberships offered to umpires include insurance cover?**

**A –** Gold and Silver memberships include umpire insurance cover; the free membership does not include umpire insurance cover. It would then be the umpire's responsibility to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover, for example through their club, college or university if they are officiating such a game.

### **Q – What are the fees, payable by clubs, for appointed umpires?**

**A –** Clubs will be charged £15 per game for appointed umpires to cover umpires' expenses.

## **Discipline**

### **Q – Who do I contact if a red card is issued?**

**A –** England Hockey has appointed an Area Disciplinary Administrator (ADA) for each of the 8 Areas. For the London Area this is Rupert Allen who can be contacted via [discipline@london.hockey](mailto:discipline@london.hockey)