

1. THE LEAGUE

The Manchester Women's Hockey League known as "the League" shall be managed by the GMHA (W) Executive Committee.

The league competition shall be conducted under the rules and regulations of England Hockey

All communications should be directed to and conducted by the General Secretary except those relating to:

- a) match arrangements and results to be addressed to the Divisional Representatives or Fixtures Secretary as appropriate.*
- b) umpiring and associated disciplinary matters - to be addressed to the Umpire Secretary*

2. MANAGEMENT

The League shall be managed by a League meeting of the Officers of the Association and duly accredited representatives of the Clubs forming the Association.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The clubs shall; at the Annual General Meeting, elect a President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary, County Secretary, Umpires Secretary, and Divisional Representatives, (one per division). This shall form the Executive Committee which shall meet prior to each league meeting. The Executive shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional members. All decisions relating to the conduct of the Association in respect of fines and disciplinary matters shall be final.

Five members shall form a quorum.

Any member of the Executive Committee:-

- a) shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election;
- b) shall not hold more than one position;
- c) being eligible for re-election, but not wishing to stand should inform the General Secretary at or before the monthly meeting preceding the AGM.

4. MEETINGS

The Executive Committee shall meet on a regular basis. Correspondence for discussion at Executive meetings should be directed to the General Secretary from a member of the club who is not on the Executive.

League meetings will be published in the handbook. At these meetings each club will have one vote. Any club failing to be represented at the meeting shall be fined £5.00 and failure to attend any subsequent meeting shall incur a fine of £10.00.

The AGM of the GMWHA shall be held in MAY each year. The date of the AGM shall be fixed and all clubs notified by the March meeting. A copy of the agenda to be received by all clubs 14 days before the date of the AGM. No addition or alteration to the Constitution can be made except at the AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Nominations and alterations to the Constitution shall be:-

- a) proposed by one club and seconded by another club and received in writing by the General Secretary 28 days before the AGM.*
- b) proposed by the Executive.*

Any member of a club in the Association may attend any League Meeting, AGM or EGM. Each club attending will be allowed one vote.

LEAGUE RULES

No new rules shall be made or any rule altered except at the AGM or EGM. Details of how to make proposals are detailed in the Constitution.

5. ARRANGEMENTS

Fixtures meeting to be held in June of each year, the date to be announced at or before the AGM. Fixtures agreed at this meeting to be published in the GMHA(W) Handbook. **No change** to be made to these except with the express permission of the Executive Committee for the division. The date for the end of the season will be set at the preceding fixture meeting.

6. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

All clubs playing in the GMHA (W) must be affiliated to The North Association and to England Hockey. All clubs to submit a completed registration form together with the appropriate fee by 30 September of the relevant year.

All Clubs must have information for the handbook complete and handed into the Fixtures Secretary at the Fixture meeting held in June.

Failure to comply with these conditions will result in the club not being entered.

League Registration Fee of £50.00 per team is payable upon registration.

Player registrations shall be £2.00 seniors / £1.00 under 18s.

7. REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

All players must be registered with the Fixtures Secretary before the first league match played by their club.

A team responsible for playing unregistered players, shall have the match awarded to their opponents, shall have 3 points deducted and the Club shall be fined £25.00. The registration fee will be £2.00 seniors and £1.00 under 18s.

Clubs who run more than one team must nominate 10 outfield players and 1 'full-time' goalkeeper per team and notify the Fixtures Secretary before the first league match played by their club. **ONLY TWO** players, at any one time, may be selected for the team immediately below that to which they are nominated and not in any subsequent team; such players must be starred on the team sheet. Teams playing ineligible players (ie. More than two starred player's in a team below) shall have the match awarded to their opponents and the club shall be fined £25.

The Match Sub-committee will look at requests to change nominations on grounds of injury, limited availability or other sound reasons. The request must be made in writing to the Fixtures Secretary for discussion with the Match Sub-committee.

A starred outfield player will not be deemed to be a 'star' when playing in goal for a lower team.

Players that play in the feeder league or above, for a club not affiliated to GMHA (W), may not play for a club affiliated to the GMHA(W), who play in the Manchester Women's Hockey League.

8. TRANSFERS

No player is allowed to be registered for two clubs in GMHA(W) in the same season with the following exception:

A player who wishes to transfer clubs within the GMHA(W) must obtain a transfer form from the Fixtures Secretary and confirm that they do not owe any money to the club they are transferring from.

Any transfer must be completed by 1st February. The wording on the transfer form shall be binding.

9. CHANGE OF CLUB DETAILS

Clubs must notify the Executive committee and other affected clubs of any changes to the details of club officials during the season.

If a club plays its HOME matches at an address different from those given in the handbook, they must ensure that all addresses are supplied to the executive committee and the other clubs affected.

10. COUNTY HOCKEY

Representative teams shall be chosen by a selection committee as nominated by the executive committee.

North hockey

The associations representative's in the North Feeder league shall be promoted as detailed in the promotion and relegation section.

The associations representative's in the North's Clubs Championship shall be the First Division Trophy winner from the previous season.

11. SCORING SYSTEM

The points to govern the competition shall be: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss.

In the event of equality of points at the end of the season, places shall be determined by consideration of the following, in order:

1. Goal difference.
2. Highest number of goals for.
3. Result of the game between the teams concerned.
4. Penalty stroke competition.

If more than 2 teams are involved in the penalty stroke competition a draw will be made for the order of play.

12. PENALTY STROKE COMPETITION

A series of penalty strokes where five selected players from each team will take one stroke each. A coin will be tossed to decide which team takes the first stroke.

If the result is a draw at the end of both teams taking five penalty strokes each, the five strokes shall be repeated as sudden death.

13. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

On occasions the promotion and relegation of teams shall be decided at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Division one:

The winner of division one shall play off against the lower placed team (affiliated to the GMHA (W)) in the feeder league to determine who will play in the feeder league for the following season.

If the Greater Manchester team in the Feeder league is promoted and the other Greater Manchester team ends up in a relegation position (bottom 2) there will be a play off between 2nd place in Division 1 and the team in the relegation position in Feeder league.

One play off match shall be played, at a neutral venue with costs shared by both teams. If the result is a

draw at the end of normal time, golden goal extra time will be played with two periods of ten minutes each.

If a draw holds after extra time then a penalty stroke competition will result.

The two lowest placed teams will be relegated to the lower division.

All other divisions:

The winners and runners-up of each division shall, without option, be promoted. The two lowest placed teams will be relegated to the lower division.

14. POSTPONEMENTS

Any team wishing to change any match after the confirmation meeting must contact the Divisional Representative for the teams division. Requests will be considered by the Match sub committee.

Repeated requests may be subject to a penalty of points deducted and/or a fine. Any confirmed fixture played on a day or time differing from that confirmed shall be declared null and void.

No Association fixture, involving teams with county players, should be scheduled or re-arranged for 2 days prior to **County Championship Weekend, 2nd XI County Tournament or U21 County Competitions.**

If there is any likelihood of postponement due to weather conditions on the day of the match, the home team must contact the visiting team in the case of:

- i) afternoon matches, at least 3 hours and
- ii) morning or evening matches, at least 2 hours prior to the start time.

Any defaulting team shall be liable to expenses incurred.

15. ABANDONMENTS

In the rare event of a game having to be abandoned as a result of a serious injury to a player or in the event of adverse weather conditions, the HOME team must notify the Divisional Representative within 3 DAYS. A report must be submitted by the umpires regarding the abandonment to the Divisional Representative. The match sub committee shall decide on the action to be taken. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture depending on the circumstances of the abandonment. In the event of a replay of an abandoned match the new match will be organised as per the rules for rearrangement below.

16. REARRANGMENTS

Fixtures may only be re-arranged without penalty with the permission of the Match Secretary and/or Match Committee under the following circumstances:

- i) on the day: pitch unfit for play
- ii) extreme weather conditions on the day
- iii) at least 7 days' notice to be given if two or more players represent their County, North, England (including schoolgirl level) or are required to attend a Performance Centre in a playing or official capacity on the day of the league fixture.
- iv) at least 7 days' notice to be given if a team, including a school team where two or more players are playing for their school and are bona fide members of the club, reaches the finals of a North of All England indoor or outdoor competition held on the same day as the league fixture.
- v) at least 7 days' notice to be given if a college team is to play on a scheduled league date which is out of term time.
- vi) other exceptional circumstances on which the match committee will make a decision.

In the event of a match being rearranged the following conditions must be followed:

- i) home team must offer opposition a choice of **two** dates.
- ii) the match must be rearranged within 30 days of the original match day.

If a match is not played on the due date, without the above conditions for postponement having been adhered to, then the team which does not default shall be awarded a 3-0 victory.

17. PLAYING SURFACES

League fixtures must be played on a synthetic turf pitch arranged by the first named team with full sized goal posts with regulation nets and blackboards and clear markings of all perimeters and circles.

If either captain considers that due to the state of the pitch or the markings the match cannot be played

they must bring this to the attention of both umpires and the opposing captain before the game commences.

The umpires may postpone the match if the pitch is not of such a standard as to allow the game to be played as a league game. **The final decision rests with the umpires.**

18. TIME

The duration of a match should be two periods of 35 minutes maximum and 25 minimum each way. Matches, which on the decision of the umpire, have to be curtailed to less than 50 minutes duration, shall be adjudicated on by the Match Sub-committee.

Umpires are responsible for the punctuality of the game and should report any delays.

The league matches must NOT start before 11.30am or after 4pm (3.30pm on a Sunday) unless mutually agreed by both teams.

19. TEAM SHEET / RESULTS

The home team will provide an official team sheet. Both teams must complete this and lodge it with the umpire **prior** to the start of the game. If a player's name is not on the team sheet, she is classed as an ineligible player. Umpires are to complete team sheet at the end of the game and hand back to the home team.

'Player of the Day' awards should not be given to any starred player on the match sheet.

Home team to send the team sheets to the Divisional Representative for their division. Postmark must be within 2 days of the match. Defaulting clubs to be fined £5, such fines to be the responsibility of the Divisional Representative.

On the day of the match results are to be sent by text message or phoned to the Fixtures Secretary for updating the league website.

20. FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE

If a club fails to honour a fixture or forfeits a game it shall be deemed to have lost 0-3. The opposing team will be awarded 3 points and be deemed to have won 3-0.

The offending team shall meet any reasonable expenses incurred by their opponents including pitch costs. In addition, a fine for £10.00 for the first offence and then £40.00 for any subsequent offences will be imposed by the GMHA(W). Note: any club failing to honour fixtures three times in any one season could be demoted following an Executive decision.

In the event of a team withdrawing from the league BEFORE completing all their fixtures, then all the fixtures and results for that team will be declared NULL and VOID and will not count in any league table.

21. LATE ARRIVALS

For all matches the following penalties will apply:

- a) a team not ready to play 15 MINUTES after the agreed start time shall CONCEDE 1 goal. The teams will play the remainder of the time left in the first half and all of the second half. This needs to be claimed prior to the start of the match, this cannot be altered after the match commences.
- b) A team not ready to play after the designated half time, or who fails to turn up at all, shall concede the match.
- c) There opponents shall be deemed to have won 3-0.
- d) The late team will be liable to pay any additional pitch hire costs incurred.

22. UMPIRING

All matches to be controlled for the full match by two non-playing umpires: one to be provided for each team. Any match played in contravention of this rule shall be declared null and void. Each team shall be

responsible for paying their nominated umpire a minimum fee of £10. If, on arrival at a venue, the match is unable to take place, both teams are still required to pay the umpires expenses.

Umpires shall not liaise with the players of either team at half time.

Should an umpire be unable to continue due to illness/injury, then the game shall cease unless the other umpire and both captains can agree a replacement. If the game ceases, the Match Sub-committee shall adjudicate.

All umpiring decisions shall be final.

To start a match, the minimum number of players shall be 8.

All division one and two matches must be umpired by a level one umpire. All division three and four matches must be umpired by a level one umpire (or working towards their level one qualification i.e. have passed the level one theory exam). Failure of either team to comply with this will result in a fine of £10.00.

All umpires must be registered. Players' registration will qualify. Register with the Umpires Secretary and Club Match Secretary or, in an emergency, write name and address on the reverse of the match team sheet.

23. APPEALS & DISPUTES

In the event of a dispute, which may arise in connection with these regulations or other matters relating to the league, the GMHA(W) Executive committee shall determine the action to be taken.

Clubs have the right to appeal against a decision of the League Committee to the North Council whose decision shall be final. Any appeal must be made in writing within seven days of the original decision being made and be directed to the Secretary. A non returnable fee of £100 shall accompany any appeal.

24. CUP COMPETITION RULES

The GMHA(W) offers for competition the Stockton Challenge Cup, Neath Challenge Shield, Referees' Shield and the President's Cup. Such trophies however, will not become the absolute property of any one club. A set of 14 shields to be awarded to the teams appearing in the finals matches.

Umpires

The umpires for the Divisional cup tournament days and All Divisional Cup and Plate finals will be arranged by the association and the costs will be paid by the Association.

All such umpires must be Level 1 or competent to be assessed for Level 1 on that date.

Pitches

The Executive committee shall nominate the pitches for the Divisional Cup tournament days and the All Divisional Cup and Plate Finals

Eligibility of players

All players should be registered as per the league rules.

In any trophy competition, a player shall be cup-tied to the team for which she first took the field of play for whatever period of time.

Special permission may be granted by the Match Sub-committee for a player to play for a higher, but never a lower team than that to which she is cup-tied. In any case, where the reason given for seeking permission is illness/injury, documentary evidence will have to be produced.

A team responsible for playing an ineligible player in a cup competition shall forfeit the match and the club shall be fined £25.00.

All Divisions 'Spencer Shield' Match Rules

The North Feeder league representative shall be deemed to be a division above the League's 1st Division.

The All divisions cup is open to all GMHA (W) teams from all the divisions. Losers of round one of the Cup will automatically entered into the plate competition. Division one teams can only enter the All Divisions Cup after round one.

Matches to be played **on** or **before** the stated weekend (see fixtures book)

Entrance fee for All Divisional Cup competitions to be £15.00 per team.

No league match to be played on All Divisions Cup and Plate Finals Day except with the express permission of the Match Sub-committee.

All rounds are to consist of two halves of 35 minutes. If at the end of that time the result is a **draw**, there is to be a penalty stroke competition as per England Hockey regulations.

Scoring is as per the league rules

The result of each match shall be submitted to Fixtures Secretary in accordance with the usual rules.

The cost of the pitch for each round, **except the final** shall be shared. The **home** team shall organise the pitch.

The umpires and the pitch for the **final** shall be provided by the Association. The umpires shall be neutral, i.e. have no connection with either team.

If teams are from different divisions, for every division difference the lower team gets one goal (e.g. 1st division team with 3rd division team: the 3rd division team gets two goals.)

Divisional Cup Tournament

The Divisional Cup tournament is run as a one day tournament with the date confirmed by the executive committee at the fixtures meeting prior to the start of the season (see fixtures book)

The North Feeder league representatives are eligible to enter into the Division one divisional cup.

The cost of entry into the tournament will be determined prior to the event taking into consideration the cost of pitches and umpires

The date of the tournaments to be set at the pre season fixtures meeting

Scoring is as per the league rules

25. TROPHIES

A set of 14 awards to be presented to the Champions and Runners-up in each division along with the trophies for the Divisional Cup, All Divisions Vase and All Divisions Plate competitions.

Each Trophy **MUST BE RETURNED** by hand or registered post to the General or Divisional Secretary at least one month before the presentation evening.

An invoice will be raised against a club who does not return a trophy in order that a replacement can be purchased.

26. PRESENTATION EVENING

The date for the Presentation Evening will be in the handbook. All clubs must purchase 2 tickets per team for the Evening.

