

SCOTTISH HOCKEY

WEST DISTRICT

BYE LAWS.

1. The construction and composition of the League shall be determined from year to year, at a General Meeting of affiliated Clubs.
2. The Championship of each Division shall be determined:
 - i. By a majority of points, or
 - ii. Where Teams are level on points, by goal difference, or
 - iii. Where teams are level on goal difference, by goals scored, or
 - iv. Where still level by results between the tied teams, or
 - v. Where still level by goal difference between the tied teams, or
 - vi. Where still level the league title will be shared and the other promotion or relegation issues will be decided by a 2 legged play off, and if tied at the end of both games, PF's.

The winners of the First Division shall be deemed DISTRICT CHAMPIONS.

3. Construction and Composition:

- i. The League shall consist of a series of Divisions, each ideally consisting of 10 Teams.
- ii. The Divisions shall be called 1st, 2nd, 3rd Division, etc.
- iii. All new Teams shall enter the League in the lowest Division.
- iv. A maximum of two Teams per Club will be allowed in each Division. This Bye Law shall not apply to the lowest Division.
- v. The next highest team in the next lower Division shall be promoted when (iv) is applied.
- vi. The League Committee shall have the power to determine the size of all Divisions, after due consideration has been given to the number of Teams competing.
- vii. Twelve Teams shall be the maximum practical in any Division.

4. Promotion and Relegation:

- i. Shall be determined at the end of each season by the League Committee, based primarily on 2 Teams Promoted, and 2 Teams Relegated throughout the Divisions.
- ii. In the event of a Team withdrawing from the League after promotion and relegation have been determined, and before the start of the next season, the next

eligible Team from the lower Division shall be promoted, and so on throughout the lower Divisions.

- iii. Points for each fixture shall be awarded thus:
 - 3 points for a WIN,
 - 1 point for a DRAW,
- iv. Where a fixture is Conceded, for whatever reason, the result shall be recorded as a 5-0 victory to the opposition. If, at the end of the season, the League Committee considers that the number of fixtures conceded have unduly influenced promotion and/or relegation in any Division, it reserves the right to decide the issue by computing goal averages for fixtures played by the Teams in question.

5. League Dates:

- i. League dates will be advised in advance of the start of the season. Clubs may not arrange alternative fixtures on these dates without the permission of the League Secretary. Fixtures outwith these dates, particularly for Universities and Colleges, will be initially designated, if necessary, by the League Secretary.
 - ii. Fixtures must be played on the stipulated dates, and may only be postponed in exceptional circumstances, with express permission of the League Secretary.
 - iii. In the event that a fixture is postponed, the home club should provide their opposition with 3 possible dates (where possible) for playing the postponed game. The e-mail with this information should also be copied to the League Secretary.
 - iv. If the away team don't agree with any of these dates they will need to have a valid reason, or the points and a 5-0 walkover will be awarded to the home team.
 - v. If the home team make no effort to supply dates to their opposition regarding a new date for the postponed game, then the away team will get the points and a 5-0 walkover.
 - vi. If there has been no contact made by the home team within 2 weeks of the postponed game, then the away team will get the points and a 5-0 walkover.
 - vii. If the away team don't reply to the email within 4 weeks of the postponed game, then the home team will get the points and a 5-0 walkover.
 - viii. Once a new date has been agreed the League Secretary must be informed of this via e-mail.
 - ix. The League Secretary reserves the right to arrange further League fixtures on other dates where necessary, and in the event of a dispute between clubs the League Secretary reserves the right to stipulate when the postponed fixture shall be played during the League season.
 - x. All League fixtures must be completed by a date specified by the League Secretary.
6. The current Rules of the 'Game of Hockey', as published under the authority of the International Hockey Rule Board, shall apply to all fixtures.

7. Pitches:

- i. It is recognised that some Clubs may be required to play on an undersize pitch, which is acceptable. Clubs shall take necessary steps to ensure that pitches are clearly marked in accordance with the current Rules.

- ii. All fixtures in Divisions 1 and 2 shall be played on Artificial (Astroturf style) pitches.
- iii. It shall be the responsibility of the HOME Club to have their pitch inspected and, where such inspection is unfavourable, the HOME Club shall confirm the decision in good time to the visiting Club and Umpires. Where such advance notification is impossible through belated bad weather conditions and the Teams are in attendance, it shall be the responsibility of the Umpires, in consultation with both Team Captains, to decide on the possibility of play, and the validity of the fixture. (It must be borne in mind that, at certain pitches, the groundsman has the power to declare the pitch unplayable at any time.)

8. Push Back Times:

- i. Shall be no earlier than 10.30 am, and no later than 4.45 pm, unless it is agreed by all parties.
- ii. The HOME Team shall confirm the Venue and push back time, giving the Visiting Team the following notice:
 - All fixtures on a Saturday, by the prior Tuesday Evening.
 - All fixtures on a day other than Saturday, at least FOUR days.

9. Colours:

- i. Where two Teams in opposition have similar colours, it shall be the duty of the **HOME** Team to change.
- ii. Visiting Teams should wear RED socks/stockings.

10. Players:

- i. No League player shall play for more than one Club within his own District in a given season, without the permission of the District League Secretary.
- ii. A Team arriving short of players may be loaned players, by the mutual consent of both Captains.
- iii. No team can have more than 2 players who have already played a game on the same day. This should not be a weekly occurrence and action will be taken against teams / clubs that regularly have players playing more than 1 game a day.
- iv. No National League Squad players can play in West District games. Only exception is a keeper coming down to play as an outfield player.
- v. By the end of season 2010-2011 West District Division 1 – all players to pass the umpire theory test.
By the end of season 2012-2013 West District Division 1 – all players to pass the umpire level 'C' practical test.
By the end of season 2012-2013 West District Division 2 – all players to pass the umpire theory test.
By the end of season 2013-2014 West District Division 2 – all players to pass the umpire level 'C' practical test.

Any new players to the league will be given 12 months from the date of their 1st district match to gain the theory pass and a further 12 months to gain a practical pass.

11. Cancellations:

- i. If a Team within a Club cancels a fixture, other than with the express permission of the League Secretary as provided for in Bye Law 5ii above, and that Club runs other Teams of a lower level in the West District, then it shall be the responsibility of that Club to fulfil their fixtures in a descending order. If insufficient players are available to fulfil all the fixtures for that Club, then the lowest placed Team(s) should forfeit their fixture(s).
- ii. In the event that a higher Team cancels their fixture at short notice, and lower level Teams fulfil their fixtures, then all results involving the lower Team(s) of the Club will be made forfeit, a victory of 5-0 and 3 points being awarded to their opposition(s).
- iii. In all cases, the League Committee reserves the right to use its discretion to determine whether the cancellation of any fixture is allowed.
- iv. In the event of a team calling off from an away game, they will be solely responsible for the full amount the home team loses on the pitch hire / let. Home teams should make every effort to get their money back from the pitch owners in the first instance, but if this is unsuccessful then the full cost shall be the responsibility of the team cancelling the fixture. Home teams should supply copies of any invoice / bill (where it is available) when requesting payment from their opposition.
- v. If the away team refuses to pay then the League Committee shall have the power to penalise Clubs, by the deduction of League points, and/or review their status in a Division.

12. Umpires:

- i. All fixtures in Divisions 1 and 2 shall be Umpired only by officials with a Written and Practical pass in an assessment set by the Scottish Hockey Union. It is, however, acceptable for an umpire to sit their practical test in a Division 1 or 2 game!
- ii. All fixtures in Divisions 3, 4, (and lower) shall be Umpired only by officials with at least a Written pass in an assessment set by the Scottish Hockey Union.
- iii. In ALL Divisions, Umpires may not be replaced after the fixture has commenced, unless by necessity (i.e. injury). In particular, 'playing' Umpires are not allowed.

13. Results:

- i. The HOME Team shall be responsible for providing the Team Sheet, and forwarding it to the League Secretary on completion of the fixture.
- ii. BOTH teams shall be responsible for completing the Team Sheet PRIOR to their fixture, and handing it the match Umpires for verification. At the end of the fixture, the Umpires should complete the relevant sections; along with the result, Red, Yellow and Green cards MUST be notified on this sheet. The sheet should be returned to the Home Team Captain, who should forward it to the League Secretary within 48 hours. Failure to comply with these instructions, will lead to the deduction of 2 League points.
- iii. Team sheets MUST be fully filled in (both sides/sheets) and returned to the League Secretary. All of the following will lead to the deduction of 2 points per team sheet:

- Non-returned
 - Lost in post
 - Sent to the wrong address
 - Incorrectly filled in, e.g. missing sheet 2, missing team list (players names)
- iv. All postponed and re-arranged fixtures should be notified to the League Secretary so that an up to date picture of the League can be maintained.

14. Discipline:

- i. Breaches of Discipline involving ordering off, or other form of indiscipline, shall be reported to the District Secretary in writing, by the officiating Umpires, or Club officials, with a period of TEN days of the fixture.

15. Organisation and Management:

- i. The Organisation and Management of the West District League shall be under the direction of the League Secretary, with the guidance of the appropriate League Committee.
- ii. The League Committee shall have the power to penalise Clubs, by the deduction of League points, and/or review their status in a Division, who are found to be deliberately strengthening a Team with players from a superior Team, who may be available due to the cancellation, postponement, or early completion of their fixtures.
- iii. All claims, protests, disputes etc. pertaining to District League fixtures and/or players, shall be lodged in writing by the Club, or Clubs, concerned to the League Secretary, within a period of FIVE days of the fixture, and shall be supported by a full report of the circumstances, vouched for by the governing officials of the Club, or Clubs.
- iv. The decision of the League Committee in all matters of dispute etc. shall be final.
- v. Any communication from the League Committee making an interpretation on the Bye-Laws is only valid for the season in which that communication was sent out.
- vi. If a specific incident is NOT covered within these Bye-Laws the League Committee will always revert back to the higher body Bye-Laws.

These Bye Laws may be amended by the affiliated Clubs only at a General Meeting of the District.

May 2011

