

8. UMPIRES

Refer to the Guidance for Clubs www.wcwhl.co.uk/Information/Downloads

The League is not responsible for appointing umpires to League games and no authority exists for umpires to make any decision upon the Regulations of the League.

FIH Rules of Hockey require TWO umpires to officiate for every game. If a game is played without two umpires then a penalty will be imposed under Regulation 12 g).

Umpires for matches in Premier 1 shall be appointed by the WHA Umpiring Sub Committee where possible. ALL other teams shall be responsible for arranging for an umpire of the correct standard, for all of their matches, who shall umpire the whole of the game.

Regulations for Umpires officiating at League matches:-

a) i) Umpires for all matches in the Premier and Area Divisions and Divisions 1 of each Regional League shall be a Club Umpire - Assessed or higher Qualification.

ii) Umpires for matches in Divisions 2 and below of each Regional League shall hold a qualification as in i) above and if not shall be a Club Umpire – Unassessed. Only one Club Umpire – Unassessed umpire per game will be allowed and this arrangement must be mutually agreed by both teams taking part in the game at least one week prior to the date of the fixture.

A Club Umpire—Unassessed is an umpire who has attended an England Hockey Level 1 Umpire Course since September 2013 and holds an Umpire Unassessed Certificate.

b) i) An 'appointed' umpire is an umpire appointed to a League match by the WHA Umpiring Sub-Committee or a County HUA. It is the responsibility of the home club to request appointments of the appropriate body and to notify appointed umpires of the match arrangements at least 5 days in advance of the match date and make payment of any fees for appointed umpires. Failure to do so will incur penalties from the respective umpiring bodies.

ii) Where the appropriate Regional or County Umpires' Association is able to provide appointed umpires clubs must accept the appointments.

c) If an appointed umpire fails to arrive and a suitable replacement (as in 8a) is available, the game shall be played if both captains agree with the proposed replacement before the game commences. The replacement umpire shall umpire the whole game unless agreed by both captains prior to the start of the game.

d) If an umpire is delayed the game may still be played providing 7a) v) is met.

e) An umpire who becomes incapacitated may be replaced by another suitably qualified umpire. If no suitably qualified umpire is available Regulation 7a) v) applies.

NB No umpire may play in the same match after starting to umpire.

f) In the event of a team using an umpire who is not qualified to officiate at a League match a penalty will be incurred under Regulation 12 f)

NB This Regulation will only apply if the match has been played.

9 POSTPONEMENT

a) Postponement of matches shall occur only in the event of adverse weather or ground conditions. Postponement because of the state of the pitch on arrival must be agreed by BOTH Umpires. The Match Report form should be crossed through and signed by BOTH Umpires and forwarded to the appropriate Secretary.

i) Bad Weather Procedure - Advice

The home team representative should ascertain from their opposition, the latest time of notification of cancellation, i.e. what time the opposition intends to depart for the pitch venue. If it is clearly evident before that time that the pitch will be unfit, the visiting side and umpires should be informed immediately.

It is the responsibility of the home team to inspect the pitch prior to the above mentioned departure time and take a realistic view of the situation. Consultation with opposition is advised so as to avoid unnecessary travelling by both players and umpires.

The AWAY team also have a responsibility to contact the HOME team, prior to departure to confirm the fitness of the pitch.

If the Away Team considers that the conditions for travelling to or from a match are hazardous, as supported by the Environment Agency, the Met Office or Police, then they may refuse to travel. The Home Team and the appropriate Divisional/Regional Secretary MUST be informed immediately.

b) Postponement of any match in any league MUST be notified to the appropriate Divisional/Regional Secretary in accordance with Regulation 10 b).

c) Matches postponed prior to Christmas shall be re-arranged and played by 1st March. Matches postponed after Christmas should be re-arranged and played in accordance with 7 f)

d) Postponed matches must be re-arranged in accordance with Rule 7a iv) and the appropriate Divisional/Regional Secretary notified in writing by the HOME team within 14 days of the original date. If a date cannot be mutually agreed within 14 days, both teams shall provide the appropriate Divisional/Regional Secretary with a list of their fixtures for the remainder of the season and the Divisional/Regional Secretary will then adjudicate. Premier Division teams must also notify the WHA Umpiring Committee of the date of any re-arranged match.

e) The League cannot legislate for any financial loss or inconvenience in respect of postponed games. However the League Committee, after investigation, may take appropriate action under Regulation 12 j), if it is found that either team have failed to follow the above advice.

10. RESULTS

a) Following each League Match, it is the responsibility of both the HOME and AWAY team to report the result of the match to the League through the online reporting via the website no later than 8:00 pm on the day of the match.

b) If a match is abandoned or not commenced for any reason, that information must be provided to the appropriate Division/Regional Secretary. Matches not played or abandoned MUST be reported through the online reporting via the website by ticking the appropriate box no later than 8:00 pm on the day of the match.

c) A copy of the match report form shall be forwarded to be received by the appropriate Division/Regional Secretary, by the Thursday following the fixture, signed by both captains and umpires.

To avoid postal delays it is acceptable for teams to send a legible match report form electronically, and, if using this option the hard copy need not be sent but retained by the home team, should any dispute arise throughout the season.

d) If the match report form has still not been received by the appropriate Divisional Secretary, by whatever means (irrespective of any fine incurred) within one week of the date of a match, a further fine of £10 will be incurred, together with a further fine of £15 for every additional week that the match report form is still not received.

12. PENALTIES

The following is a summary of those penalties previously described:

a) Failure to submit completed registration forms by the due date shall incur a fine of £25.

b) Failure by a team to submit the result of a match through the online reporting via the website will incur a fine of £10.

c) Failure of the Home team to forward the Match Report form to the appropriate Secretary within the allotted time shall incur a fine of £10.

d) All match report forms shall be completed legibly in order of registration number and in BLOCK CAPITALS. The Umpires' names shall be entered in the appropriate boxes in BLOCK CAPITALS. Failure to complete the form in this manner shall incur a fine of £10.

e) In the event of a team playing a player (or players) who have not been correctly registered for a League match the result of the match shall be declared a win by 5-0 to the non-offending team and points awarded accordingly. If the result of the match was a win by the non-offending team by more than 5-0 then the result will stand. A fine of £50 will be imposed on the offending team. (A player suspended under EH Code of Ethics and Behaviour shall be deemed to be unregistered for the duration of her suspension).

f) In the event of a team using an umpire who is not qualified to officiate at a League match a fine of £25 will be imposed on the offending team. NB This Regulation will only apply if the match has been played.

g) Any team not fulfilling a League match shall be deemed to have lost the game by 5-0 and points will be awarded accordingly. The offending team will incur the deduction of an additional three points. Fines will be levied on the offending teams as follows:

1st offence by the team: £50 plus opposition's costs

2nd offence by the team: £75 plus opposition's costs

3rd offence by the team: £100 plus opposition's costs

4th offence by the team: the team shall be excluded from the League for the remainder of the current season. Application for re-entry cannot be made during the current season and shall be in accordance with Regulation 4d)

NB THIS REGULATION WILL BE REVIEWED AT THE END OF THE CURRENT SEASON.

h) Playing players 'up or down' shall incur a fine of £50, loss of the game 5 - 0 and the deduction of a further 3 points.

i) Fines, once levied, must be paid within 28 days of the date of the fine letter being received or they will incur a £15 administration cost.

j) Repeated infringement of regulations with or without a fixed penalty or failure to follow the guidance and advice within the Regulations shall be penalised as deemed appropriate by the League Committee, including (but not limited to) expulsion of a club or team, suspension of a club for up to three years, relegating a team to a lower Division, deduction of points and imposition of fines. In addition the League Committee may rescind membership of the League. See also 4a)