

AGM RESOLUTION – UPDATE 1

October 2018



ENGLAND
HOCKEY

INTRODUCTION

This will be the first of a series of newsletters that will keep members up to date with progress on the 2017 AGM Resolution that requested England Hockey to review the governance of the sport at a grassroots level. In this first edition we'll cover:

1. The principles that will underpin any proposed changes
2. Some initial 'Quick Wins'
3. Future Work

UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES

Since the AGM Resolution the Working Group overseeing the project have consulted widely and reached consensus on the principles against which future decisions should be considered:

1. As National Governing Body, England Hockey has overall responsibility for the sport in England
2. There is a fundamental role for local organisation and decision making
3. Clarification of accountability of all organising bodies to their stakeholders and ultimately to England Hockey is required
4. Simplification of structure should be the aim to make it easier for all involved
5. Clarity of purpose is key for all organising bodies
6. Common principles of governance are necessary for all organising bodies
7. Consistency of overarching policies, rules and regulations is required for all aspects relating to playing hockey

Final consultation on these principles closed on 10 October 2018.

AGM RESOLUTION 'QUICK WINS'

BACKGROUND

A Consultation event was held at the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup that encouraged England Hockey to put in place a number of "quick wins" which had been identified and widely supported.

DISREPUTE COMPLAINT REGULATIONS

More consistency and greater England Hockey support for volunteers

In 2017, following a number of high profile, complex disrepute complaint cases that put considerable pressure on the volunteers involved, the England Hockey Board directed that all difficult Disrepute Complaints would be managed centrally by England Hockey, with the option that should these matters be more appropriately dealt with at local level that they be referred back to the relevant County or Regional Disciplinary Administrator or Club Disciplinary Officer for dealing. These changes were introduced on 21 September 2018.

A copy of the revised Disrepute Complaint Regulations along with a flow chart to ease interpretation of the Regulations, setting out in detail the new procedure for handling disrepute complaints can be found on the [England Hockey website](#)

For further assistance or guidance on the revised Disrepute Complaint Regulations, please contact the England Hockey Head of Governance at enquiries@englandhockey.co.uk in the first instance.

JUNIOR CLUB HOCKEY

Fill the gaps in the consultation with regards to the Governance of Junior Club Hockey

The Consultation Workshop at the World Cup recognised a gap in the research around the governance of junior club hockey. The Working Group agreed with this recommendation and England Hockey will facilitate a Workshop to consult around the gaps that need to be addressed. Recruitment for the Workshop took place in late September to meet on Monday 29 October 2018 and report findings and recommendations by the end of November.

COMMUNICATIONS

At the beginning of the season England Hockey to compile a list of key officeholders for the 2018/19 season

There is no central register of the key office holders at county, regional and league level so communication is extremely difficult. England Hockey will therefore set up a free communications register, to run alongside affiliation, for all bodies to ensure open lines of communication around the governance review and associated England Hockey issues. This will be a short, simple process aimed at improving two-way communication.

PUBLICATION OF SYNOPSIS BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING DECISIONS

England Hockey to publish committee meeting decisions alongside the established Board synopsis

For the new season 2018/19, England Hockey to set the example and publish Committee Meeting decisions alongside the established Board synopsis. For details please visit the [Governance section](#) of the England Hockey website

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR DATA SHARING

Lawful data sharing across the sport

As part of affiliation for the 2018/19 season, clubs (and Leagues and Associations through the free communications register) will be asked whether they wish to sign up to the England Hockey Framework Agreement on Data Sharing. A database of signatories will be compiled and managed by England Hockey to enable members to confirm whether parties wishing to share data are party to the Agreement.

FUTURE WORK

A number of areas have been identified as requiring review in the medium to long term. They are as follows:

1. Technology
2. Good Governance
3. Structure
4. League Rules

TECHNOLOGY

In light of the feedback around the complexity of online systems and structures in the sport, England Hockey intends to become the aggregator of a single source of information relating to player and fixture/result data. This project has started already but the feedback from the research from clubs and associations has reconfirmed the need to do this. Phase One of this project will launch in 2018 and is commonly referred to as the Approved Provider scheme. Over time England Hockey will create more ways for data to integrate and be shared between systems to improve effectiveness and efficiency for clubs and other users. [See news item 9 February 2018.](#)

GOOD GOVERNANCE

It was identified throughout the consultation process that there is a lack of transparency and accountability to stakeholders in some areas. In order to assist all members to achieve good governance, England Hockey will produce guidance on good practice for members to adopt.

STRUCTURE

The future governance structure of hockey in England will be reviewed as part of this process. Any proposed structural changes, if at all, will be publicised and a period of consultation will follow.

LEAGUE RULES

Work will be undertaken to understand the extent and breadth of rule differences across the hockey leagues in England. Dependent upon the outcome, work will be undertaken to determine where consistency in League rules can be achieved, and if appropriate, will be introduced.

UPDATES

As the work in each of the 'future work' areas progresses, a more detailed paper will follow. All future updates will be posted on the [AGM Resolution web page](#).

Please refer any questions and/or comments to agm.resolution@englandhockey.co.uk