



NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR BOYS

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS 2016-17

1. Authority

- 1.1 The Rules of Hockey, including any experimental rule changes approved by the England Hockey (EH) for use in competitions, shall be observed except as herein provided.
- 1.2 The Disciplinary Code of EH shall be applied at all matches.

1.3 Binding Force of the Regulations

Each team, by its entry into and participation in the competition, shall be deemed to have given its consent to abide by the competitions' regulations and to any amendments which may be ratified by EH. Each team shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of EH in relation to these regulations or any matter not covered in these regulations, and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.

2. Management

- 2.1 The management of the competition will be under the auspices of the EH Competitions Department, based at the EH Head Office, who will oversee the general running of the competition and its publicity and promotion.

3. Liaison

- 3.1 Each participating team must appoint a liaison officer who must be freely available to the EH Competitions Department, the EH Regional Administrator and county/regional organisers, as appropriate to the stage of the competition, at all times by the usual channels of communication. The name, address, telephone number and email address of the liaison officer must be advised to the appropriate organiser.
- 3.2 Any change in liaison officer details must be advised to the appropriate organiser immediately.

4. Eligibility

4.1.1 The competition is open to:

- 4.1.1.1 A team composing of players from a school who are all on the school roll at the time of the competition.
- 4.1.2 All teams participating in a competition shall complete and return to the appropriate organiser, by the due date the relevant competition entry form.
- 4.1.3 All teams participating in a competition shall pay, by the due date, the relevant competition entry fee to the appropriate organiser.
- 4.1.4 Each age group competition shall be open to one boys team from any school.
- 4.1.5 No team may alter its title, nor incorporate any part of a sponsor's name therein, without the prior permission of the EH.

4.2 Players

Players shall be eligible to compete if they qualify as follows:

- 4.2.1 by being on the school roll at the school at time of participation.
- 4.2.2 Players shall not represent more than one school in any one season. For the purposes of these regulations a season is defined as from 1 September in any one year to 31 August in the following year, both dates inclusive.
- 4.2.3 Players must be under 14 or under 16 or on 31 August preceding the relevant competition.

- 4.3 A player whose name appears on any teamsheet listing those players eligible to play in a match will be considered to have played in that match.
- 4.4 Players shall not represent more than one age group for that School in any England Hockey competition in any one Season. The exception to this rule is that players will be eligible to play in both the U13 and U14 schools competitions

5. Competition

- 5.1 The county/regional organiser will be appointed by the county/regional hockey association.
- 5.2 The county/regional organiser will be responsible for the method of operation, venue, timing and any necessary local regulations, in line with the guidance distributed by EH.
- 5.3.1 Teams will qualify from their county rounds into five regional rounds: North, South, East, West and Midlands.
- 5.3.2 This will produce a total of ten teams for the national stages. Each winner will qualify for the national finals, the runner up of last year's winning region will also qualify for the national finals and the final four runners up will play off for the final two places, making a total of 8 teams at the national finals.
- 5.3.3 In 2015-16 the winning regions were U14s South and U16s Midlands. In 2016-17 these regions will therefore see their winners and runners up automatically qualifying for the National Finals at the relevant age groups.
- 5.4 Where pools operate, points will be awarded as follows: 3 points per win, 1 point per draw and 0 points per loss.
- 5.5 If, on completion of a pool, leading teams are equal on points, their position will be determined as follows:
- 1 Goal difference
 - 2 Goals scored
 - 3 Winner of match between tied team
 - 4 Barrage of five penalty strokes
 - 5 Sudden death penalty strokes
- 5.6 If the scores are level at the end of full time in knockout classification matches the outcome of the match shall be determined by a series of penalty strokes taken under the conditions detailed in Appendix 1.

6. Reporting of Results

- 6.1 The result must be notified to the appropriate EH Regional Administrator (for further information see the full Information Pack).

7. Match Day Administration

- 7.1 All matches shall be played by the dates set by the EH Competitions Department (for further information see the full Information Pack).
- 7.2 Any off-shore island team from the Channel Islands or Isle of Man participating in the competition shall play its home matches on the mainland unless that team is able to fully contribute towards the additional expenses incurred by the away team and the away team are willing to travel off-shore.
- 7.3 All matches must start at the set time. The start time may be varied as directed by the appropriate organiser or tournament director if circumstances dictate this.
- 7.4 A team must have a minimum of seven players on the pitch at the start of the game for the match to start.
- 7.5 Balls will be supplied by the first named team unless otherwise directed by the appropriate organiser.
- 7.8 Pitches**

- 7.8.1 All matches must be played on artificial turf suitable for competitive hockey in line with EH guidance (visit www.englishhockey.co.uk/facilities for more information).
- 7.8.2 Every effort must be made to find a suitable replacement pitch should a scheduled venue be unfit.
- 7.8.3 All pitch bookings must enable teams to have sufficient familiarisation and warm up time.
- 7.8.4 Home teams and appropriate organisers should endeavour to provide sufficient seating for each team and this should be situated on the side of the pitch (preferably away from any spectator area) at a point between the centre and 23 metre lines. Substitutes and officials on the teamsheet must remain in that area and no other persons are allowed on the team bench.

7.9 Teamsheets

Not less than 30 minutes before the start of a match each team must complete the team details section of the match report form. Each team must have a manager and two further officials are entitled to occupy the team bench. Additionally a qualified Medical Doctor, whose name appears on the teamsheet, may sit on the team bench. A team shall be entitled to nominate up to 16 players in its squad for each match and only those listed may sit on the team bench. Where leagues/pools operate a team shall be entitled to nominate up to 16 players out of a nominated squad of 18 players. The match report form must be signed by the manager who in so signing will be deemed to vouch for and confirm that each player listed is eligible to play. A player whose name appears on any teamsheet listing those players eligible to play in a match will be deemed to have played in that match.

7.10 Blood Borne Diseases

Any player sustaining an injury that bleeds or any player with an open wound must leave the pitch immediately to receive treatment and have the wound covered prior to returning.

8. Dress

- 8.1 Field players must wear uniform shirts, shorts and knee length socks.
- 8.2 Any additional clothing (eg cycle shorts or long sleeved tee-shirts) must be of the same colour as the corresponding item of clothing shown on the teamsheet.
- 8.3 All teams shall always take alternative colour shirts and socks to a match and, if required by the tournament organiser to do so, the second named team shall wear them.
- 8.4 Goalkeepers/players with goalkeeping privileges must wear shirts contrasting with those of both teams.
- 8.5 Players shall wear on the back of their shirts the numbers allocated on the teamsheet.
- 8.6 All numbers shall be no less than 8" (20cm) in height and shall contrast with the colour of the shirt. Taped numbers may only be used in an emergency.
- 8.7 The captain must be identifiable on the pitch by a distinguishable band.
- 8.8 It is strongly recommended that all outfield players wear shinguards and mouthguards.
- 8.9 All goalkeepers must be fully kitted as to the rules of hockey.

9. Umpires

- 9.1 For each match, two umpires shall be provided who shall be members of the Level 1 register or above.
- 9.2 No person who appears on the teamsheet may umpire at a match.
- 9.3 In the national finals, the umpires will be appointed by the NPUA. At regional and county level, organisers should liaise with the appropriate umpiring association.

10. Postponement or Abandonment

- 10.1 At any time the decision on whether the match should be abandoned rests with the umpires.

- 10.2 In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of a serious injury to a player, adverse weather conditions or the decision of the umpires, the appropriate organiser will decide on the action to be taken after receiving a report from the umpires and teams. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture, depending on the circumstances at the time of the abandonment.
- 10.3 In the event of a postponement and a replay of an abandoned match, the match must be replayed as directed by the appropriate organiser.

11.Failure to Honour a Fixture

- 11.1 A team who fails to honour a fixture or forfeits a game shall be deemed to have lost 0-5 and the opposing team shall be awarded three points and be deemed to have won the game 5-0.
- 11.2 A team who fails to honour more than a fixture shall forfeit any entry fee and shall be deemed to have taken no part in the competition. (ie their record and the record of any team that has played them will be expunged).
- 11.3 Any action in relation to 11.1 and 11.2 is subject to any remission, or further penalty, which the EHIC or appropriate organiser may implement. In addition the appropriate organiser shall at their discretion have the right to ensure that a team who fail to honour a fixture re-imburse opposing teams, officials or county/regional associations for any expenses incurred in relation to the fixture.

12.Breach of Regulations

- 12.1 Any team found to be in breach of these regulations may be subject to further penalties in addition to any penalty imposed by a specific regulation.

13.Tournament Director and Protests

- 13.1 Tournament Directors shall be appointed by the relevant organising body – County, Regional, National. Tournament Directors are empowered to apply the regulations of the tournament at their discretion and their ruling on any matter shall be final. Tournament Directors are empowered to suspend any player/official for one or more matches for misconduct on/off the field of play during the tournament.
- 13.2 Should there be a need for a protest to be made, it shall be made by the team manager in writing to the Tournament Director within ten minutes of the termination of the match. The Tournament Director should communicate the decision on the protest to both teams involved within one hour of receipt of such a protest.
- 13.3 Any appeal must be made to the relevant organising body – County, Regional, National. The relevant County & Regional organisations will confirm their procedures.
- 13.4.1 Any appeal at National level must be made in writing within 3 days of the notification to the offender of the original decision(s) made and sent by ordinary first class post, fax, recorded delivery or e-mail to the EH Head Office. A deposit of £100 must be sent within 7 days of the date of the sending of the appeal. This will be returned if the appeal is successful.
- 13.4.2 Any National appeal will be considered based on written submissions by the EH Appeal Panel
- 13.5 Any other team who may be affected by an appeal shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be notified of the commencement and the outcome of the appeal.

14.Appendix 1 – Penalty Stroke Procedures

1. The umpires shall together choose the goal to be used and the captains shall toss to decide which team shall take the first penalty stroke.
2. Five different players from each of the teams, chosen from the players listed on the teamsheet, but excluding any player who has been permanently suspended from the game (red card), shall take a penalty stroke alternately against one and the same goalkeeper of the other team. Only if that goalkeeper is, in the opinion of the umpires, incapacitated through injury, or is suspended, shall a team

be permitted to substitute the goalkeeper during the course of a particular series in the stroke competition. The team which has been awarded the higher number of goals shall be the winner.

3. In the event of an equal number of goals having been awarded, another series of penalty strokes shall be taken under the above conditions and with the same five players (subject to any incapacitated player being replaced or a suspended goalkeeper being substituted) but on a sudden death basis, that is, the team having been awarded the most goals after an equal number of strokes have been taken shall be the winner. The sequence in which the players take the strokes for their team need not be the same as in the previous series. The team manager has freedom of choice at the time of each stroke as to which of the five nominated players will take the stroke although must use all five nominated players per round. The team which has taken the first penalty stroke of a series shall not take the first penalty stroke of the following series (if any).