

**SOUTH
HOCKEY
LEAGUE**

OFFICIALS & RULES

40th SEASON - 2011 - 2012

Amended 14/09/2011

Rules – Amend Rules 2c, 3i, 6f, 7h iii, 11b

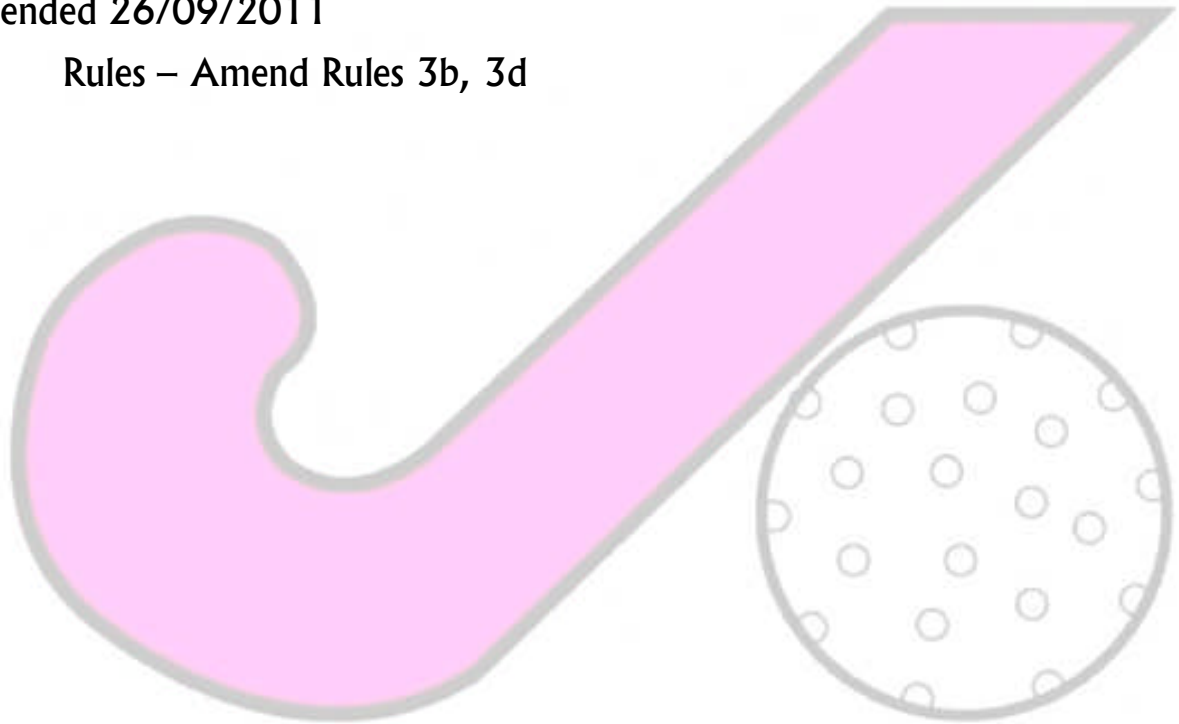
Rules – Add New Rule 9e

Rules – Renumber Rule 9e to 9f

Important Notes for Clubs – Amend 7a

Amended 26/09/2011

Rules – Amend Rules 3b, 3d



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IMPORTANT NOTES FOR CLUBS

- 1 All match results are to be advised by both teams to the relevant Secretary immediately after the game unless advised otherwise.
- 2 Matches must be played on the day scheduled unless weather renders the pitch unfit. (Save for exceptional circumstances on prior application to the relevant Secretary and approval by the League Officers).
- 3 In the event of postponement, the relevant secretary and umpires and the relevant umpires appointments secretary must immediately be informed and also subsequently advised by the home team of the re-arranged date.
- 4 Teams are strongly advised to make contact with each other during the week preceding their encounter so as to arrange a telephone contact should the weather render the match doubtful.
- 5 Please read carefully Rule 8 relating to umpires.
- 6 A postponed match must be replayed on the first available spare league date unless directed otherwise.
- 7 (a) Attention is drawn to Rule 6(f) which enables a home team to start a league match at any time between 10.00 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. provided that at least 10 days notice, and preferably far more, is given to the visiting team. Such team is not required to leave its home area before 9.00 a.m. or arrive back after 7.30 p.m. after taking into account thirty minutes pre-match and post-match changing time.
(b) Teams may mutually agree times outside these limits.
- 8 Home teams are asked where possible to allow their opponents time to warm up and practice on the surface prior to the starting time.
- 9 It is appreciated that in certain circumstances (e.g. when artificial pitch bookings are concerned or when a late start time has occurred and light is expected to fade) the available playing time may be less than 70 minutes. It is pointed out that, in these circumstances, the duration of a match may be less than 70 minutes provided this is mutually agreed by both teams.
- 10 Teams involved in floodlit matches to which recognised umpires would normally be appointed must check in good time whether the appointing association will appoint and if not ensure that these games are played in daylight.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR CLUBS

- 11 Liaison Officers are reminded that they afford the official link between the League and their Club. In addition to duties regarding Fixtures and Results they have a responsibility to ensure that requests for subscriptions, etc., are directed to the appropriate club Committee Member.
- 12 Teams are expected to advise pitch and start details well in advance to all their opponents and preferably before the start of the League season. The mere sending or delivery of a fixture card is not sufficient notice.
- 13 All Clubs are requested to facilitate their own club umpires qualifying to at least EH level 1.
- 14 Teams to which recognised umpires are normally appointed must not take any action, such as non-payment of fees, unacceptable starting times, use of unauthorised floodlights or lack of notification, which would cause the relevant Umpires Association not to appoint.
- 15 If the Umpires Association refuses to appoint, the match cannot be played as a League match, three points will be deducted from the offending team and the match will be played on another date as directed by the relevant League Secretary. Additional penalties may be imposed.
- 16 Teams must abide by any local rules or requirements relating to pitches, particularly in the use of correct footwear.
- 17 Communications by acknowledged e-mail is acceptable.

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GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PITCHSIDE CONDUCT

It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure that good manners and courtesy prevail towards the opposition, umpires and other officials before, during and after the game.

Once the pitch is available, the Match Delegate (if appointed) or home Captain shall assume authority for the pitch and its surrounding area.

Clubs are advised to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover and that they are aware of local health and safety legislation regarding the pitch and their facilities.

Captains, Umpires and match Delegate (if appointed) should:-

- a Agree the location of managers, coaches, substitutes and suspended players during their suspension and from where substitutions will take place.
- b Satisfy themselves as to the quality and safety of the pitch and its facilities and ensure that other pitch side furniture is removed to the safest location.
- c Check the availability and location of an emergency telephone and first aid.
- d Agree with the home team officials the location and allowed proximity of spectators.
- e Substitutes should warm up in clothing in a colour other than the participating teams in the agreed area of the pitch side.
- f Coaches and managers must remain in their designated area.
- g Vocal communication by team officials and players on the bench must not, in any way, be directed at the umpires or players of the opposing team.
- h Players not taking part in the game, or those in subsequent or previous matches, must not knock up or cool down on or near the pitch whilst the match is in progress.
- i Post-match inquest should be held away from the pitch.
- j Spectators should be advised, if necessary, of matters relating to their conduct and particularly in so far as this affects the game in hand.
- k Small children should not be allowed to wander freely around the perimeter of the pitch whilst games are in progress. Children should remain under the control of the parent/guardian at all times.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PITCHSIDE CONDUCT

- l Babies in push-chairs should not be left parked on the side of the pitch.
- m In accordance with the Southern Counties Hockey Association's Child Protection Policy clubs must provide an area where junior players, when suspended, can be supervised. (*"Young players must not be left alone on the side-line without guidance or supervision, and they must wear adequate clothing in accordance with the weather conditions."*)
- n Suspended players must not be allowed to go behind the back-line or goal.
- o Captains, coaches and managers should be responsible for their own conduct and the conduct of their players at all times.

Contraventions of the Guidance Notes of Pitch Side Conduct should be included in any report.

Umpires should advise County/League/Tournament Officials of any abuse of these Guidance Notes.



SOUTH
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RULES OF THE SOUTH HOCKEY MENS LEAGUE

1. STRUCTURE OF LEAGUE AND DIVISIONS

The League shall be divided into:

- a. A premier league of two sequential divisions.
- b. Three regional leagues of two sequential divisions each from:
 - i. Hampshire/Surrey
 - ii Kent/Sussex
 - iii. Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
- c. Five separate County areas being Hampshire (four divisions), Kent (two divisions), Sussex (one division), Surrey (three divisions), and Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire (MBBO) (five divisions).

2. CONTROL OF LEAGUE AND RULES

- a. The control of the League shall be vested in the central League Committee ('the Committee') which may delegate powers to league area secretaries ('relevant secretaries').
- b. The Committee shall consist of one member appointed by each of the eight southern counties and such committee shall at its first meeting after the end of the season appoint its officers, being a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Press Officer, together with a representative to Southern Counties Hockey Association and secretaries for each division. Five members present shall form a quorum
- c. Such members including the appointed members shall have equal votes of those being present with the Chairman if necessary having a casting vote.
- d. The Committee shall meet at least five times a year, normally the second Monday in every other month from January.
- e. Changes to the rules may be made by the Committee and normally only between League seasons and with notice to participating teams.
- f. The League follows the provisions of the England Hockey Child Welfare Policy and England Hockey Equity Policy.

3. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS AND PLAYERS

- a. Participating teams must be affiliated to the Southern Counties Hockey Association and to one of its constituent counties but not necessarily be within its geographical area.
- b. No team shall play a League match whilst its club for no acceptable reason the same day cancels or does not play a scheduled league match of a higher team in any league.

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- c. Teams shall comprise the best available male bona fide full members of their club having had their thirteenth birthday available on the day and assuming that any higher club team shall have already been selected from available players, whether or not such higher team/s have fixtures. A player not available for his normal team shall not be entitled to play that day for a lower team without permission from the relevant secretary.
- d. No person shall play on the same day in more than one outdoor league match in any league at any level anywhere unless it be for the same team playing twice or as a goalkeeper under rule 3e and save that in exceptional circumstances approval may be granted by the officers. In such event and for the purpose of rule 12b, a person playing first for a higher placed team shall have breached the rule in only the second match but a person playing first for a lower placed team shall have breached the rule in both matches and penalties will apply for both matches. No person may play on a Sunday in a lower team than the one for which he played the previous day.
- e. In the event of the selected goalkeeper without prior knowledge or warning becoming unavailable or incapacitated on the day of the match, another goalkeeper may play two league matches on the same day provided the relevant league secretary is notified promptly.
- f. No person may play in a league match after the first Saturday in February who has not on or before then become a bona fide member of and played for the relevant club unless he be playing hockey for the first time in that season and with prior permission of the relevant secretary. Any person joining and playing league hockey for a second club during a league season may have only played league hockey for one other club during that season and must have made a bona fide change of clubs before 1st February. No further change is permitted save in exceptional circumstances with prior approval by the relevant receiving secretary.
- g. A regular team member who is not selected when his team is playing indoor hockey in place of a normal league fixture may not that day play in a lower league team.
- h. Teams playing in Premier Division 1 must comply with the National Hockey League rules relating to 'overseas' players (at present contained in NHL rule 4.2.12).
- i. A club which has a 1st XI in the EHL must nominate to the relevant secretary before the first Saturday of the South League season thirteen including a goalkeeper of their EHL players who will not be available to play in subsequent South League matches. Clubs may change the list of nominated players twice a season in November and January and a revised list must be sent to the relevant league secretary before the end

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of those months. Nominated players must be regular 1st XI players. An EHL nominated player will be allowed to return after injury to play South League matches provided the injury prevented participation in the three immediately preceding matches.

- j. No more than two teams from the same club may play in the same division. If potentially caused by relegation from the division above, a club team in the receiving division shall be relegated. If potentially caused by promotion from below, that otherwise promoted team shall not be promoted.

4. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership is by application and acceptance. It may be refused, suspended or terminated by the Committee acting in the interests of the League.
- b. Each team by its entry is deemed to have consented to and be bound by the rules of the League and by any decisions of the Committee.

5. FIXTURES

- a. The relevant secretary shall arrange and administer League fixtures for his division which, unless agreed by the Committee, shall consist of twelve teams playing each other twice.
- b. The relevant secretary shall send to each team details of its fixtures for the next season as soon as practicable and in any event by 1st July.
- c. League fixtures will normally be played in two equal blocks on weeks 5 to 15 and 20 to 30 inclusive and within that period for those divisions having a lesser number of teams.
- d. Notwithstanding rule 5c, week 5 will not be used for university matches but universities must rearrange such matches for a date on or before the weekend after the first fixture block. Further, universities may apply to the relevant league secretary for postponement of any other match outside its university term which application will normally be granted if made in good time.

6. MATCHES AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY

- a. All matches shall be played in accordance with the rules of hockey.
- b. The home team shall be responsible for the provision of an adequate supply of suitable hockey balls for each game.
- c. Each team player shall wear a shirt bearing in the centre of the back in Arabic/English numbers of at least nine inches (23 centimetres) in height and contrasting in colour to the shirt with no two players wearing the

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same number. Returning substitutes shall wear the same number previously used by them. Breaches of this rule shall normally incur a fine of £10 per shirt up to a maximum of £50 for a whole team.

- d. In the event of a potential clash of colours of shirts and/or socks, unless otherwise agreed, the away team shall change.
- e. All matches shall be played on acceptable artificial pitches. Floodlights may be used if acceptable to the appointing umpiring association.
- f. A match may be started at any time between 10.00.a.m. and 4.30.p.m. provided that no team is required to leave its home area before 9.00 a.m. or arrive back after 7.30.p.m after adding thirty minutes to the estimated normal travelling time.
- g. Games shall have a duration of thirty five minutes in each half but if for good reason time is restricted, teams may agree a shortened playing time period for a game.
- h. The minimum number of players to start or continue a game shall be eight. Players injured or suspended during a game shall be counted as part of that number.

7. NOTIFICATIONS

- a. Each home team shall notify the opposing team contact person as soon as possible the match time and venue and in any event more than ten days before the match of the time and venue.
- b. Once such notice has been given, no change may be made without the consent of both teams (or, in exceptional circumstances, at the direction of the relevant secretary) and, if relevant, the consent of the appointing Umpires Association.
- c. The result of each match, and if required the names of the goalscorers, shall be speedily notified in accordance with any directions of the relevant secretary. Failure to do so will normally result in a financial penalty.
- d. Notification of results shall be by publication on the League website.
- e. Inter-club communication by acknowledged e-mail shall be acceptable for all League purposes.
- f. Teams wishing to join or withdraw from the League shall give notice to the relevant secretary by 1st May for the following season.
- g. Each team shall advise the relevant secretary of a designated contact person for that team.
- h. If so required by the relevant secretary or by the League Committee:

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- i. teams or their club must provide the names of their players in any particular league match and/or the name and contact number of any umpire appointed by their club to a league match
- ii. clubs must supply the names of all players representing that club and when necessary supply details of any additional members as and when they join
- iii. teams in Premier Divisions 1 and 2 must complete and sign match team sheets with match result and return as directed

8. UMPIRES

- a. Teams down to County Divisions 2 must make application for an appointed umpire as directed by any relevant umpires association that normally appoints.
- b. If an appointed umpire is not present at the starting time of a game then that game may, if practicable, be delayed for up to thirty minutes or longer, if both captains agree, if it is known that the umpire will be arriving.
- c. In Premier and Regional Divisions, if an appointed umpire fails to arrive or is unable to continue, the match shall be postponed unless both captains agree replacement umpire/s.
- d. In county divisions, if an appointed or arranged umpire fails to arrive or is unable to continue, a replacement must be agreed failing which the home team must nominate a player to umpire in which event the away team must also withdraw a player if necessary to equalize playing numbers on the pitch.
- e. If no umpire/s can be appointed or withdraw before the game teams in all divisions down to and including County Divisions 2 must appoint their own who must be at least on the active England Hockey Level One Register and insured. In the remaining divisions umpires must be of the highest standard available and preferably also on such register.
- f. Neither umpire may be changed during a game except in the case of illness or injury to the umpire.

9. POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

- a. In the event of a team having more than two of its League squad playing in national/international EH events, that team may request of the relevant secretary a postponement of its match.
- b. Save for the purposes of rules 5d and 9a or if in extreme circumstances approved by the officers of the League, a League fixture may only be postponed due to adverse weather or ground conditions, the captain or in his absence an official of the home team having the sole right to

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determine whether weather or ground conditions make play impossible. Additionally, relevant secretaries shall have the power, after consultation with a League Officer, to allow postponement if severe travelling problems would be caused by a national English Hockey fixture the following day. In such event notice shall be given immediately to the opposing team, the umpires and the relevant secretary.

- c. A match may only be abandoned once it has started by the unanimous decision of both umpires and the captains of both teams shall be deemed to have transferred their powers in this respect to the umpires jointly. The umpires are requested to advise the captains and if required the relevant league secretary of the reason for their decision.
- d. Any match postponed or abandoned shall be played on a subsequent date agreed between both teams or in default of agreement as directed by the relevant secretary. A match postponed or abandoned in the first block must, save in exceptional circumstances, be played or replayed before commencement of the second block. A match postponed or abandoned in the second block, unless played before and save in exceptional circumstances, must be played or replayed on the Saturday following the last normal league date.

Any day of the week may be used if both teams consent and, if required by these rules, appointed umpires are available.

- e. Notwithstanding Rules 9c and d, the relevant secretary may make such directions as he considers fit as to the outcome of an abandoned match.
- f. Teams failing to fulfil three or more fixtures in the same season shall, save in exceptional circumstances, have their results deleted and be treated as relegated teams unless such team shall have completed all its first half fixtures in which event such results shall be retained for the purposes of other teams' results. They shall be readmitted in next or subsequent seasons only if satisfactory assurances are given as to their ability to fulfil future fixtures.

10. POSITION IN LEAGUE

Three points shall be awarded for a win and one for a draw. League position shall be determined by points awarded followed by goal difference, followed by goals scored. If teams still be equal, there shall be a play-off.

11. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- a. Subject to 11b, c and d, at the end of every season there shall be:

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- i. one promotion and two relegations from Premier Division 1 together with two promotions and three relegations from Premier Division 2
 - ii. one promotion and two relegations from each Regional Division 1
 - iii. two promotions and one relegation from each Regional Division 2
 - iv. one promotion from each of Hampshire and Surrey County Divisions 1 and two from each of MBBO and Kent/Sussex
 - v. two promotions and relegations between County Area Divisions, the lowest County Area Division relegating into the relevant county run league below it
- b. There shall be additional or fewer relegations in relevant divisions dependent upon the number of relegated teams received by them provided that the team finishing last in a division shall always be relegated.
 - c. The three teams finishing second in the three Regional Divisions 1 together with the lowest finishing otherwise non-relegated team in Premier Division 2 shall at the end of the League season compete in a play-off as directed by the League Committee. The winner of such play-off shall take the place in Premier Division 2 of that otherwise non-relegated team. The play-offs shall take place on a single day and location determined by the Committee and notified on the league website by 31st December of the relevant season. One semi-final will be between the relevant Premier Division 2 team and the relevant Regional League team having the least points or if necessary worst goal difference and the other semi-final being between the other two Regional League teams, the finalists playing twice in the same day. The team travelling furthest will play in the second semi-final. The final shall take place on the same day following the Hampshire/Surrey League play-off.
 - d. The two teams finishing second in Divisions 1 of Hampshire and Surrey shall at the end of the League season play each other as directed by the League Committee for a place in the Hampshire/Surrey Regional League.
 - e. Any team withdrawing or being expelled or suspended from the League before 1st May shall be deemed to be a relegated team in its relevant division so that there shall be one less relegated team in lower divisions.
 - f. Any team may refuse promotion provided that it gives notice to the relevant secretary before 1st April, in which event its place shall be offered to the team next qualified but not necessarily further.

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- g. Notwithstanding the rules herein set out the Committee may in its sole discretion before the commencement of any season vary the teams in any division.

12. BREACH OF RULES

- a. If a team so conducts itself or its administration such that a match cannot be played or completed in accordance with these rules, the Rules of Hockey or of England Hockey, then that team shall suffer a mandatory deduction of three points and the match shall be played at a later date as directed by the relevant secretary. Additional financial penalties will normally be imposed.
- b. If a match is completed but a team is subsequently found to have played an ineligible or suspended player then that team shall suffer a mandatory loss by 5-0 or the actual score if a higher or equal winning goal difference results (with the opposing team deemed to have won the match by the same score). Additional financial penalties will normally be imposed.
- c. In these circumstances and all others, the Committee or relevant secretary may impose such additional penalties as are suitable including a fine of up to £250 and a liability for the costs of the opposition. Additionally the Committee may impose loss of points, relegation, suspension or expulsion from the League.

13. PROTEST AND APPEALS

- a. Protest or objections to the relevant secretary must be lodged within seven days of the relevant match or occurrence or of the time when the circumstances became known to the complainant. A secretary having a conflict of interest may refer the matter to another secretary.
- b. A team may appeal through the Secretary to the Committee against the decision of a secretary within fourteen days of notification of such decision and upon deposit of £100 payable to the South Hockey League which may be returned in whole or in part at the discretion of the appeal committee.
- c. The Committee may refer such appeal to a committee of three persons which shall act with expedition and in its own discretion may hold a written or an oral hearing. The decision of the appeal committee shall be final.
- d. An appeal committee may vary in any way the decision which is the subject of an appeal.

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14. FINANCIAL

- a. All teams shall pay a subscription as determined by the Committee by 31st October each season (currently - £25). If not paid, such subscription will increase by £10 on 1st November and a further £15 on 1st December. Any team not having paid by the commencement of the second block shall automatically be suspended from the League which will require a fee of £25 to readmit such team to membership.
- b. The accounts of the League shall be independently scrutinised.
- c. Cups for League winners shall remain the property of the League and if presented must be returned to the relevant league official by the end of the following season. Any damage or loss shall be the liability of the relevant club until returned to the League.
- d. The League shall indemnify its committee members and any person appointed by and acting on behalf of the League against any claim which may arise from any action taken with the authority of the League.

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