



EMPRESA



Norfolk Hockey Association

Norfolk Women's Hockey League

Sponsored by Empresa

League Rules for 2019/2020

Section 1

League Administration

The Name:

- 1.1 The League shall be known as the **Norfolk Women's Hockey League** and must be referred to as such in all correspondence and publicity.
- 1.2 The **Norfolk Women's Hockey League** is sponsored by **Empresa (I.T. Solutions Providers)**. **Clubs must refer to the League Sponsor's name always and use the official logo on all fixture cards, handbooks and correspondence.**

2. Entry and Affiliation:

- 2.1 Entry into the **Norfolk Women's Hockey League** shall be at the discretion of the **League Management Committee**.
- 2.2 By its entry into the League, each Club agrees to abide by:
- (a) The rules of the League as agreed at the AGM of the Norfolk Women's Hockey League.
 - (b) The rules of the League as amended at an EGM.
 - (c) The decisions of the League Management Committee in applying rules, penalties and sanctions it may seem fit to impose.
 - (d) The decision of the League Management Committee where a rule may seem ambiguous.
- 2.3 All participating Clubs must be affiliated to **England Hockey**, the **East Hockey Association** and the **Norfolk Hockey Association**.
- 2.4 All participating Clubs must pay affiliation fees of:
- (a) £5 per team as confirmation of each Club's participation
 - (b) £5 affiliation fee to the NHUA
- Fees must be paid to the Treasurer of the NHA by the 30th September each year.

3. The Administration & Management of the League

- 3.1 The administration and management of the League will be undertaken by the League Management Committee.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility and duty of the League Management Committee to uphold the Constitution of the Norfolk Hockey Association and to abide by any decisions and/or rulings made by the NHA Council.
- 3.3 It is the responsibility and duty of the League Management Committee to uphold the rules of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), England Hockey, the East Hockey Association and to ensure that the Rules of Hockey apply to all players and officials.
- 3.4 Terms of Reference for the Committee will be set and agreed annually by the NHA Council.
- 3.5 Each Club may send delegates to the AGM or an EGM but only two may speak on behalf of their Club. Clubs will be asked to nominate their speaking delegates before the meeting starts. **Each Club has only one vote.**
- 3.6 The League Management Committee shall consist of the following members:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| The League Administrator | The Minutes Secretary |
| Divisional Secretaries | Results Co-ordinator |
| Junior Boys Development Secretary | Junior Girls Development Secretary |
| NHA Secretary | Welfare Officer |
| Umpire Representative | |
- 3.7 With the exception of the NHA Secretary, the Welfare Officer and the Umpire Representative, the Committee is elected at the League AGM.
- 3.8 Each Club joining the League must appoint the following to administer their own Club: -
- Club Secretary

Fixture Secretary
Cancellation Secretary
Umpire Liaison Secretary
League Liaison Secretary

3.9 Full contact details of the above officials must be entered electronically on the NHA Website by 1st July each year. Details to include: -
Home phone numbers
Mobile phone numbers
E-mail addresses

Clubs MUST secure permission from their Officials before submitting contact details. Club officials must be fully aware that this information will be displayed on the website and agree for this to happen.

3.10 A password for access to the website will be issued to the Club Secretary by Empresa/the Hon Secretary.

Additional passwords can be issued on request.

Any changes to Club officials and/or contact details must be updated immediately on the NHA Website by the Club and the Norfolk Hon. Secretary must be informed.

4. Structure:

4.1 The make-up of each Division will be agreed at the AGM

4.2 This season, the make-up of the divisions will be as follows:

(a) Premier and Division 1 will be made-up of 12 teams.

(b) Division 2 and Division 3 to be agreed at the AGM

4.3 Promotion and relegation will be based on the following: -

(a)The number of Clubs relegated from or promoted to the East Leagues

(b)The number of Clubs participating in any one season.

(c)The end of season league position of each team.

(d)Any team that withdraws from or is withdrawn from the league during the season will be considered a relegated team and if they wish to re-enter the following season, they will be admitted to the league in the next Division down.

(e)Two teams will be promoted from Divisions 1, 2 and 3. One team will be promoted from the Premier Division

(f)Any new team entering the Norfolk League from a different County league will be considered on their record and placed accordingly.

(g)Any new team from Norfolk will be considered on their record and will also be placed accordingly.

4.2 & 4.3 IS A DECISION WHICH MAY CHANGE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF CLUBS WISHING TO PLAY IN THE LEAGUES IN ANY ONE SEASON AND IS AGREED ANNUALLY AT THE AGM.

5. Fixtures:

5.1 Fixtures *must be entered electronically* on the official NHA Website.

5.2 The window for fixtures will be open between the 21st July and 23.59 on the 21st August.

5.3 All fixtures must be submitted before 23.59 on the 21st August.

Penalty:

Failure to comply with **Rule 5.3** will result in a **£50 fine for each team.**

5.4 A repeating, countdown warning notice will be sent electronically to each Club Secretary one week in advance of the deadline for the submission of fixtures starting on the 14th August.

5.5 Changes or additions to the list(s) can be made to home fixtures up to 23.59 on the 21st August.

5.6 A 'thank you notice' will be sent to each Club once they have completed their list(s) after 23.59 on the 21st August.

5.7 Where list(s) have not been entered and the window is closed, Clubs must e-mail their lists to the NHA Hon. Secretary

5.8 An automated penalty notice will be issued one minute after 23.59 for those failing to send in their fixture list(s).

5.9 The penalty will be confirmed at the next meeting of the League Management Committee when a formal penalty notice will be issued.

5.10 During the season, any changes to fixtures must be agreed with the Division Secretary and must be sent by e-mail to the Hon Results Co-ordinator and to the NHA Hon. Secretary so website can be up dated.

5.11 Teams in the same league will play each other on a home and away basis.

6. Scoring System:

6.1 Three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

6.2 In the event of equal points at the end of the season, promotion and relegation will be determined by the following and in this order: -

- a) Goal difference
- b) Highest number of goals for
- c) Aggregate result of games between the teams concerned
- d) Play-off game between the teams at a neutral ground
- e) Penalty stroke competition in accordance with the EHA rules.

If more than two teams are involved in a penalty stroke competition, a draw shall be made for the order of play.

7. Team Sheets & Match Results:

7.1 All teams must use the official team sheet.

7.2 Team sheets must be completed, signed by the Captain and handed to the umpires before the start of the match.

Penalty: Failure to comply with **Rule 7.2** will result in a fine of £10

7.3 Only those players listed on the team sheet prior to the match starting are eligible to play.

7.4 Names and numbers should be written clearly on the team sheet with the goalkeeper marked as GK, captain as C, starred players as SP. Players playing more than one league game must be marked on the team sheet with the **letter D and the number of the team** for which they are selected that week. For example, a player doubling up for the 2nd team from the 3rd team would have D3 next to their name. A

player doubling up for the 4th team from the 3rd team would also have D3 next to their name.

7.5 At the end of the game, Umpires must enter their registration number and sign and print their name. Umpires are asked to give the reason if green, yellow or red cards are issued.

7.6 Goal scorers should be listed at the end of the game **by the Captains**.

7.7 Any comments should be made on the back of the sheet and signed by both Captains.

7.8 Captains should 'sign off' the sheet to acknowledge the score is correct and the goal scorers are correct.

7.9 Both team sheets may be sent electronically to the Division Secretary to arrive not later than midnight Wednesday of the following week.

7.10 Where team sheets are sent by post, they must arrive not later than Thursday of the following week.

7.11 Results must be sent by text to the Hon. Results Co-ordinator as soon as the game has finished.

Penalty: Failure to comply with **Rules 7.9, 7.10 and 7.11** will result in a fine of: -

1. £10 for the first offence
2. £15 for the second offence
3. £20 for all subsequent offences.

Persistent failure to comply with **Rule 7.9,7.10 and 7.11** may result in a fine of £50.

Where a fine is not paid, the fine will be increased in the first instance. Failure to pay the increased fine will result in the deduction of 3 points every month until the fine is paid.

8. Matches: All league matches are played: -

8.1 In accordance with the rules published by the International Hockey Federation, England Hockey and the Norfolk League Rules.

8.2 On the dates agreed by League Management Committee and with reference to those set out by the ERHA and EH.

8.3 At a ground nominated by the home team.

8.4 All Premium and Division 1 games will be played on a synthetic surface.

8.5 All start times must be notified to the away team and to the Hon Results Co-ordinator before the start of the season and cannot be changed without the permission of the Division Secretary. Start times can be found on "Fixtures Live"

8.6 There is no leeway on start times except where the previous game is still in play.

8.7 In the event of a league match being postponed or abandoned, it must be re-arranged on the next available slip date and the Division Secretary and the Hon Results co-ordinator informed. The changes must also be registered on the website by contacting the NHA Hon Secretary.

Penalty: Rule 8.7 Failure to notify the Hon Results Co-ordinator and the Division Secretary of the re-arranged time and date will result in a fine of £10.

8.8 If no slip date is available, the re-arranged match will be at the mutual convenience of both teams. Where this cannot be agreed, the Division Secretary will decide. The home team will inform the Hon. Results Co-ordinator of the outcome. The changes must also be

registered on the website by contacting NHA Hon. Secretary. Exceptions to rule 8.7. and 8.8 must be agreed with the Division Secretary.

Penalty: Rule 8.8 Failure to notify the Hon Results Co-ordinator and the Division Secretary of the re-arrange time and date will result in a £10 for both teams.

8.9 Where Clubs are involved in National, Regional or County competitions, tournaments or matches, the “order of precedence” will be observed when arranging or re-arranging league fixtures. National, Regional, and County competitions, tournament and matches will take precedence over league matches. All league matches will take precedence over friendly fixtures.

8.10 Where a team has less than seven players present ten minutes after the agreed start time, they will forfeit the game.

8.11 If both teams have less than seven players present after the agreed start time, the game will be deemed a postponement and re-arranged on the first slip date.

8.12 All league games must be played as league games. If a game is played, the league status of the game cannot be changed by either team.

8.13 If a team breaks a rule, such as fails to turn up for the start time or fails to provide an umpire for the start time, the game CANNOT be played. The game will be awarded to the team correctly presented.

8.14 If either team refuses to play, the Captain of both teams should notify the Division Secretary giving their reasons and quoting the appropriate rule. This should be done by writing on the back of the team sheet.

8.15 The Division Secretary will inform the Management Committee and the Management Committee will decide the appropriate action to be taken at the next meeting. The League Administrator will inform the Clubs of the decision and if necessary, notify the Results Co-ordinator.

9. Postponements:

Postponements may occur only:

9.1 In adverse weather conditions or unsafe pitch conditions.

Where matches need to be postponed the following action must be taken: -

- (a) Where the weekly weather forecast suggests the match may be affected and a postponement is likely, teams must communicate mid-week and agree a contact number as well as the time and day of contact. **In this case, the decision for postponement rests with the home team.**
- (b) Where the weather unexpectedly affects the condition of the pitch on the day, the home team must give notice to the cancellation contact number of the away team at the earliest opportunity. This number can be found on the website. **The decision to postpone rests with the home team.**
- (c) Where the weather affects the condition of the pitch, and both teams have arrived to play, **the decision to play rests solely with the umpires and must be based on the health and safety of the players.** If there is no agreement between the umpires, the match must be postponed in the interest of safety.
- (d) Where the pitch is playable, but the away team is affected by adverse weather conditions and cannot travel, notice must be given to the cancellation contact number of the home team as soon as possible.

- 9.2** In the event of both teams having less than seven players present ten minutes after the agreed start time.
- 9.3** In the event that the agreed match start time is delayed by more than 30 minutes through no fault of either of the participating teams such as a serious injury happening in the previous game.
- 9.4** Postponements must be recorded with the Hon. Results Co-ordinator and the Division Secretary on the Saturday of the fixture.
- 9.5** The match must be re-arranged for the next available slip date and this date should be recorded with the Division Secretary and the Hon. Results Co-ordinator. The NHA Hon. Secretary will arrange for the new fixture to be updated on the NHA Website.

Penalties: Failure to comply with **rule 9.4 and 9.5** may result in a £10 fine.

- 9.6 At the start of the season only,** Clubs with their (lowest) team in Division 3 may postpone one match if their team fails to raise more than seven players. Only one match may be postponed by a Club during the first 3 matches of the season. The Club must give a minimum of 2 days' notice to their opponents and both the home and away teams must agree to the postponement. The postponement must be recorded with the Hon. Results Co-ordinator and the Division Secretary by both home and away teams. The match must be re-arranged for the next available slip date and this date should be recorded with both the Hon. Results Co-ordinator, NHA Hon. Secretary and the Division Secretary. No further postponements will be allowed after one postponement.

10 Conceded Matches:

- 10.1** Conceded Matches shall occur only where a Club's lowest team fails to raise a team of seven players or more.

Penalty: Conceded matches will result in the loss of 3 points and a 0-3 score against the team conceding.

- 10.2** Teams will be excluded from the league on the 4th conceded game in any one season. The team will be relegated one division if they re-enter the League the following season.
- 10.3** Where a team has conceded their 4th game, all points awarded to that team's opponents shall be deemed null and void.
- 10.4** Clubs may not concede matches where their teams in lower divisions are still fulfilling their fixtures. Clubs must select their teams on the strength of players available in any one week and should cascade non-starred players up or down to fulfil their fixtures.

Penalty: Rule 10.4 If a Club concedes a higher team game but still fields lower teams, the penalty for the conceding team will be the loss of 3 points and a 0-3 score against and this will be the same for all teams below.

- 10.5** Where a game is conceded, the team sheet must be submitted to the Division Secretary and a text message sent to the Results Co-ordinator by **both** teams.

Penalty: Rule 10.5 Failure to notify the Division Secretary and the Results Co-ordinator will result in a £10 fine

11. Abandonments:

- 11.1** Where a game is abandoned, the team sheet must be submitted to the Division Secretary and a text message sent to the Results Co-ordinator.
- 11.2** The score will stand if both umpires agree to abandon the match after at least 55 minutes and one team is leading by at least two goals.
- 11.3** Where the game is abandoned with less than 55 minutes, the game must be replayed on the first available slip date and the home team must notify the Division Secretary and the Hon. Results Co-ordinator of the re-arranged fixture and the NHA Hon. Secretary for the website.

Penalty: Rule 11.3 Failure to comply will result in a £10 fine

12. Umpires:

- 12.1** Each team must provide an Umpire at the start of each game and all Umpires must be registered with England Hockey, the NHUA or any other Umpiring Association.
- 12.1.1** Any team regularly using an 'out of Norfolk' Umpire must notify their Division Secretary of the Umpire's qualification, number and status.
- 12.1.2** Any team using a casual 'out of Norfolk' Umpire must notify their Division Secretary of the Umpire's qualification, number and status.
- 12.2** Umpires should not be changed during matches except in exceptional circumstances such as: -
- (a) if an Umpire is incapacitated during a match
 - (b) if a temporary Umpire is needed until a delayed Umpire arrives.
 - (c) if the team without the umpire has a qualified umpire listed as a player then the player must forfeit their game to enable the game to go ahead until the umpire arrives. Then the umpire may take over and the player may return to the team.
- 12.3** Where a temporary Umpire is less qualified but is acceptable to both Captains and is covered by Club or the Umpiring Association or individual liability insurance, the match may go ahead.
- 12.4** If Captains cannot reach agreement regarding a replacement Umpire, the League fixture must not be played and the Division Secretary and the Results Co-ordinator informed as soon as possible. It must also be recorded on the team sheet and signed by both Captains. The Committee will decide the next steps.

Advice: -

It is the responsibility of each Umpire to register with the NHUA either through their Club or as an individual.

12.5 Minimum qualifications:

A "County Umpire Award" holder or "Club Umpire (Grade A)" award holder may umpire in all Norfolk leagues.

A "Club Umpire (Grade B)" award holder can umpire in Divisions 2, 3 and both development leagues.

A "Club Umpire (Grade C)" award holder can umpire in Divisions 3 and both development leagues.

Advisory:

An umpire is expected to hold the required qualification and experience as detailed on the NHUA website:

<http://www.norfolkhockey.co.uk/level-1-umpire-development/>.

Information: -

Clubs may wish to provide two umpires in a reciprocal agreement with the away team.

This must be with the agreement of both Clubs.

This must be arranged well in advance of the game.

Both Umpires must be appropriately qualified for the game.

Where one Umpire is not appropriately qualified, that Umpire will be regarded as the home team's Umpire and the game will be awarded to the away team – 3 points and a score of 0-3

Where both Umpires are not appropriately qualified, the home team will be held responsible and the away team will be awarded the game – 3 points and a score of 0-3.

Where an Umpire is being assessed and as a one-off situation, their status will be protected by the presence of the Assessor. The Division Secretary must be informed that the match is being used for assessment and also of the outcome of the assessment.

12.6 Appendix:

1. Umpires should not adjudicate on League rules unless they are also Norfolk League Division Secretaries. The League Management Committee should not adjudicate on Umpiring decisions in matches.
2. All Clubs must appoint an Umpiring Liaison Officer (ULO) with whom NUA and other Clubs can communicate on Umpiring matters. Details of the ULO must be included on the website.
3. The League Management Committee reserves the right to appoint appropriate Umpires in conjunction with the NUA to any League match.
4. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure the Umpire is appropriately experienced and competent to take charge of the game to which they are appointed.
5. The League Management Committee welcomes comments on the appropriateness of the Umpire appointed by the Club. The comments should be written on the back of the team sheet and signed by both Captains. The comments will be passed to the Umpires Association for monitoring purposes.
6. A list of qualified Umpires is held by the NHUA and can be found on the NHA website.

Penalty:

Failure to uphold these rules may result in: -

- a) The loss of 3 points and a 3-0 result awarded to the opposition
- c)The fixture being replayed
- d)A financial penalty decided by the League Management Committee.

Section 2

Rules for Clubs

13. Conduct:

- 13.1** The NHA supports the EH RESPECT campaign and expects all Clubs to support the NHA in upholding the aims of this campaign.
- 13.2** Conduct of players in all League matches will be monitored in accordance with the Disciplinary Code agreed by England Hockey.
- 13.3** Green, yellow and red cards will be recorded by the Umpires on the match report with the reason for the card given on the back of the result sheet.
- 13.4** Division Secretaries will record card offences and monitor patterns of conduct.
- 13.5** Where a team/ individual show persistent poor conduct, an investigation will be undertaken by the League Management Committee and action taken.
- 13.6** Red card offences are subject to a special EHA form which umpires must complete. They are obtained from the County Discipline Officer immediately following the incident.
 - 13.6.1** Where a player has been disciplined for a red card offence or for violent conduct, the matter will be discussed at an emergency meeting of the League Management Committee.
 - 13.6.2** The Committee will gather reports from the umpires, both teams and the individual player(s).
 - 13.6.3** The Club of the offending player(s) will be notified immediately of the Committee's decision.
 - 13.6.4** Any appeal must be sent to the League Administrator within ten days with an appeal fee of £25. If the appeal is successful, the fee will be returned.

Penalty: Card penalties may result in the loss of points and/or a fine for the team and suspension for the player(s).

- 13.7** Anything placed on social network sites, such as Face Book or Club websites, must not be abusive, detrimental or damaging towards another player, official or Club.
- 13.8** If the conduct of a Club or an individual player is regarded as having manipulated or abused the League rules, an investigation will be undertaken by the League Management Committee and appropriate action will be taken.

Penalty: The penalty for rule manipulation may result in the loss of points and /or a fine. Individuals may be suspended or permanently

excluded.

Decisions concerning this penalty will be at the discretion of the League Management Committee.

Pitch Safety - Advisory:

Following the NUA message to all umpires concerning "pitch safety", the League Management Committee would like to add the following advice to Clubs:

1. **Both** teams should assemble away from the spectators and in their own designated area. Both teams should be on the same side of the pitch.
2. No more than three team officials should sit with the teams. They are the Coach, the Team Manager and the First Aider/Physio.
3. Spectators should stand outside the pitch where possible.
4. Where there is no viewing point outside the pitch, spectators should not join the players in the designated area.
5. All hockey balls must be collected up and stored in a safe place before the start of the game.
6. Teams playing in the next game must remain outside the pitch until the end of the game.
7. Children under 8 years should watch the game from outside the pitch.
8. No prams on the pitch.
9. No dogs on the pitch.
10. No bikes on the pitch.
11. No smoking on the pitch.
12. Captains are responsible for ensuring these rules are upheld.
13. No game should start until these rules are in place.
14. The game should be stopped if these rules are broken at any time and the advice from the NUA should be actioned.

14. Hospitality:

14.1 Visiting teams should be made welcome by the home Club.

14.2 Players and spectators must be made aware of any health and safety rules concerning the pitch and spectator area before the start of the game.

14.3 Captains are responsible for the behaviour of their players and spectators.

14.4 Home teams must provide refreshments to visiting teams, team officials and umpires.

14.5 Refreshments shall consist of a hot **and** cold drink, hot or cold savoury and cakes and/or biscuits. Where refreshments are reported to the Committee as falling below the accepted standard, the penalty will be a £25 fine.

14.6 At least two days' notice must be given when a team is unable to stay for refreshments. Where the away team fails to notify the home team that they do not wish to stay for refreshments, the penalty will be a £25 fine.

14.7 Teams must always give notice according to the rules if they are cancelling or conceding a game. Where the away team fails to turn up

for an agreed fixture and no notice has been received, the away team will be charged with the cost of the pitch hire and the cost of refreshments @ £25

14.8 All teams should give 2 days' notice if they are unable to fulfil the fixture. If it is late notice, the team must ensure the message has been received.

Where the away team fails to give 2 days' notice, the Committee will impose a penalty according to circumstances.

15. Dress Code:

15.1 Club strip must be agreed with the NHA Hon. Secretary and noted on the website.

15.2 Strip colours or any change of strip colours or any change of the combination of colours must be agreed with the NHA Hon. Secretary.

15.3 Each team must wear their Club strip when playing league matches.

15.4 A Club strip should consist of a skirt/skort, shirt/top and socks. Leggings and skins may also be worn but should reflect the Club colours.

15.5 In the event of a clash of colours, each Club must have an alternative strip and the away team will wear the alternative strip.

15.6 All players will wear visibly numbered shirts/tops.

15.7 No two players in the same team, playing in the same game can wear the same number.

15.8 Goalkeepers must wear tops in a contrasting colour to both teams.

15.9 Captains must wear a distinguishing armband.

15.10 All players **must** wear shin pads.

Penalty: Where teams fail to comply with the dress code rule, the penalty will be: -

A warning

A £10 fine

A £50 fine for every recurring offence

Dress Code - Advisory:

1. It is strongly advised that players should wear mouth guards.

2. It is strongly advised that defenders should wear face masks for penalty corner routines.

3. It is strongly advised that goalkeepers wear all necessary protective clothing.

4. It is strongly advised that jewellery should not be worn during the game. Rings should be taped.

5. It is strongly advised that every team should carry a First Aid Kit to both home and away games. First Aid Kits should be checked on a regular basis to ensure equipment is up to date.

6. It is strongly advised that at least one member of the team or the bench should have a First Aid Certificate or an equivalent qualification.

Section 3

Rules for Players

16. Players:

16.1 Players must be fully paid up members of their Club in the current league season.

16.2 Any player may transfer to a new Club prior to the start of the season.

16.3 Once the season has started, a player may transfer to one new Club, but this must be agreed by both Clubs and both the League Administrator and the Division Secretary must be informed.

16.4 Once the season has started, a player may transfer to one Club only. She may not return to her original Club nor join another Club until the end of the season.

16.5 No player may transfer after **31st January** until the start of the new season.

17. How to Star Your Players

17.1 Starring window will be open three times each season. The dates are: -

15th September 2019 to 20th September 2019 @ 23.59

13th October 2019 to 18th October 2019 @ 23.59

5th January 2020 to 10th January 2020 @ 23.59

17.2 Clubs entering more than one team in the National, East and the Norfolk League must enter on the NHA website seven starred players for each team except their lowest.

17.3 Starring lists **must be entered electronically** on the NHA Website.

17.4 The starring window will be open for six days. During this time, a repeating, countdown warning notice will be sent electronically to each Club Secretary up to the 23.59 deadline for the submission of starring lists.

17.5 Lists can be changed during the six days up to the midnight deadline.

17.6 A 'thank you notice' will be sent to each Club once they have completed their list(s).

17.7 Where list(s) have not been entered and the window is closed, Clubs must e-mail their lists to the Hon. Results Co-ordinator and the NHA Hon. Secretary for the website.

17.8 An automated penalty notice will be issued one minute after 23.59 for those failing to send in their starring list(s).

17.9 The penalty will be confirmed at the next meeting of the League Management Committee when a formal penalty notice will be issued.

Penalty: Clubs failing to register or re-register their starred players by the agreed dates will automatically receive a penalty of: -

£20 per team in the first instance.

£30 per team in the second instance

£50 per team in the third instance

18.Starred Players

18.1 Teams should be selected on a weekly basis according to their playing strength. Non-starred players may be selected up or down according to their standard of play but not to artificially strengthen a lower team.

18.2 A starred player may play in a higher team but may not play in a lower team.

Penalty: Where a team fields a starred player in a lower team, the penalty will be the loss of 3 points and a 0-3 score awarded to their opponents.

Where a team fields an ineligible player in a lower team, the penalty will be the loss of 3 points and a 0-3 score awarded to the opponents

18.3 A starred player should not be starred unless they can fulfil **60%** of their games.

18.4 The Committee will identify a player who has not met their correct quota of games and seek the reason for this at the end of the starring period.

18.5 A new set of starred players or a new individual can be identified when Clubs re-register their starred players for the new starring period.

18.6 If a Club does not select a team at any level for lack of players but still fields lower teams, players in the lower teams are deemed ineligible.

Penalty: The penalty will be the loss of 3 points and a 0-3 score against for the conceded team and all teams below.

Divisional Secretaries will monitor the use of starred players closely and if clubs openly abuse the starring rule, the committee will issue an appropriate penalty.

19 Non-Starred Players

19.1 Any non-starred player may double-up and play for a higher team.

19.2 Any non-starred player may double up and play **down one team** to make the lower team up to 12 players.

19.3 A Club's lowest team may be made up to 13 players ONLY if that team is in either Division 2 or Division 3.

19.4 A goalkeeper doubling up as a goalkeeper will not count in the 12 (13) players permitted on the team sheet.

20 Goalkeepers

20.1 A non-starred goalkeeper may double-up **as a goalkeeper** for any team. But, in the interest of safety, it is the Club's responsibility to ensure the goalkeeper is at an appropriate level for the game.

20.2 A non-starred outfield player may play for any team as a goalkeeper provided the player is fully kitted up as a goalkeeper throughout the game. The goalkeeper will not count in the 12 (13) players permitted on the team sheet.

20.3 A non-starred goalkeeper, doubling up as an outfield player, may play for any team provided they do not artificially strengthen the team. This player will **not** count in the 12 (13) players permitted on the team sheet.

20.3.1 Only one goalkeeper, playing as an outfield player, can be included in the squad and **not** count in the 12(13) players permitted on the team sheet. If **more than one** goalkeeper, playing as an outfield player, is included in the squad then those additional goalkeepers will count

as part of the 12 (13) players permitted on the team sheet.

The Committee's Guide to Doubling-up of Non-Starred Players

1. Doubling-up will be defined as: A player who plays more than one game in any one day to enable another team to field 12 or 13 players according to the Division.
2. All teams within a club must be selected on playing strength so that the strongest available side is put out at each level commencing with the highest team. If a team is not involved in a match, the Club shall select its League teams as if all teams were in fact playing and shall not unfairly strength the lower sides by including players from the squad of a higher team without a match.
3. In the interest of fair play, doubling-up should be viewed as the exception rather than the rule.
4. A Club must not gain, or seek to gain, unfair advantage by doubling-up a player or players to a lower team.
5. Any doubling-up deemed by the League Management Committee to be contrary to the spirit of the rule will be viewed as a breach of the rule.
6. Players playing more than one league game must be marked on the team sheet with the letter D ***and the number of the team*** for which they are normally selected. For example, a player doubling up for the 2nd team from the 3rd team would have D3 next to their name. A player doubling up for the 4th team from the 3rd team would also have D3 next to their name. The player doubling up should be advised to the opposing Captain before the start of the game.
7. A Club must be prepared to submit a team sheet for a higher, non-playing team if requested by the League Management Committee.

Penalties: Where the League Committee believes doubling-up has artificially and unfairly strengthened a team, the penalty for the offending team will be the loss of 3 points and a 0-3 score against.

Section 4

Disputes, Appeals & Penalties

21. Disputes and Appeals:

21.1 Disputes: Where a team is in dispute during a League match or with the League rules or any matter relating to the League, the following action may be taken:

- (a) Written comment can be added to the back of the team sheet. The Division Secretary will investigate the dispute by contacting both teams and/or official and then raise the matter at the next meeting of the League Management Committee where a decision will be made on the action to be taken.
- (b) Written comment in the form of a letter detailing the dispute can be sent by post or e-mail to the League Administrator. If the dispute is to be part of a Club's appeal, a cheque for £25 must accompany the letter.
- (c) The League Administrator will notify both Clubs and/or official named in the dispute of the outcome. The Division Secretary concerned, and the Results Co-ordinator will also be informed of the outcome.

21.2 Appeals: Where a team has been issued with a penalty, a fine or is in dispute, the following action may be taken:

- (a) A letter of appeal must be posted to the League Administrator before the next meeting of the League Management Committee or the date on the Penalty Notice.
- (b) A cheque for £25 must accompany the letter of appeal and this will be returned if the appeal is successful or at the discretion of the Committee.
- (c) All appeals will be judged against the rules of the Norfolk Women's Hockey League by the League Management Committee.
- (d) If the penalty is upheld following this appeal, the Committee will confirm the action taken in the penalty notice or dispute and the Administrator will inform all those concerned. The Hon. Results Co-ordinator will adjust the league tables as necessary.
- (d) Where a Club has been fined and no appeal is forthcoming, the money must be paid before the next meeting of the League Management Committee.

Penalty: Where a Club fails to pay, the fine will be increased in the first instance. Failure to pay the increase will result in the deduction of 3 points every month until the fine is paid. A Club may appeal this decision in the same way as a dispute.

Final Appeals:

21.3 Where a Club disagrees with the outcome of the appeal, they may appeal to the NHA Council.

- (a) All decisions made by the NHA Council are final.
- (b) Any appeal to the NHA Council must be made within 10 days of the League Management appeal failure.
- (c) The appeal must be sent by registered post to the NHA Hon. Secretary, NHA.
- (d) A non-refundable cheque for £50 must accompany the appeal.

22. The Binding Force of the Rules:

22.1 By its entry into the League, each Club agrees to abide by:

- (a) The rules of the League as agreed at the AGM of the Norfolk Women's Hockey League.
- (b) The rules of the League as amended at an EGM.
- (c) The decisions of the League Management Committee in applying rules, penalties and sanctions it may seem fit to impose.
- (d) The decision of the League Management Committee where a rule may seem ambiguous.

22.2 The Committee will make their decisions:

- (a) according to the rules as agreed at the AGM
- (b) according to the evidence presented
- (c) with fairness and equity

22.4 Where teams break the rules, the League Committee has the option to impose any of the following penalties as appropriate:

- (a) The loss of 3 points per match. (The opposition to be awarded the 3 points.)
- (b) The loss of a match by 0-3. (The opposition to be awarded the match 3-0).
- (c) A fine of £10, £15, £20 or £50 according to the rule
- (e) A penalty or sanction the Committee sees fit to impose.

22.5 The Club will be officially informed of the outcome by the League Administrator.

A Simple Guide to the Procedure for Making a Complaint:

If you have a complaint before, during or after the game, this is the procedure for making a complaint: -

- (a) As captain, write your complaint on the back of the team sheet and make sure the opposing Captain has seen and signed your statement.
- (b) This will be read by the Division Secretary and both you and the opposing Captain will be contacted by the Division Secretary.

- (c) If this cannot be resolved by the Division Secretary, the Division Secretary will gather written evidence from Captains and Umpires and present the issue to the next meeting of the League Management Committee.
- (d) The League Management Committee will agree the next steps in accordance with the League Rules.
- (e) If you are unhappy with their decision, you can make a final appeal to the NHA Council.

Please remember:

When you are making your complaint, please state the rule and how you feel this has been broken.

Your complaint must take the form of a letter posted to the League Administrator with a cheque for £25.

When making a final appeal to the NHA Council, your complaint must take the form of a letter posted to the NHA Hon. Secretary with a cheque for £50.