

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



1 PREAMBLE

1.1 LEAGUE NAMES

- a The Leagues will be governed by the Yorkshire Hockey Association (YHA) through the YHA Competitions Committee (YHACC), and will be known as the Yorkshire Men's Hockey League (YMHL), the Yorkshire Women's Hockey League (YWHL)). A sponsor's name may be prefixed to the League names for publicity purposes subject to approval by the YHA.

1.2 LEAGUE AND OTHER COMMITTEES

- a Each League will be administered by a Committee (The "Men's, Women's Committees respectively"). The respective League Committees will consist of a Chair, a secretary and sufficient members to administer the competitions within the League. Members may act as Divisional Secretaries of the respective Leagues. A list of the Officials and their roles will be detailed in the YHA Handbook and on the YHA Website.
- b At least three Meetings of each Committee will be held per year and notes of these Meetings will be circulated to the YHACC.
- c The Chair or other nominated Member will represent each League Committee on the YHACC.
- d The Chair for each Committee will be formally approved at the Annual General Meeting of the YHA (in May).
- e The Members of the Committees will be nominated in advance of the Annual Clubs Fixture Meeting (early June).

1.3 AFFILIATED CLUBS

- a Each participating Club in the League will be affiliated to Yorkshire Hockey Association (YHA).
- b Other Clubs affiliated to a different County Association may be admitted with the approval of YHA General Committee.
- c Each Club will include not later than the 30 June in their submission to the YHA Honorary Secretary the names of their Club Officials for the following season.
- d Each Club must include a Match Confirmation or Fixture Secretary to act as point of contact during the League season and a Results Secretary to correlate and communicate results. (See Rule 6.8a).
- e Each club is reminded that it is responsible for the efficient administration and organisation of the club and as such must make every effort to ensure that all officers and members are aware of their responsibilities to others involved in the game.
- f Clubs will be held responsible for breaches of rules and any misdemeanours committed by their members whether players, officials or spectators.
- g Any serious misconduct or behaviour which fails to conform to the standards deemed acceptable by the respective League Committees could result in any of the penalties of Rule 6.13 being applied. All clubs must have a Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Code by which they abide.

1.4 CLUB & TEAM NAMES

- a Any club wishing to change its name or to add the name of a sponsor to the club name or to that of an individual team can only do so with the approval of the YHA General Committee.
- b Application for a change of name or the addition of a sponsor's name must be made to the YHA Hon Secretary.

1.5 YHA HANDBOOK

- a Each Club will submit details of their Club Officials for the following season to the County Secretary, to be included in the YHA Handbook and on the YHA Website, not later than the 30 June of each year.
- b A pro forma will be available but the details should include all club officials with email and mobile contact if available (particularly for team captains/organisers), ground details, a Match Confirmation Secretary to act as point of contact during the League season and a Results Secretary to correlate and communicate results.
- c Failure to submit these details by 30 June will result in a fine of £50.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



1.6 CLUBS MEETING

- a League Committees will advise participating Clubs of their status and fixtures for the following season at least two weeks before the Annual Clubs Fixture Meeting to be held on a date before 17 June each year with Clubs given at least 28 days' notice of the Meeting.
- b All Clubs must have a representative at the Meeting; penalty for non-attendance is £50 per Club.

1.7 AMENDMENTS TO LEAGUE RULES

- a These Rules may only be amended with the approval of the YHACC, and are subject to ratification by the YHA General Committee and North Hockey Competitions Committee.
- b Any club wishing to propose a change in the rules for the forthcoming season must put the proposal in writing by 31st December to the Secretary of the YHA Competitions Committee

1.8 RULES OF HOCKEY

- a All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Hockey as laid down by the National Governing Body.

2 STRUCTURE

2.1 STRUCTURE OF LEAGUES

- a The League will consist of such Divisions as may from time to time be fixed by the relevant League Committee. Wherever possible Divisions will comprise of 12 Teams, playing home and away (A maximum of 22 League matches).
- b The actual number of Teams in any Division may be varied subject to no more than 22 League matches dependent upon the total number of Teams to ensure viability.
- c The bottom Divisions only may have more than 12 Teams and may play some teams only once to keep the maximum number of games to 22.
- d Men's and Women's Leagues lower divisions will be organised on a regional basis.
- e Teams will be allocated to regional divisions by the relevant League Committee before the start of each season.

2.2 RANKING

- a Points will be awarded as follows: 3pts for a win, 1pt for a draw, and 0pts for a defeat.
- b In the event of two or more teams finishing with the same number of points, the team with the best goal difference will be placed higher; if still equal, the team with most 'goals for' is to be the highest placed.
- c If still equal at the end of the season, the winner of the result or results of matches played against each other will determine the final position.
- d If still equal, then a play-off will determine promotion/relegation places.

3 CLUBS

3.1 TEAMS JOINING OR LEAVING LEAGUES

- a Clubs with new teams wishing to join or teams wishing to withdraw must notify the relevant League Secretary in writing or by email by 15 April.
- b The League Committees may use their discretion in accepting applications to join the Leagues.
- c If new Clubs join the Leagues, then: -
- d If they have more than one team, they may be put in different Divisions.
- e If after a season it is apparent that a new entrant's teams are playing at an inappropriate level they should be considered to be moved up or down more than one Division. This would only be implemented provided that no additional Clubs are demoted and no Clubs denied promotion.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



4 PROMOTION & RELEGATION

4.1 PROMOTION FROM YHL

- a Promotion and relegation will occur in the League at the end of the season on the following basis.
- b The winner of the Men's Premier Division and the top two teams in the Women's Premier Division will be eligible for promotion to the North Leagues as determined by the North Hockey Association (NHA).
- c When teams are promoted or relegated from National/Regional Leagues, or teams drop out of National/Regional Leagues, then additional teams will be promoted or relegated within the Men's and Women's Leagues as necessary to maintain the normal number of teams in each division. (See Note 1)

4.2 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION WITHIN THE YORKSHIRE LEAGUES

- a The top two teams from Men's Division 1 and Women's Division 1 and below will be promoted to the next higher Division and the bottom two teams in all Divisions will be relegated to the next lower Division.
- b Where regionalised divisions feed into county wide divisions the winner of each highest regionalised division will be promoted to the lowest ranked county wide division.
- c Teams placed second in the highest regionalised Men's divisions will play off for one promotion place to the lowest ranked county wide division. There will be no play off for the Women's teams in second place in the regionalised divisions.
- d Sufficient lowest ranked teams in the lowest county wide Men's division will be relegated to allow promotion of top regionalised division winners plus the winner of the second-place regionalised division team play-offs. Sufficient lowest ranked teams in the lowest county wide Women's divisions will be relegated to allow promotion of the top regionalised division winners only
- e There will be no relegation from the bottom Divisions.
- f Teams will be informed of the number of promotion and relegation spots within each division once the final league structure is known, although indications will be given when possible throughout the season.
- g Any team or teams unwilling or unable to accept promotion after the finish of the league season will be deducted sufficient points to remove them from the promotion position

4.3 PLAY-OFFS

- a Promotion play-offs between YHL teams will take place at a time and venue as directed by the YHACC.
- b Where possible play-offs will be included in YHA Cup Final days' schedules.

4.4 REGIONALISED DIVISIONS

- a The structure and composition of regionalised divisions will be decided by the relevant league committee announced once the final league structure is known.

5 UMPIRES

5.1 APPOINTED (NEUTRAL) UMPIRES

- a Umpires will be appointed by the YHUA to officiate in all Men's League matches in the Premier Division and subject to availability Division 1. (See Note 5)
- b A home team representative must contact by telephone any appointed Neutral Umpires by 20.00 hours on the Tuesday prior to the game to confirm the arrangements. Just leaving an answer-phone message is not considered to be confirmation. You must receive positive confirmation from the umpire.
- c If it becomes clear that a Club is not confirming start times with the appointed Umpires prior to the game as detailed above, the YHUA reserves the right to withdraw Neutral Umpires from the offending Club.
- d Arrangements should be made for emergency contact in case of postponements, particularly for matches with early start times.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



- e In the event of non-availability of an appointed Official, the Home Team should contact the YHUA Appointments Secretary by phone to inform them of the non-availability and in the event of no reserve umpire being available should provide a Club Umpire graded EH Level 1 Assessed or higher.
- f In the event of non-arrival of an appointed Official, the Team Captains should endeavour to secure a substitute(s) graded EH Level 1 Assessed or higher.
- g In the event that two Umpires EH Level 1 Assessed or higher not being available, the match will be postponed.
- h The penalty for a breach of any of the rules above is a £15 fine per infringement by the home Club.

5.2 CLUB UMPIRES (MEN'S DIV 4 AND UPWARDS & WOMEN'S DIV 3 AND UPWARDS)

- a All League matches must have two umpires.
- b In all matches in the Leagues (excluding those with appointed umpires), each team must provide one Umpire unless mutually agreed to the contrary. Clubs may by mutual consent agree for one club to provide both umpires normally on a reciprocal basis for a match but this must be confirmed as detailed in Rule 6.8 and recorded on the match sheet. Home captains should ensure that this information is entered on the match sheet.
- c For all League matches in Divisions 4 and above for Men Clubs, Division 3 and above for Women Clubs, must provide Umpires graded EH Level 1 Assessed or higher.
- d The Umpires' EH Level 1 Assessed Registration Number must be included on the Match Result Form. Home captains should ensure that this information is correctly entered on the match sheet, failure to do so could lead to a fine of £25 as defined in rule 5.2(e) below.
- e The failure by either team in League matches in Divisions 4 and above for Men Clubs, Division 3 and above for Women Clubs, to provide Umpires graded EH Level 1 Assessed or higher will incur a fine of £25.
- f The match will be declared a 3-0 loss against the defaulting team unless both teams agree to complete it with Umpires who are not of EH Level 1 Assessed or higher. This must be clearly stated on the match report form and agreed between the captains 24 hours prior to the match. Home captains should ensure that this information is entered on the match sheet.
- g If rule 5.2(f) above cannot be agreed by both teams then a friendly game may be played and again this must be stated on the match report form.
- h For all League Matches in Men's Divisions 5 and downwards and Women's Division 3 and downwards matches may be umpired by suitably experienced Umpires (preferably qualified or those having taken a Level One Course). Clubs are encouraged to arrange for all Umpires to seek qualification.
- i When league matches are confirmed (see Rule 6.8a) both Clubs in each fixture must agree the umpiring arrangements (see Rule 5.2a) and we recommend that the umpiring arrangement is added to the NOTES Section of the fixture on the YHA Website; i.e. 'one umpire each' or 'two home umpires'.
- j Should a team fail to provide the agreed umpire, or umpires, the defaulting team must provide a player, or players, to umpire the whole match. Clubs should note the rule 5.2(o) below in respect of players umpiring.
- k Failure by the defaulting team to provide a replacement umpire, or umpires, will incur a fine of £15.
- l The match will be declared a 3-0 loss against the defaulting team unless a replacement umpire can be found without delaying the start of the match by more than 15 minutes past the scheduled start time.
- m A friendly game may be played and again this must be stated on the match report form. Home captains should ensure that this information is entered on the match sheet.
- n Both Home and Away completed Match Report Sheets must be handed to the umpires before the match can start.
- o No person shall umpire and play in the same match. Players who have taken on the duties of umpiring must complete the whole match as an umpire. No "swapping" of players during the match will be permitted.

5.3 AUTHORITY OF UMPIRES

- a As soon as a League match commences the captains of both teams shall be deemed to have passed authority for completion of the match to the umpires.
- b No authority exists for umpires to make any decision upon the Rules of the League unless otherwise stated within individual Rules.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



6 FIXTURES

6.1 FIXTURES FOR SEASON

- a League fixtures will be played on such weeks fixed by the YHACC with slip dates similarly fixed. These will be notified with the Fixture List for each season.
- b Requests for specific fixture patterns to be applied to the fixture database for a Club's fixtures or fixtures of more than one club at a specific venue must be made by 15 April of the preceding season.
- c The Home Club is responsible for ensuring that all League games are played on the appointed date, or on a re-arranged date in accordance with Rules 6.5, 6.12, 6.10.1g&h.

6.2 LEAGUE DATES & FIXTURE COMPLIANCE

- a Clubs entering the League must ensure that all teams play every League fixture. League matches will not take place after the nominated end date of the season. The nominated date is normally the last scheduled slip date and will be advised to all Club Fixture Secretaries. Any team conceding in excess of 3 matches will be demoted one division after all promotions and demotions have been completed. Any Team failing to complete its League fixtures may be liable to expulsion from Leagues in addition to the penalties imposed by the League Committee as detailed in Rule 6.13.

6.3 SLIP DATES

- a See Rule 6.5 & 6.12

6.4 UNIVERSITY-BASED CLUBS

- a University-based is defined as a club which has merged with a university/college and has a significant percentage of that university/college based players. This will be verified by the Player Registration List.
- b Any club that believes it has sufficient university members to limit its ability to fulfil fixtures outside university terms (need not be a formal University merger) must send the following in advance of the clubs meeting: A full registration list indicating the university members (as at the date sent, can be updated as the season progresses)
- c University or University based Clubs must provide a list of term and/or semester dates to the relevant League Secretary and University Liaison Officer no later than 31 March for the following season.
- d Upon receipt of the fixtures for the season, University based Clubs are to identify those fixtures that fall outside their term or semester dates and given that they are unable to raise a team, contact the opposition and if agreement with the opposition can be reached rearrange the fixture(s). Unless specifically agreed to the contrary these will be the lowest ranked team matches first. Any fixture changes are to be forwarded to the relevant League Divisional Representative to review the information and decide whether or not to approve the proposal. These fixtures must be arranged in the following priority a) the first midseason slip date; b) then on a Sunday before Christmas. This may only be varied with the permission of the League Divisional Representative.
- e For the avoidance of doubt the committee will no longer accept moving all fixtures without clear justification
- f Scheduled Cup Competition fixtures take priority over rearranged League fixtures unless agreed to the contrary by the Cup Competition Organizer and League Division Representative.
- g Non-university based clubs must be given priority for the midseason Saturday slip date.
- h In all cases the relevant Divisional Representative must be kept informed and has final approval.
- i The October midseason slip date has been moved to December (ie at the end of the first round of fixtures) this date is to be kept for bad weather postponements or for any early season University Club fixtures that have not been able to be played at the start of the season or on a Sunday prior to this December date. The February slip date remains and any end of season slip dates must be kept for bad weather postponements.
- j The list of match rearrangements should be resolved at or immediately after the Annual Clubs Meeting and must be submitted to the relevant Divisional Representative and University Liaison Officer and updated on the YHA Website as soon as possible and no later than the end of July. Examinations, study weeks or term-time hockey tours, etc., are not acceptable reasons for rearranging matches.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



- k The League Committee will not accept moving any fixture without clear justification.
- l The penalty for a breach of this Rule is £50.

6.5 START TIMES

- a All League matches will commence within the hours of 10.30 and 16.30 providing travel time for the opposition is not more than 1 hour for the 10.30 game or 1.5 hours for the 16.30 games.
- b Dispensation on this Rule may be granted to teams who are restricted to start times by pitch availability. This must be notified to and agreed by both teams and the League Secretary at least 10 days in advance of the fixture and must be confirmed to both clubs.
- c Matches with Neutral Umpires should start between 12.00 and 15.00 to allow for Umpires travelling time except where Regional and National League matches make this unfeasible. It may not be possible for Umpires to be appointed outside these hours and clubs may need to provide their own.
- d Teams not ready to start within 15 minutes of the agreed start time will forfeit the match. In extenuating circumstances Rule 6.10.2 will be applied.
- e If any team defaults, other than because of a pitch being unfit, then the team not defaulting may charge the defaulting club for any costs incurred. These may include pitch hire costs if this cannot be cancelled, and if short notice cancellation, phone calls, refreshments and and/or transport costs.

6.6 VENUES

- a All synthetic surfaces used to play YHL matches must be approved by the YHA Competitions Committee
- b Appropriate changing and toilet facilities must be available on site.
- c All matches in all leagues must be played on synthetic surfaces

6.7 HOSPITALITY

- a First named teams are expected to offer suitable hospitality before and after the match to visiting teams and umpires. If second-named (away) teams do not notify opposition that they do not require teas (or a significant number) the opposition may charge the costs to their opponents.

6.8 MATCH CONFIRMATION

- a At least 10 days before each match, the Match Confirmation or Fixture Secretary of the Home Club will reconfirm all fixtures with the opposition particularly confirmation of umpiring arrangements, team colours, start time and venue and giving team contact details if those in the online handbook are not current. It is the duty of the Away Club to notify the Home Club that it has received confirmation of the fixture, should confirmation not be received by the Home Club then should contact the Away Club and make sure it has received the information.
- b The Home Club Match Confirmation Secretary must contact by telephone any appointed Neutral Umpires by 20.00 hours on the Tuesday prior to the game to confirm the arrangements. (See Rule 5.1b). The Home Club must ensure that a response has been received from any appointed umpires. The penalty for a breach of this Rule is £15 per infringement by the home club.

6.9 YHA WEBSITE

- a The appointed Club Representative must input details of start times and venues of all scheduled and rearranged home matches 14 days prior to the start of the season. These must be input direct to the YHA Website. If you have any problems contact the YHA Website Manager. The penalty for a breach of this Rule is £50.
- b It is recommended that notification of rearranged home matches and all home start times be input to the YHA Website as early as possible, ideally by the end of July so that details can be included in Club Fixture Cards.
- c Details of any subsequent change to the date, start time and venue of any League fixture must be updated on the YHA Website once the Away Team Fixture Secretary has agreed and confirmed the changes by email. The penalty for the breach of this Rule is £15 per infringement by the Home Club.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



6.10 POSTPONEMENTS

6.10.1 PRE-MATCH

- a Any team cancelling a match later than 21.00hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match will automatically be deducted 1 point.
- b If any Team cancels other than because of a pitch being unfit the team not defaulting may charge the defaulting club for any costs incurred. These may include pitch hire costs if this cannot be cancelled, and if short notice cancellation, phone calls, refreshments and/or transport costs.
- c The home team is empowered to postpone a match because of unfitness of its pitch.
- d In the event of a postponement due to an unfit pitch, the visiting team and Neutral Umpires (if appointed by YHUA) must be informed at least 3 hours before the agreed start time or by the away team and appointed umpire's departure time, whichever is earlier. Where conditions are marginal then both teams should discuss and agree whether it is worth the away team travelling.
- e The home team is responsible for updating the YHA Website with notification of the postponement and its cause. The YHA Website will generate an auto email notifying the Divisional Representative of the postponement.
- f Notification of Postponement of any match in Men's and Women's Premier or Divisions 1, 2 must also be sent to the YHA Web Manager by SMS text to 07936 515230 by 19.00 on the day of the match. Failure to do so will incur a £15 penalty for each infringement.
- g The postponed match must be rearranged within 7 days of the postponement on a date agreed by both sides. The rearranged date for the match must be a Sunday within 15 days of the postponement or the nearest midseason slip date. Non-compliance with this rule will result in a £15 fine for both clubs, unless prior agreement of the Divisional League Secretary has been sought. A shortage of players is not an excuse for not playing the match within the agreed timescales.
- h Amended or rearranged fixtures must be updated on the YHA Website which will automatically notify Divisional Representative of the revised details.
- i The penalty for a breach of any part of this Rule is £15 per infringement.

6.10.2 AT MATCH

- a Where both teams are at the ground and a dispute arises as to the fitness of the pitch, the responsibility for a decision shall rest with the Umpires after consultation with Ground Staff, if any.
- b Both Umpires must agree to proceed with the match; otherwise the match will be postponed.
- c After the commencement of a match, any question of abandonment will rest entirely with the Umpires.
- d Matches postponed, or abandoned before fifty minutes' play have taken place must be re-arranged as described in Rule 6.10.1g above.
- e If the home ground is deemed unfit on the day of the match, the venue may be changed by mutual agreement between the teams and umpires.
- f Should a match not be played on its appointed date for any reason other than an unfit pitch, the home club must submit a written or email report within 5 days of the event to the relevant Divisional Representative, copied to the opposition. (See Rule 6.5e)
- g The report must state the circumstances relating to the match not being played and if appropriate asking for the game to be awarded or where possible identifying an alternative date.
- h It is recommended that the away team also submit a report to the Divisional Representative and copy it to the opposition.

6.11 ABANDONMENTS

- a If a match is abandoned, the result shall stand in cases where the match has been in progress for more than 50 minutes.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



- b Any team not completing a match, unless abandoned by umpires for any reason will be deemed to have conceded the match. Rule 6.10.2f-g will apply.

6.12 REARRANGEMENT OF FIXTURES

- a Any rearrangements made during the season due to postponements should utilise allocated Saturday slip dates. Some slip dates after Christmas may be reserved for major weather cancellations and these should be avoided. These dates will be notified as soon as practical and any games arranged previously for these dates will need to be rearranged again.
- b If all slip dates are used up then Sunday or midweek matches will be necessary to meet the end of season cut-off date.
- c Any dispute regarding rearrangements should be notified by email or in writing to the Division Representative who will rule or refer disputes to the appropriate League Committee.
- d The penalty for a breach of any part of this Rule is £15 per infringement.

6.13 BREACH OF THE RULES

- a For a breach of any of the Rules the relevant League Committee will conduct an investigation and the Secretary or Divisional Representative shall inform the clubs of the findings within 7 days of a decision by email. If this needs referring to a meeting the clubs will be advised of the date of the meeting.
- b Any grievance against another club must be received by the relevant League Secretary within 14 days of the misdemeanour or it will be deemed to be out of time for the League to take action. Any such grievance should include all evidence in writing available from umpires, players, spectators. The Divisional Representative will obtain evidence in writing from the accused club. The League Secretary may well refer the situation to the League Committee, in that instance both clubs will be informed accordingly. The decision of the League Committee will be relayed to the clubs by email within 7 days of the League Committee's decision.
- c The League Committee may impose any or all of the following: -
 - i. issue a warning to the club as to its future conduct
 - ii. issue a warning to the club as to its future conduct and deduct one point
 - iii. impose a fine (the amount of which shall be determined by the League Committee up to a maximum of £75) and deduct one point
 - iv. direct that the match be played on a date determined by the Divisional Representative or,
 - v. award the match 3-0 or declare the match as a 0-0 draw
 - vi. deduct up to six points from the offending Club
 - vii. for repeated and/or serious breaches of Rule 1.3 AFFILIATED CLUBS, relegate or temporarily or permanently suspend the offending Club from the League.

7 PLAYERS

7.1 ELIGIBILITY

- a Each Club will submit to the League Secretary, Division Representatives and the YHA Website Manager no less than two weeks prior to the commencement of the League season a list of Registered Players (completing the Player Registration template provided), which will be a list of all players who are bona fide playing Members of their Club.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



- i. The League Secretary must be informed of any changes within two weeks of a new player first playing in a League match through resubmission of the complete updated spreadsheet.
- ii. University and college players must be clearly identified and the template must also include information on 1st XI starred players (See Rule 7.5).
- iii. Any changes to a Club's list of Registered Players during the season must be sent to the relevant League Secretary, Divisional Representatives and YHA Website Manager immediately by issuing a full updated Registered Players list highlighting any changes made. (See Rule 7.5)
- iv. Only Men should play in Men's League matches and Women in Women's League matches.

7.2 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- a Each Club must maintain their Player Registration spreadsheet and the League Secretary and the appropriate Divisional Representative must be informed of any changes within two weeks of a new player first playing in a League match through re-submission of the complete updated spreadsheet.
- b Every player must be given a unique number by the Club (Club Number) and it is recommended that the player should play in a shirt with that number where practical.
- c The information required for Player Registration is: Club Number; First Name; Last Name; Date of Birth; Starring, University and/or College player.
- d Penalty for non-compliance is £50 for initial list, £25 for updates.

7.3 PLAYER TRANSFER

- a In each season a player who has played league hockey for another Club will not play for a Yorkshire League Club unless the League Secretary receives evidence that a genuine change of Club has taken place.
- b This must include agreement of transfer from the player's previous Club.
- c A player cannot play for their new Club until a formal request in writing to join the new Club has been made to the relevant League Secretary and the relevant League Secretary has acknowledged the transfer request and informed the Club in writing of the earliest date the player may start playing for his/her new Club.
- d Normally this will be 10 days from the receipt of the request.
- e No player may transfer after 1 February unless there are special circumstances agreed in writing or email by the League Secretary.
- f Should a Club dissolve then all players will become free agents but may not play in a league / division below that normally played without written permission from the Divisional Representative.

7.4 PLAYING KIT

- a All players including goalkeepers must wear shirts each bearing a different number of at least 9" in height and contrasting in colour from that of the shirts.
- b 'Outline' shirt numbers that have a contrasting outline colour to the shirt colour(s) but containing a fill colour that is the same or similar to the shirt colour(s) are not to be used.
- c Numbers will be worn in the centre of the back of the shirt.
- d Goalkeepers shall wear a shirt of a different colour from both their Team and the opposition.
- e If, in the opinion of the Umpires, there is a clash of colours, the away Team shall change. All second named teams must carry an alternative strip.

7.5 TEAM SELECTION

- a All clubs must select teams on merit.
- b For every team above the Yorkshire League a club has, at least 4 days before the first league match, to select on merit eleven players (including a goalkeeper), these players must be must be starred. These players are then excluded from matches within the Yorkshire League (the notation for starring is *N).
- c For every team in the Yorkshire Premier League a club has, at least 4 days before the first league match, to select on merit eleven players (including a goalkeeper), these players must be must be starred. These players are then excluded from playing for a lower team (the notation for starring is *Y).

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



- d These starred players are excluded from playing for a lower team.
- e For Example if a club has:-
 - i. 1st team in the National League
 - ii. 2nd team in the North League
 - iii. 3rd team in the Yorkshire Premier League
 - iv. 3 further teams below the Yorkshire Premier League
- f In this example there should be 33 starred players, of which 22 are denoted as *N and 11 denoted as *Y. Those denoted as *N are ineligible to play in any team between the 3rd and 6th teams.
- g Those denoted as *Y are ineligible to play in any team between the 4th and 6th teams
- h The starred details are to be sent to the relevant Yorkshire League Secretary as part of the registration process.
- i Clubs are permitted to make a change to the relevant Yorkshire League Secretary before 20.00hrs on the Wednesday before the next match.
- j Reasons for the change must be given and the relevant Yorkshire League Secretary must approve the change by email before the de-starred player can play for the lower team.
- k Once a player, other than a goalkeeper, has been de-starred that player cannot be re-starred within 4 weeks of the date on which they were de-starred.
- l After the 1st of November Clubs are permitted to make a maximum of 5 individual changes to the list of 11 starred players.
- m The League will not tolerate abuses of the system.
- n All starred players are expected to be regularly available for selection.
- o The league should be informed of any problems and it must be notified if any player is to be unavailable for more than 3 weeks.
- p The movement of players will be strictly monitored.
- q The League shall have the power to change starred players, but, in doing so, must notify the clubs, by email of any such changes before 20.00hrs on the Monday before the next league match.
- r Additionally, after the end of January any player whose name has appeared on the match sheet in more than 75% of 1st team league matches cannot play for the club in a lower team league match unless permission has been obtained by email from the relevant Yorkshire League Secretary.
- s Within the last four scheduled games of the League season any Club must not play in any Team a player who has played 50% or more of their games for higher sides in the current season, unless in four of the last five matches they have played for that lower side.
- t The signing of a team sheet or match card will be deemed to be a true record.
- u Clubs with a first team in the National League and with a second team in Division 2 or higher must, for every National League game, send a copy of the first team sheet, signed by the Match Delegate, to the Yorkshire League Secretary by email or post by the following Monday.
- v A club unable to satisfactorily justify its selection or subsequent action shall be deemed to have played an ineligible player. Rule 6.13 will apply.
- w All of the above is independent of and in addition to any registration and starring requirements of the North and National Leagues

7.6 MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- a A Team must have seven players on the pitch before a match may start (this does not have to include a goalkeeper). Once the match has started there is no minimum number of players on a team for a match to continue.

7.7 REPRESENTATIVE HOCKEY

- a If any Team has more than two players selected for County or higher representative matches taking place on the same day as a league match the Team has the right to postpone and re-arrange a match, following the procedure set out in Rule 6.10.1g.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



- b For the purpose of this rule, National Schools Cup and Youth representative matches are regarded as a County or higher representative game.
- c Permission for postponement should be sought from the Divisional Representative and opposition notified with as much notice as possible (normally at least two weeks).

7.8 PLAYER SHORTAGE

- a In the event of a Team being short of players, other players will be promoted from successive lower Teams such that the Club's lowest Team is short.
- b Clubs cancelling a higher team and playing lower team game(s) will have 3 points deducted from the cancelling team as well as the game being awarded, rather than penalising all lower teams.
- c For a second or subsequent offence this penalty will be doubled and a fine of £25 levied.
- d Players must not play for a lower team as a result of this cancellation.
- e Up to two players per Club (not per team) may play for a higher side than usual as well as their normal side to cope with player shortages. Higher team players cannot play for a lower team.
- f This must be declared on both the higher and lower team Match Report Form before the start of the match.
- g This should be an occasional emergency, not a regular event.
- h The penalty for a breach of any part of this Rule is £15 per infringement.

7.9 PLAYING FOR DIFFERENT TEAMS

- a Team selection is expected to be consistent.
- b Players cannot play for lower sides than they usually play for.
- c The league will pay close attention especially where there is a rescheduled match or where a higher team has no fixture. This includes players playing in National or Regional Leagues.
- d A fixture may be postponed through a shortage of players under extreme circumstances only with the approval of the Divisional Representative.
- e Clubs can register a complaint against a player(s) from a higher team playing in a lower match. This can be made on the day if appropriate. A Delegate, Neutral Umpire or Club Umpire can be informed of the protest. The Umpires cannot take action at this point unless the offending team agrees to withdraw the player(s).
- f Complaints must be confirmed by email or in writing within 5 days of the match to the relevant Division Representative and the League Secretary, and copied to the opponents, after which League Committee will investigate and rule accordingly.
- g Complaints not confirmed by email or in writing to the Divisional Representative and the League Secretary within 5 days of the match will not be admissible.

8 DISCIPLINE

8.1 CUMULATIVE YELLOW CARDS

- a Players shall be subject to incremental match suspensions for yellow cards an individual accrues through out the season. Each YHA League Representative will keep a record of yellow cards recorded on match sheets ;however the responsibility for applying such suspensions will rest with the player's club. The player's club is required to inform the YHA League Representative by email that the suspension has been carried out.

The following suspensions shall apply to each individual:-

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



- i. 4 yellow cards in one season = 1 match suspension
 - ii. 2 further yellow cards in the same season = 1 further match suspension
 - iii. 2 further yellow cards in the same season = 1 further match suspension
 - iv. For each further yellow card thereafter in the same season = 1 further match suspension
- b Any match suspension imposed as a consequence of this regulation shall apply in the next YHA League match following the match in which the qualifying yellow card was issued regardless of which team the player is selected to play in.
- c In the event a player is issued a red card subsequent to receiving a yellow card(s) in the same match, the yellow card(s) shall not be counted for the purposes of rule 8b & 8c.
- d The failure by any club to suspend a player under this rule will be treated as playing an ineligible player and three points will be deducted together with any other penalty that the League Committee deems appropriate.
- e Should a player suspended under this rule play for any other team in the YHA League whilst suspended they will receive an additional 1 match suspension to be added at the end of the current suspension period together with any other penalty the League Committee deems appropriate.
- f The League divests control of disciplinary matters covered by the EH Disciplinary Code to the Disciplinary Committee of the YHA
- g The YHA Pitchside Code of Conduct set out in Note 4 must be followed at all League matches.
- h Contravention of the YHA Pitchside Code of Conduct should be included in any report. Umpires should advise the Secretary of any abuse of this code.
- i e ALL red cards and MMOs must be sent by email only to the Disciplinary Officer

9 RESULT REPORTING

9.1 MATCH REPORT FORMS

9.1.1 PRE-MATCH

- a All Teams are responsible for completing in full the League Match Report Form. These are available for download from the YHA Website.
- b The Home and Away parts of the Match Report Form must be completed by both teams in each match with the names and numbers of players including substitutes.
- c Matches must not commence until the forms have been completed and handed to the Umpires before the start of the match.
- d Any player who is playing more than one match as allowed in Rule 7.8e must be declared on the form.
- e The penalty for a breach of this Rule is £15 per infringement.

9.1.2 POST MATCH

- a Immediately after the match the Home and Away Team Captains will fully complete the Match Report Form including goal scorers and the Club Number of each player to whom a green / yellow and/or red disciplinary card has been given.
- b The Umpires should add their EH Level 1 Assessed Number (if appropriate) and comments to the form before signing it.
- c Once goal scorers and cards have been recorded and the Umpires have signed the Match Report Form, both Home and Away Team Captains must sign the Match Report Form to confirm the information on the form as a true record of what happened in the match.
- d The Home Team representative must scan (or photograph) and email the Match Report Forms to the relevant Divisional Representatives within two days of the match. Some Divisional Representatives may require you to send the Match Report Forms by post. Your Divisional Representative will inform you if the MRF should be sent by post and arrive no later than the Wednesday following any match.
- e The Home Team must retain copies of any Match Report Forms whether sent by email or posted to Divisional Representatives and must produce them on demand when requested by any League Officer.
- f The penalty for a breach of this Rule is £15 per infringement for clauses (a) to (c) and £25 for clause (d)

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



9.2 YHA WEBSITE

9.2.1 MATCH RESULTS: PREMIER DIVISION, DIVISION 1 & 2

- a The results of matches in Men's and Women's Premier Division and Divisions 1 and 2 must be input directly into the YHA Website by the Home Team Captain or other nominated Club representative by 1900hrs on the day of the match. In extreme circumstance results can be by text to 07936 515230 (also by 1900hrs on the day of the match), this is not to be used as the primary means of notifying results.
- b The penalty for a breach of this Rule is £15 per infringement.

9.2.2 MATCH RESULTS: DIVISIONS 3 AND DOWNWARDS

- a The results of all other league matches in YHA Men's and Women's Division 3 and downwards played in a weekend must be input directly to the YHA Website by the Home Teams' nominated Club representative by 19.00hrs on the Sunday of the weekend that matches are played.
- b Your Club YHA Website Administrator can advise you of your club username and password to access the YHA Website and how to input League results.
- c If problems are experienced inputting results directly to the YHA Website, please send your results by SMS text 07936 515230 before 19.00hrs on a Sunday and inform the YHA Web Manager of the problem.
- d The penalty for a breach of this Rule is £15 per infringement.

10 FEES, FINES & APPEALS

10.1 NOTIFICATION OF FINES

- a Fees or fines imposed on any Club must be paid within 14 days of notification to the Club concerned. Divisional Representatives should notify (by email) the following officials of any fines issued together with reasons:-
 - i. The YHA Treasurer,
 - ii. The League Committee Chairman
 - iii. The League Committee Secretary
 - iv. The Captain of the non-compliant team
 - v. The Treasurer of the non-compliant Club
- b If payment is not received within 14 days of notification an additional fine of an amount up to double the original fine may be levied.
- c Failure to comply with clause (b) above then the Yorkshire Treasurer will collect all unpaid fines with the following season's YHA Club Affiliation Fees and the fine will be doubled.
- d Failure to pay fines can result in expulsion of the Club from the League or a lesser penalty as decided by the relevant YHA League Committee.
- e Fines must be paid to the YHA Treasurer whose contact details can be found on the fine notification documentation and in the YHA Handbook. Affiliated clubs are to ensure that all their team captains are aware of the YHA Treasurer's details.

10.2 APPEALS

- a Clubs shall have the Right of Appeal to the YHACC against a decision of a League Committee.
- b Such appeals, together with a deposit of £50 (returnable if the appeal is upheld) must be sent in writing or emailed to the Chair of the YHACC within 14 days of the notification of the decision by the League Committee.
- c An Appeals Committee to hear any competitions-based appeals will consist of the YHACC Chair plus a minimum of two others from the YHA President, Deputy President, Vice Presidents or Past Presidents.
- d The panel will not normally be of the same gender.
- e The decision of this Appeals Committee will be final and binding on all parties.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



11 LEAGUE AUTHORITY

- a Each Club, by its entry into any of the YHA Leagues, shall be deemed to have given its consent to the Rules of the League and to any amendments which may from time to time be adopted in proper form, and shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decision of the Committee of the relevant League and any penalty or sanction it may from time to time see fit to impose. (Subject to the Right of Appeal)

NOTES

NOTE 1: EXTRA PROMOTION/RELEGATION

- a Where Teams are promoted to or relegated from higher Divisions then any gaps will be filled or surpluses removed by additional promotion or relegation in the affected Division.
- b Final details may not be known until after any play offs at National or Regional level but Clubs will be kept informed through regular updates on the YHA website of potential additional promotion and relegation.

NOTE 2: CODE OF PITCHSIDE CONDUCT

- a It is the responsibility of all clubs to ensure that good manner and courtesy prevails towards the opposition, umpires and other officials before, during and after the game.
- b Once the pitch is available, the Home Captain shall assume authority for the pitch and its surrounding area.
- c Clubs are advised to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover and that they are aware of local health and safety regulations regarding the pitch and facilities.

Captains should:

- a Agree with the umpires the location of managers, coaches, substitutes and suspended players during their suspension and from where substitutions will take place. Teams are allowed a maximum of twenty people. This includes sixteen players per game, a manager, coach, physio plus a medically qualified doctor. Team Captains must let the umpires know of which, if any, team officials they have on the bench.
- b Satisfy themselves and the umpires as to the quality and safety of the pitch and its facilities and ensure that other pitch side furniture is removed to its safest location.
- c Check the availability and location of an emergency telephone and first aid.
- d Agree the location and allowed proximity of spectators.
- e Ensure that substitutes should warm up in clothing in a colour other than the participating teams in the agreed area of the pitch side.
- f Ensure that coaches and managers remain in their designated area.
- g Ensure that vocal communication by team officials and players on the bench is not, in any way, directed at the umpires or players of the opposing team. Failure to do so could result penalties (such as points deduction, fines) being imposed on the club, its officials or the players concerned.
- h Ensure that players not taking part in the game, or those in subsequent or previous matches, do not knock up or cool down on or near the pitch whilst the match is in progress.
- i Ensure that post match inquests are held away from the pitch.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



- j Spectators should be advised, if necessary, of matters relating to their conduct, especially insofar as this affects the game in progress. Spectators should be kept away from the bench areas at all times and, where possible, should watch from the opposite side of the pitch. The onus is on the home club to take responsibility for spectators and their behaviour. Failure to do so could result penalties (such as points deduction, fines) being imposed on the club, its officials or the players concerned.
- k Ensure that small children are not allowed to wander freely around the perimeter of the pitch whilst a game is in progress. Children should remain under the control of their parent/guardian at all times.
- l Ensure that babies in push chairs are not left parked on the side of the pitch.
- m Captains, coaches and managers should be responsible for their own conduct and the conduct of their players at all times. Failure to do so could result penalties (such as points deduction, fines or player suspensions) being imposed on the club, its officials or the players concerned.
- n Contravention of these Guidance Notes should be included in any match report and umpires are urged to report any abuse of them to League officials.

NOTE 3: LEAGUE OFFICERS' CONTACT DETAILS

- a League Officers' contact details can be found in the YHA Handbook and are downloadable with Match Report Forms from www.yorkshireha.org.uk.
- b Any changes to League Officers' contact details will be notified to all Club Secretaries and Fixture Secretaries by email and updated on the YHA Website Match Result Form download.

NOTE 4: CHANGE OF STRIP

- a In the event of a colour clash the away team is expected to change and use their alternative colour shirts and socks.
- b Confirmation of colours must be made when the match is confirmed to ensure that no colour clash occurs.
- c The home team should notify team colours for both Home and Away Teams to Neutral Umpires (if appointed) when confirming match details with the Neutral Umpires.
- d Please ensure that any change of strip you use does not contain colours that may clash with your opponent's colours. Trends in shirt design in particular has led to manufacturers (and Clubs) using part of their first choice colours in their change strip. For example: usual kit red shirt with broad white stripe down the side: Change strip: white with broad red stripe down side. (This has occurred and it was obvious that the combination of red and white in both team's shirts meant that the colours still clashed.)
- e Clubs are urged to use a single-colour change strip rather than a mixture that includes part of their usual colours.
- f In the event of a colour clash the away team is expected to change. Teams that fail to observe this requirement or use an away strip with colours that still clash may be penalised £15. Captains of individual teams are urged to check their opponents club colours prior to matches.

NOTE 5: APPOINTED (NEUTRAL) UMPIRES

- a Notification of appointment of Neutral Umpires is now done through the YHUA Website and will no longer be done by email. Go to www.northhua.org then select Yorkshire Hockey Umpires Association from the LINKS menu, the RESULTS/FIXTURES/APPOINTMENTS then make a selection from the FIXTURES & APPOINTMENTS MENU (Note: to see North Div 2 East & Yorkshire Premier Div appointments only use the AREAS TO BE INCLUDED option and select MATCHES APPOINTED BY YORKSHIRE HOCKEY UMPIRING ASSOCIATION ONLY.)
- b Clubs must check the YHUA Website to find out who their appointed umpires are. Contact details for umpires can also be obtained the YHUA Website. For YHUA Umpire Contact Details go to THE ASSOCIATION option and select CONTACT LISTS.
- c Clubs in the Yorkshire Men's Premier Division are expected to register with the YHUA Website to update match date, start time and event information. Failure to keep match information up to date will lead to withdrawal of appointed umpires for matches concerned.
- d Yorkshire Men's League Premier Division clubs will still need to keep match information accurate and up to date on the YHA Website. There is no link between match information on the YHA Website and YHUA Website.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



NOTE 6: COMMUNICATION

- a No communication on League business shall take place with any of the League Officials after 22.00 and must be by text or email unless specifically agreed to by the relevant Official prior to that need.

NOTE 7: GUIDELINES THAT CAN BE ADOPTED BY TEAMS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE MEN'S LEAGUE TO HELP WITH PLAYER SHORTAGE

- a The existing League Rules will apply except where detailed below.
- b The following would only apply to teams in Division 5 N, 5 SW & 5 SE who wish to adopt these guidelines.
- c Clubs' who adopt these guidelines will become "Supported Teams" and they will be allowed some doubling up of players and player selection from the team immediately above them or if agreed the team including and below Division 2. It is important that such players are previously identified and should not be used if a team can be raised from the normal playing squad.
- d Players selected from the higher team will be classed as "Bulleled Players" There should be no more than 8 players "Bulleled" in the club's next highest team squad and only 4 of these players will be allowed to double up or play lower down on one day. They should only be used when the lower team is short and must be identified on the team sheet and to the Divisional Rep.
- e "Bulleled Players" should be encouraged to play in the positions that are vacated by missing players. It is important that when selecting "Bulleled Players" the current League the higher team is playing in is taken into account. Some clubs have two or three teams in Division 6 and some have only one. Clarification on who can be bulleted can be obtained from The Divisional Rep.
- f The use of "Bulleled Players" is to avoid the selection of the bottom team from a big pool and to restrict the use of players from higher teams who may just be free that week. Obviously injuries, long term illness or long holidays may mean some players could not be used and the "Bulleled players" list can be amended every 4 weeks but only with the agreement of the Divisional Rep. Players deleted from the list will not be allowed back for 4 weeks.
- g Please note that any team that agrees to use "Bulleled Players" will be classed as a "Supported Team" and will not be eligible for promotion that season
- h Teams who wish to become "Supported Teams" must register with the Divisional Rep. for Division 5 SW & 5 SE. The form printed below can be used for this purpose.
- i If teams have 7 players then they should still play the game and, if the opponents agree, can borrow similar standard players from the opposition.
- j Teams that have 6 or less players available and decide not to play the game will be automatically deducted 1 point for failing to fulfil the fixture and the game awarded to the non-offending team. They may be offered the chance to re-arrange the match and the two teams must make every effort to re-arrange the fixture within 2 weeks and play it as soon as possible but within 6 weeks. If this is not done then the Divisional Rep will award the match at their discretion. Please note that if the Divisional Rep feels that there has been lack of effort by the non-offending team to re-arrange they will be able to act accordingly.
- k "Supported Teams" must send in a Register of players identifying which squads they will be playing in and particularly those players that will be "Bulleled".
- l Where a maximum of 2 bulleted players are used then the result will stand. If more than 2 bulleted players used then the game will be awarded to the non-offending team. The original intention was to let the results of matches to stand and be counted in the league. I think this is fine as long as "Supported Teams" do not abuse the principals of team selection being appropriate for the standard of the team.
- m The above guidelines will rely on "Supported Teams" honouring the relaxing of the rules and will mean more work for Divisional Rep but hopefully less cancelled games and more hockey. Please support us in this effort and let's make it work.

Name of Club wishing to register a team as a "Supported Team".....	Supported Team	Date Registered
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YORKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

(No changes from 2017-18)



Revised Registration List to be issued to the League confirming the squads that players will be expected to play in.		Date of issue
Detailed list of players in the bottom teams and those players in higher teams that are "Bulleled" to allow them to play lower down.		Date issued to Divisional Rep

- "Supported Teams" will not be eligible for promotion.
- Match sheets should identify "Bulleled Players" from a higher team.
- Clubs that use these Guidelines to take an unfair advantage will be sanctioned.
- Supported teams must only use "Bulleled Players" when they are short. Where the team has more than 11 regular players then "Bulleled Players" should not be used.
- We would suggest that no more than 13 players should be selected in a "Supported Team" and any substitutes must be "Bulleled Players". If no "Bulleled Players" involved, then normal rules will apply.