

## **1. THE LEAGUE**

The Greater Manchester Women's Hockey League known as "the League" shall be managed by the GMWHL Executive Committee.

The league competition shall be conducted under the rules and regulations of England Hockey

All communications should be directed to and conducted by the General Secretary except those relating to:

- a) Rearrangements to be addressed to the Club rep AND fixtures secretary BEFORE a final agreement with the opposition. The match can NOT go ahead without committee approval.
- b) umpiring and associated disciplinary matters - to be addressed to the Umpire Secretary

## **2. MANAGEMENT**

In May 2014 GMHA(W) merged with the Lancashire Hockey Association (LHA). The assets and liabilities of the GMHA(W) are the responsibility of the Greater Manchester Women's Section of the Lancashire Hockey Association. The League shall be managed by a League meeting of the Officers of the Association and duly accredited representatives of the Clubs forming the Association.

## **3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The clubs shall; at the Annual General Meeting, elect a President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, Umpires Secretary, and Club Representatives. This shall form the Executive Committee which shall meet prior to each league meeting. The Executive shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional members. All decisions relating to the conduct of the Association in respect of fines and disciplinary matters shall be final.

Five members shall form a quorum.

Any member of the Executive Committee:-

- a) shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election;
- b) shall not hold more than one position;
- c) being eligible for re-election, but not wishing to stand should inform the General Secretary at or before the monthly meeting preceding the AGM.

## **4. MEETINGS**

The Executive Committee shall meet on a regular basis. Correspondence for discussion at Executive meetings should be directed to the General Secretary.

**League meetings.** At these meetings each club will have one vote. Any club failing to be represented at the meeting shall be fined £5.00 and failure to attend any subsequent meeting shall incur a fine of £10.00. The AGM of the GMWHL shall be held in MAY each year. The date of the AGM shall be fixed and all clubs notified by the end of March. A copy of the agenda to be received by all clubs 14 days before the date of the AGM.

No addition or alteration to the Constitution can be made except at the AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Nominations and alterations to the Constitution shall be:-

- a) proposed by one club and seconded by another club and received in writing by the General Secretary 28 days before the AGM.
- b) proposed by the Executive.

Any member of a club in the Association may attend any League Meeting, AGM or EGM. Each club attending will be allowed one vote.

**LEAGUE RULES** - No new rules shall be made or any rule altered except at the AGM or EGM. Details of how to make proposals are detailed above.

## **5. ARRANGEMENTS**

Fixtures meeting to be held before the end of July of each year, the date to be announced at or before the AGM

Fixtures agreed at this meeting to be published on Fixtures Live. Beyond this meeting changes can not be made without the express permission of the Executive committee as detailed in later sections

The minimum notice for a team to provide the opposition with the details of the time and venue of a fixture is 10 days. If either the time or the venue is changed with less than 10 days notice then the team must seek the permission of both the Fixtures Secretary and the opposing team.

If a team has already entered a fixture time and/or venue on the fixtures live website but then needs to alter this in advance of 10 days notice, then they must contact the opposition's captain (email/text/phone) to ensure they know of the alteration. Reliance must not be placed on messages through Fixtures Live.

**All intra-club matches must be played before the end of January.**

## **6. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

All clubs playing in the GMWHL must be affiliated to The North Association and to England Hockey.

All clubs are to submit a completed registration form as detailed below.

**Failure to comply with these conditions will result in the club not being entered.**

League Registration Fees are payable and will be invoiced during the first half of the year. Clubs will be invoiced for county affiliation separately, through the respective counties.

Player registrations shall be £2.00 seniors / £1.00 under 18s.

## **7. REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

Only a bona fida member of a league club shall be entitled to be registered to play in league and cup matches for that club, and shall be 13 years or older by the date of their first match..

All players must be registered with the Club Representative, using the designated registration form, **before** the first league match played by their club.

Failure to submit the registration form prior to the first match will mean all players are unregistered and the relevant penalties will be applied. A team responsible for playing unregistered players, shall have 3 points deducted and the Club shall be fined £25.00.

During the season, any new player must be registered with the Club Representative by sending both a text message before the match and marking "N" by their name on the match sheet of their first match. New registrations should also be confirmed with the Club Representative by sending an updated registration form within 1 week of the match. New registrations can not take place beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> February except in cases where a junior player turns 13 beyond this date and then become eligible to play.

For any club, the highest team that is registered into GMWHL must nominate 12 players plus a "full time" goal keeper. All other teams, below this must nominate 10 outfield players and a "full time" goalkeeper. Players that sit in between teams (intermediate) shall be considered as members of higher team (but not starred). Teams may play no more than 3 players from this list in the team below, with no more than 2 of these players being starred. ie a team may play two starred players plus one extra from the intermediate list OR 3 players from this intermediate list.

Teams playing ineligible players (ie. more than two starred player's or 3 intermediate players in a team below) shall have a 3 point deduction and the club shall be fined £25. In addition, the opposition can either choose to replay the match or keep the original score.

All clubs must resubmit their player registration prior to the first game for a club after the Christmas break, this should include the re starring of all players and any player playing more than 75% for a team should be starred to that team.

The Executive committee will look at requests to change nominations on grounds of injury, limited availability or other sound reasons. The request must be made in writing to the Club Representative and Fixtures Secretary for discussion with committee.

A starred outfield player will not be deemed to be a 'star' when playing in goal for the next lowest team. A starred goalkeeper will not be deemed to be a star when playing outfield for the next lowest team. **No player may drop more than one team for any single match.**

Any Player playing for more than one club affiliated to an England Hockey League (or other National Hockey Body) without transfer will be considered an ineligible player. The Individual player will receive a minimum of a 3-match ban, and the offending team deducted 3 points for each occasion. The penalty for any other offence not covered by the above rules is at the Executive committee's discretion.

Pregnancy: Players are expected to follow England Hockey Guidance regarding playing while pregnant, and must inform the league if they continue to play after 12 weeks of pregnancy.

## **8. TRANSFERS**

A Club registering the transfer of a player from any other Club affiliated to a NGB must submit a transfer request confirming that a genuine change of Club has taken place, including agreement from the player's previous Club, who must if appropriate have deregistered the player and ensured there are no monies owing by that player. This request must be made to the Club Representative AND the fixtures secretary, with at least 5 days notice prior to their first match. The Fixtures Secretary and/or Club Representative will inform the Club of the date from which the player may play in the League. If the Club has a higher team playing in another league then the Club must also have satisfied the rules of that League relating to player transfer. Transfer requests must be lodged with the Fixtures Secretary by 1st February, within each season. The Committee shall have the power to grant a transfer request after 1st February if the request is the result of a move of abode of the player concerned. There will be a three point penalty for any breach of Rule 8.

## **9. CHANGE OF CLUB DETAILS**

Clubs must notify the Executive committee and other affected clubs of any changes to the details of club officials during the season.

If a club plays its HOME matches at an address different from those given in the handbook, they must ensure that all addresses are supplied to the executive committee and the other clubs affected.

## **10. COUNTY HOCKEY**

Representative teams shall be chosen by a selection committee as nominated by the executive committee.

The Association's representatives in the Lancashire cup Winners Cup, shall be the winners of the Divisional 1 Cup competition. Should this team become unavailable then the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team may be entered.

## **11. SCORING SYSTEM**

The points to govern the competition shall be: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss. In the event of equality of points at the end of the season, places shall be determined by consideration of the following, in order:

1. Goal difference.
2. Highest number of goals for.

3. Result of the game between the teams concerned.

4. A play off between 2 or more teams

If more than 2 teams are involved in the play off competition a draw will be made for the order of play.

## **12. PENALTY STROKE COMPETITION**

In the event of a tie at the end of normal time, Cup competitions will be decided by Penalty Stroke Competition and follow the same regulations as the England Hockey cup competitions.

## **13. PROMOTION & RELEGATION**

The number of teams relegated from each division may vary each season depending on the numbers of teams entering, or withdrawing from the league.

### **Division 1:**

The promotion of teams in Division One will be as per the current rules issued by the North Hockey League

### **All other divisions:**

The winners and runners-up of each division within the league shall, without option, be promoted.

## **14. POSTPONEMENTS**

**Any team wishing to change any match after the confirmation meeting must contact the Club Representative AND the Fixtures Secretary.**

If a club requests to rearrange a fixture less than 5 days before the fixture then this will be considered as a Failure to Honour Fixture (section 20). Requests will be considered by the Executive committee and if agreement is reached to postpone, the rules for section 16, Rearrangements of a match, would now apply as to how a team rearranges the agreed postponed fixture.

Repeated requests will be subject to a penalties applied in Rule 20.

No Association fixture, involving teams with county players, should be scheduled or re-arranged for 2 days prior to **County Championship Weekend, 2nd XI County Tournament or U21 County Competitions.**

If there is any likelihood of postponement due to weather conditions on the day of the match, the home team must contact the visiting team the day before to initiate a discussion. A pitch inspection on the day must be carried out as early as sites will allow. Ideally at least 2 hours prior to the start time. If no attempt has been made to contact the opposition, the defaulting team shall be liable to expenses incurred.

## **15. ABANDONMENTS**

In the rare event of a game having to be abandoned as a result of a serious injury to a player or in the event of adverse weather conditions, the HOME team must notify the Club Representative and Fixtures Secretary ON THE DAY OF THE MATCH. A report must be submitted by the umpires regarding the abandonment to the Club Representative/Fixtures secretary.

The Executive Committee shall decide on the action to be taken. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture depending on the circumstances of the abandonment. In the event of a replay of an abandoned match the new match will be organised as per the rules for rearrangement below.

## **16. REARRANGMENTS**

**Fixtures may only be re-arranged without penalty with the permission of the Executive Committee under the following circumstances:**

- i) on the day: pitch unfit for play
- ii) extreme weather conditions on the day

- iii) at least 7 days' notice to be given if two or more players represent their County, North, England (including schoolgirl level) or are required to attend a Performance Centre in a playing or official capacity on the day of the league fixture.
- iv) at least 7 days' notice to be given if a team, including a school team where two or more players are playing for their school and are bona fide members of the club, reaches the finals of a North of All England indoor or outdoor competition held on the same day as the league fixture.
- v) at least 7 days' notice to be given if a college team is to play on a scheduled league date which is out of term time.
- vi) other exceptional circumstances on which the Executive committee will make a decision.

In the event of a match being rearranged, postponed or a failure to honour, the following conditions must be followed:

- i) home team must offer opposition a choice of **two** dates when the opposition do not have a game.
- ii) the new fixtures must be agreed (but not played) within 7 days of the original match day.
- iii) **games scheduled for the first half of the league must be rearranged prior to the Christmas break.**

If the rules for rearrangements are not adhered to, then the team which does not communicate during the rearrangement will be penalised 1 point.

**If a match is not played on the due date, and the rules in section 14, 16 or 20 are not adhered to then the Executive Committee have the authority to award the team which does not default a 3-0 victory.**

## **17. PLAYING SURFACES**

League fixtures must be played on a synthetic turf pitch (2G) in accordance with England Hockey Rules, arranged by the first named team with full sized goal posts with regulation nets and backboards and clear markings of all perimeters and circles.

If either captain considers that due to the state of the pitch or the markings the match cannot be played they must bring this to the attention of both umpires and the opposing captain before the game commences.

The umpires may postpone the match if the pitch is not of such a standard as to allow the game to be played as a league game. **The final decision rests with the umpires.**

## **18. TIME**

The duration of a match should be two periods of 35 minutes maximum and a minimum of 50 minutes in total.

Matches which, on the decision of the umpire, have to be curtailed to less than 50 minutes duration, shall be replayed.

Umpires are responsible for the punctuality of the game and should report any delays.

The league matches must NOT start before 10.30am or after 4pm (3.30pm on a Sunday) unless mutually agreed by both teams.

## **19. TEAM SHEETS/RESULTS**

The home team will provide an official team sheet. Match sheets must be completed fully and include players' full details (i.e. first name and surname). Any sheet received with missing information (including team names, type of competition, scorers and umpire details) will incur a fine of £5 for the offending team. Both teams must complete this and lodge it with the umpire **prior** to the start of the game. If a player's name is not on the team sheet, she is classed as an ineligible player. Umpires are to complete team sheet,

print their name clearly and their Umpire Registration Number clearly before handing it back to the home team. If a team crosses out a name on the match sheet, then this should be initialled by both umpires to confirm the crossing out occurred before the match sheet was signed by both umpires. All cards issued by umpires must be entered in the section provided on the match sheet.

**‘Player of the Day’ awards should not be given to any players who are playing for a team lower than their assigned team – ie starred players and intermediate players.**

Both teams must send the team sheet to their Club Representative, via text message, email or post. Postmark must be within 2 days of the match. **West Pennine and North Hockey League teams must provide a photo or scanned copy of their match sheets to the Club Rep so squads can be monitored.** Defaulting clubs to be fined £5 on each occasion, such fines to be the responsibility of the Club Representative.

On the day of the match results are to be entered via the Fixtures Live link (as per instructions) by 7pm on the day of the match. Should there be an issue with access to Fixtures Live, results may be sent by text message (to include full details of team, Division etc) or phoned to the Fixtures Secretary for updating the league website. Defaulting teams shall be fined £5 on each occasion. **THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOME TEAM.**

## **20. FAILURE TO HONOUR A FIXTURE**

If a team wishes to concede a game then they must obtain permission from the Executive committee **before** informing the opposition. If a club has no option but to fail to honour a game, then they must concede the lowest placed, competitive team in their club that is scheduled to play on that date.

If a club fails to honour a fixture or forfeits a game the offending team will be deducted 3 points and a replay arranged. The rules for rearranging a fixture are in section 16 - Rearrangements.

The offending team shall meet any reasonable expenses incurred by their opponents including pitch costs. In addition, a fine for £10.00 for the first offence and then £40.00 for any subsequent offences will be imposed by the GMWHL.

Note: Any club failing to honour fixtures three times in any one season could be relegated following an Executive decision.

In the event of a team withdrawing from the league BEFORE completing all their fixtures, then all the fixtures and results for that team will be declared NULL and VOID and will not count in any league table.

## **21. LATE ARRIVALS**

For all matches the following penalties will apply:

a) a team not ready to play 15 MINUTES after the agreed start time shall CONCEDE 1 goal.

The teams will play the remainder of the time left in the first half and all of the second half.

This needs to be claimed prior to the start of the match and cannot be altered after the match commences.

b) A team not ready to play after the designated half time, or who fails to turn up at all, shall concede the match. This will be deemed as Failure to Honour and Rule 20 applies.

c) the offending team will receive a 3 point deduction d) The late team will be liable to pay any additional pitch hire costs incurred.

**To start a match, the minimum number of players shall be 8**

## **22. UMPIRING**

All matches to be controlled for the full match by two non-playing umpires: one to be provided for each team. Any match played in contravention of this rule shall be declared null and void. Each team shall be

responsible for paying their nominated umpire a minimum fee of £15. If, on their arrival at a venue, the match is unable to take place, **both teams are still required to pay the umpires fees.**

Umpires shall not liaise with the players of either team at half time.

Should an umpire be unable to continue due to illness/injury, then the game shall cease unless the other umpire and both captains can agree a replacement. If the game ceases, the Executive committee shall adjudicate.

All umpiring decisions shall be final.

Division 1 and 2 matches must be umpired by a level one umpire (except where the umpire is being assessed on that day for the level 1 practical exam). Unqualified umpires who have completed the online theory course may umpire Division 4 matches. Unassessed "club" umpires who have completed the online course, and classroom based course, can umpire Division 3 and Division 4 matches.

If a team cannot provide a qualified umpire, they must inform the opposition **and** the league's Umpire Secretary **at least 24 hours** before the match. The opposition will have the option to request that the game be re-arranged, but must make this decision 20 hours before the game. The offending team will still have the relevant penalty applied for failing to provide a qualified umpire, and they will have to pay any additional costs for pitch hire if the game is re-arranged.

If a team in divisions 1, 2 or 3 does not provide an appropriately qualified umpire (as detailed above) for a league match it will have 1 point deducted for the first occasion, 2 points deducted for the second occasion and 3 points deducted for all subsequent occasions in the same season.

The Club Representative should inform teams of any infringements of this rule within 14 days of the relevant offence, in order for the relevant fine to apply. For each match the opposition will have the option to replay the match or allow the score to stand.

If a team turn up on match day without an appropriately qualified umpire, the match can not go ahead. The offending team will be liable for pitch costs and the oppositions umpire fee.

**It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure their umpires are suitably qualified.**

### **23. APPEALS & DISPUTES**

In the event of a dispute, which may arise in connection with these regulations or other matters relating to the league, the GMWHL Executive committee shall determine the action to be taken.

Clubs have the right to appeal against a decision of the League Committee to the LHA Executive Committee, and to the North Council whose decision shall be final. Any appeal must be made in writing within seven days of the original decision being made and be directed to the Secretary. A non-refundable deposit of £100, shall accompany any appeal. (This is not refunded even if you win your appeal).

### **24. CUP COMPETITION RULES**

The GMWHL offers for competition individual Divisional Cups, and All Divisional Cup and All Divisional Plate. Such trophies however, will not become the absolute property of any one club.

#### **All Divisions Match Rules**

The All Divisions Cup is open to all GMWHL teams from all the divisions. Losers of round one of the Cup will automatically be entered into the plate competition. Division 1 teams can only enter the All Divisions Cup after round one. Any team that concedes a game in the All Divisional Cup Competition will not be eligible for the Plate Competition and a fine of £25 will also be incurred

### **DIVISIONAL CUPS TOURNAMENT**

The Divisional Cups may be run as a tournament or as a knockout competition throughout the season depending on number of entries. This will be agreed at the Fixtures Meeting.

### **DATES**

Matches to be played **on or before** the stated weekend (see [www.fixtureslive.com](http://www.fixtureslive.com)). A match may be brought forward a week if both teams are in agreement, with permission from the Fixtures Secretary but it must NOT be delayed beyond the given date. The home team may choose to play on either the Saturday or the Sunday of the given weekend, depending on their usual home game arrangements but must communicate this with their opposition as per Section 5 (Arrangements).

The Finals may not be rearranged without Executive Committee Approval.

No league matches are to be played on All Divisions Cup and Plate Finals Day except with the express permission of the Fixtures Secretary but the cup will take precedence.

## **PITCHES**

The Executive committee shall provide the pitches for the Divisional Cup tournament days or finals, All Divisional Cup and Plate Finals.

The home team shall organise the pitch for all other matches. The cost of the pitch for each round, **except where provided by GMWHL**, shall be shared. All rounds are to consist of two halves of 35 minutes.

## **UMPIRES**

All umpires must be Level 1/2/3 (fully assessed). If a team uses an unassessed/unqualified umpire, other than for a Level 1 assessment game, then the game will be awarded to the opposition regardless of the result.

The umpires for the Divisional Cup Tournament days or finals, All Divisional Cup and Plate finals will be arranged by and costs paid for by the Association. The umpires shall be neutral, i.e. have no connection with either team.

## **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

All players should be registered as per the league rules.

In all Cup/Plate competitions a player shall be cup tied to the same team for which she first took the field of play for whatever period of time. Special permission may be granted by the Match Sub-committee for a player to play for a higher, but never a lower team than that to which she is cup-tied. In any case, where the reason given for seeking permission is illness/injury, documentary evidence will have to be produced. The same registration of players and Starring made in section 7 shall be used and applied to cup competitions. Where only two players, at any one time, may be selected for the team immediately below that to which they are nominated and in any subsequent team; such players must be starred on the team sheet. A breach of this rule will be considered playing an ineligible player.

A team responsible for playing an ineligible player in a cup competition shall forfeit the match and the club shall be fined £25.00.

## **RESULTS**

If at the end of that time the result is a draw, there is to be a penalty stroke competition as per England Hockey regulations. Scoring is as per the league rules.

The result of each match shall be submitted to the Fixtures Secretary, on the day of the match.

If teams are from different divisions, for every division difference the lower team gets one goal (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> division team with 3rd division team: the 3rd division team gets two goals.)

## **FEES**

Team entrance fees for the All Divisional Cup/Plate and Divisional Cup competition will be determined prior to the start of the season taking into consideration number of entries and format.

## **25. TROPHIES**



A set of 14 awards to be presented to the Champions and Runners-up in each division along with the trophies for the Divisional Cup, All Divisions Cup and All Divisions Plate competitions.

Each Trophy **MUST BE RETURNED** by hand or registered post to the League Secretary or President **at least one month before the presentation evening.**

**An invoice will be raised against a club who does not return a trophy in order that a replacement can be purchased.**

## **26. PRESENTATION EVENING**

All clubs must send at least 2 players to the AGM/Presentation Evening.

## **27. NON-COMPETITIVE TEAMS**

The team must have a minimum of 5 players registered for that team (this does not have to include a goal keeper)

The rest of the team can be made up of any other players registered with the club.

An umpire must be provided by the team as per the rules applied to Division 4.

Rules 11,12 and 13 will not be applicable and non-competitive teams will not be eligible to enter any of the cup competitions. Non-competitive teams will abide by all other GMWHL rules and constitution.