

# HAMPSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## Junior League & Cup Competition Rules

### 2019-2020



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## Rules of the HHA Junior League & Cup Competitions

(Excl Minis, U12, U14 & U16 Friendly Festivals)

### *Rules of the HHA Junior Leagues*

#### 1. Definitions

- a. "The League" shall mean the league formed by these rules and shall be called "The HHA Junior League".
- b. "The Hampshire Hockey Association" shall mean the county association as represented by the Executive Council.
- c. "Qualifying Clubs" shall mean any Club affiliated to the Hampshire County Hockey Association and any club affiliated to another county accepted for League membership by the League Management.
- d. The 'Junior Competitions Administrator' is appointed by the HHA to administer the day-to-day running of the league.
- e. "The HHA website" shall mean the official county website on [www.hampshireha.co.uk](http://www.hampshireha.co.uk).
- f. All communication to the Junior Competitions Administrator shall be by email to: [juniors@hampshireha.co.uk](mailto:juniors@hampshireha.co.uk)

#### 2. General

- a. All matches shall be played under the Rules of Hockey, except as provided in these rules.
- b. The Code of Ethics and Behaviour of England Hockey shall be applied at all matches.

#### 3. Objective of the League

The prime objective of this League is to provide junior hockey playing opportunities for clubs affiliated to the Hampshire Hockey Association. All those involved, whether playing or assisting in the running of the League should always consider this in their actions.

#### 4. League Management

- a. The control of the League shall be vested in the Hampshire Hockey Association Committee.
- b. The Hampshire Hockey Association Committee shall have the power to amend these rules. Any amendment shall not normally take effect during a season.
- c. All decisions of the Junior Competitions Administrator shall be binding on the Clubs in the League but shall be subject to a right of appeal to the Hampshire Hockey Association.
- d. The League is administered by the Junior Competitions Administrator who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the League.
- e. Each club shall appoint a Junior Prime Contact for the purpose of correspondence and a point of contact for each team fielded within the League. These contacts MUST be entered on the club's contacts list on the Hampshire Hockey Association's website: [www.hampshireha.co.uk](http://www.hampshireha.co.uk). The contact must consist of an email address and at least one phone number.
- f. The Junior Competitions Administrator may impose fines, deduct points, suspend teams or impose such other penalties as it shall think fit.

## 5. Matches and Conditions of Play

- a. All matches shall take place on Sundays as directed by the Junior Competitions Administrator or on such other days as may be approved.
- b. Matches shall be 2x35 minutes except for U12 which will be 3x20 minutes
- c. Matches can be played under decent working floodlights but they must be played to allow the away team to return at a reasonable time.
- d. Each club shall play a full junior team. A "Junior Player" is defined as one who has not reached their 18th birthday by the 1st September of this season for the under 18 League, 16<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> birthday (by the 1st September) in the case of those Leagues respectively.
- e. A squad shall consist of a maximum of 16 players (18 players in case of a triangular fixture).
- f. A 2<sup>nd</sup> XI or lower team participating in any competition shall mean the 2<sup>nd</sup> or lower strongest team available on any given match day assuming that the strongest available teams above them within any club have already been selected, whether or not such teams have fixtures.
- g. An official of each Club shall give full particulars of the situation of the ground and time of start to the contacts of all opposing clubs due to play a match at such ground. At least ten days' notice shall be given unless there is good reason otherwise.
- h. The home Club shall be responsible for the provision of an adequate supply of hockey balls for each game.
- i. Matches must be played on an all-weather pitch.
- j. The use of face masks during penalty corners is advised but is not mandatory.
- k. Teams must have a fully kitted goalkeeper if one is available. However, teams are permitted to field 11 outfield players if:
  - There is no adequately trained goalkeeper available for the date of the fixture provided that the Junior Competitions Administrator and the opposition have been informed prior to the day of the match; or
  - An unforeseeable event (such as an injury) occurs on the day of the match to prevent the selected goalkeeper either starting or completing the match.

### **Under no circumstances are teams permitted to play a kicking back**

- l. Only players who are at least 13 years old on the day of the game may play in Under 16 or Under 18 matches

## 6. Fixtures

- a. The Junior Competitions Administrator shall arrange and administer all League Fixtures.
- b. Clubs must ensure their contact details on the HHA website are up to date at all times. Clubs must enter their teams using the Hampshire web system as advised by the Junior Competitions Administrator and by the date set. The Junior Competitions Administrator shall post the league tables on the HHA website.
- c. League fixture dates will be set each season by the Junior Competitions Administrator and advised by the 1st July for the following season.
- d. Clubs must list/update their home fixtures on their club page of the HHA website, preferably as soon as these are published by the league and in any case no later than two weeks before the date of the fixture. The details should show the venue and start time. Home teams must make contact with the opposition at least ten days before a match to confirm the details.
- e. A match may only be abandoned once it has commenced by the unanimous decision of both umpires. The managers of both teams shall be deemed to have transferred their powers in this respect to the umpires jointly.

- f. Any team not being able to fulfil a fixture and not notifying the opposition with at least 5 days' notice will be liable for the opposition's reasonable costs which can include travel costs and facility hire costs.

## 7. Postponements & Notification

- a. A League fixture may **only** be postponed due to the following two reasons:
1. Due to adverse weather or ground conditions. The appointed home team manager or in their absence an official of the home team are expected to make sensible arrangements to check the condition of the pitch when weather conditions have been bad in the 48 hours prior to match day or are expected to be bad on match day. It is the home teams responsibility to make a pitch inspection as early as possible on match day; i.e. as early as access to the pitch is possible in the morning. If play is impossible the home team should give notice of such postponement immediately to the opposing side and then to the Junior Competitions Administrator and umpires. Failure to do so will result in the match being awarded to the visitors as a win by 8 - 0. Failure by the home team or club to notify the Junior Competitions Administrator of a postponement due to adverse weather or ground conditions will incur a financial penalty of £20 per incident.

It is also accepted that occasionally weather conditions will be such that although the pitch may be playable, the conditions for the away team mean that travelling is impossible or too dangerous. That should be taken into account when deciding is a game should be postponed.

If a match is cancelled due to weather then within a week of the original date the Home team must make contact with the opposition and provide a minimum of 2 new dates for the fixture to be played. These new dates must be sensible and not conflict with any activity already planned on the calendar. Failure to do so will result in the match being awarded to the visitors as a win by 8-0. If two new dates are provided but the visiting team do not respond with their availability for the new dates within 14days then the points will be awarded to the home team as an 8-0 win.

Furthermore, if the away team rejects the two proposed dates they will forfeit the match 8-0. If there is any dispute as to the suitability of the two dates, the Junior Administrator will assess the suitability and the Junior Administrators decision will be final. Please note only a priority date clash will be an acceptable rejection of a date put forward by the home team.

2. Due to a clash with an EH Junior Competition. EH competition dates take priority over Hampshire Junior League Fixtures. If your team has an EH competition date on a day that you are due to play a league fixture you must notify the opposition as soon as possible and provide at least 2 new dates for the league fixture to be played. These new dates must be sensible and not conflict with any activity already planned on the calendar. Failure to do so will result in the other team being awarded an 8-0 win.

If the other team rejects the two proposed dates they will forfeit the match 8-0. If there is any dispute as to the suitability of the two dates, the Junior Administrator will assess the suitability and the Junior Administrators decision will be final. Please note only another priority date clash will be an acceptable rejection of a date put forward.

- b. Teams unable to complete a fixture for reasons other than in 7a will be deemed to have lost the game and both teams are required to enter the score 8-0 in favour of the opposition, on the HHA website. Failure to enter the score in this manner will incur a financial penalty as described in Rule 8. If at a future date both teams agree to re-play this match, the Junior Competitions Administrator will, upon application by the home club, cancel the 8-0 result and re-instate the match for the agreed date.

*Note: Rule 7b is put in place to prevent teams cancelling fixtures at short notice which causes problems for the opposition finding alternative dates and pitch slots. It is anticipated that there*

*may be occasions when teams have to agree on a different date for a fixture well in advance of the fixture date. Providing both teams have reached agreement, communicated this to the Junior Competitions Administrator and the dates are entered on the HHA website this is, of course, acceptable. If agreement cannot be reached or another date found, rule 7b comes into force and the team unable to complete the fixture will be deemed to have lost the game.*

## **8. Results & Notification**

- a. Please see rule 13(c) regarding maximum score that can be input onto the HHA website.
- b. **Both clubs must input the result onto the HHA website by 9pm on the day after the match.** The input of results will be date and time-stamped and checked by the Junior Competitions Administrator. Clubs must ensure that their team managers have all the relevant details to log on to the club's admin pages of the HHA website or that a system is in place within the club for notification of scores.
  1. The first team to log in will input the result. Once the opposition logs in and inputs the same result, the score is confirmed. If the scores do not match, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team to input the result must make contact with their opposition to confirm the actual result and the Junior Competitions Administrator must be notified before 9pm on the day following the match. If no notification is received by the Junior Competitions Administrator, they will confirm the score with the least goal difference.
  2. If only one team enters a score by the stated due day and time, the result will be confirmed by the Junior Competitions Administrator and the offending club will be fined £20.
  3. If neither team enters a score, the Junior Competitions Administrator will confirm the score as 0-0. Both teams will have 1 league point deducted to counteract the draw and both clubs will receive a £20 fine.
  4. In the event that the HHA website is experiencing technical difficulties, an e-mail must be sent to the Junior Competitions Administrator ([juniors@hampshireha.co.uk](mailto:juniors@hampshireha.co.uk)) by the due day and time. Failing to do so will incur a penalty of £20 per incident.

## **9. Club Colours**

- a. In the event of any two clubs having the same or similar playing colours the away team shall change its colours unless otherwise agreed.

## **10. Umpires**

- a. Each Club must provide an umpire for each game. In the event of a Club failing to provide an umpire for a match, that match shall be deemed to have been played and the side failing to provide such umpire shall be deemed to have lost the match by a score of 0 – 3.

## **11. Division of leagues**

- a. All qualifying Clubs shall be divided into Divisions of the League initially as requested by the clubs but in the case of a divisions being oversubscribed, as determined by the Junior Competitions Administrator.

## **12. Promotion and Relegation**

- a. Promotion and relegation have no relevance in the League. Relative strengths of Club sides are to be submitted by the Clubs as they enter each season.

## **13. Position in the League**

- a. The League position of a team shall be determined on a points basis with teams scoring three points for each League match won and one point for each match drawn.

- b. In the event of two or more teams having the same number of points, positions will first be determined the number of points gained in the respective match, or matches, between the teams involved, then by goal difference and finally by goals for. In the case of a league title decision, if teams are still level a further match on K.O. Cup rules may be arranged. This match will be at the end of the season by agreement with the League Management.
- c. If the goal difference is more than eight in a match, the two managers/coaches should discuss the option of mixing the teams up to make it fairer. The maximum goal difference that should be posted on HHA website is eight.

#### **14. Application to Join and Withdraw from the League**

- a. Qualifying Clubs wishing to join or withdraw from the League shall give notice of such intention to the Junior Competitions Administrator when assessing teams for the following season as laid down in Rule 6b.
- b. In the event of any Club withdrawing from the League a replacement team may be entered at the discretion of the Junior Competitions Administrator.
- c. Notwithstanding the rules herein set out, the Junior Competitions Administrator may, in their sole discretion before the commencement of any season, vary the Clubs in any League or Division.

#### **15. Qualification of Players**

- a. Clubs may only play players who are bona-fide members of their club.
- b. Guest players are not permitted but a junior player who plays for a club that has no team in their age group, may hold a junior membership in another club for the purpose of junior league games.
- c. Teams may consist of mixed gender up to U12 only. However at U12, HHA will allow up to 7 girls in a boys' team, with a maximum 5 girls on pitch at any one time, but boys are not allowed to play in a girls team.
- d. Any player or club in breach of Rule 14 a, b, or c shall render such club(s) to penalties under Rule 19a.
- e. Players may transfer to another club once in a season in exceptional circumstances but not play for two Clubs in the same season at the same time. Application for this must be made to the Junior Competitions Administrator before any match is played.

#### **16. Protests and Appeals**

- a. All questions of interpretation of these rules shall be referred to the Junior Competitions Administrator for a decision.
- b. Protests must be lodged with the Junior Competitions Administrator within seven days of the match, or occurrence to which they refer.
- c. If the team wish to appeal against the decision of the Junior Competitions Administrator an appeal must be lodged with the Hampshire Hockey Association within 7 days of the decision.
- d. Any protests or appeals made under this clause must be heard within one month of being lodged by the body concerned who must forward their decision to all parties within seven days of hearing such appeal.
- e. A protest or an appeal may be in writing or in person at the discretion of the Junior Competitions Administrator.
- f. An appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £50 which is refundable at the discretion of the Hampshire Hockey Association.
- g. The decision of the Hampshire Hockey Association shall be final and binding.

## **17. Finance**

- a. All Clubs belonging to the League shall pay a subscription as set by the HHA Treasurer or the Hampshire AGM. Such subscription is to be paid to, and in a manner requested by, the HHA Treasurer. An invoice will usually be sent out by the HHA Treasurer to the relevant Clubs after 1<sup>st</sup> September each year.

## **18. Correspondence - Press statement**

- a. All communication must be addressed to the Junior Competitions Administrator
- b. Statements to the Press concerning the League may only be made by the Junior Competitions Administrator

## **19. Breach of Rules**

- a. The Junior Competitions Administrator may order a particular game deemed to have been won 8-0 by one team and lost 0-8 by its opponents, or order any match to be played at an alternative venue (or make any other direction as may be required).
- b. The Junior Competitions Administrator may raise financial penalties as set out in these Rules.

## **20. Binding Force of Rules**

Each Club, by its entry into the League, 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 decisions of the Junior Competitions Administrator subject to the right of appeal specified in Rule 16. The Junior Competitions Administrator has the right to decide actions wherever the rules appear to remain silent.

## ***Rules of the HHA Junior Cup***

### **1. General**

- a. The competitions covered by these rules are:
  - i. Men – Wessex U18 Easterbrook Cup
  - ii. Men – Wessex U16 Ashman Cup
  - iii. Men – Wessex U14 Roger Merry Cup
  - iv. Women – Hampshire U14 Cup
  - v. Women – Hampshire U16 Cup
  - vi. Women – Hampshire U18 Cup

### **2. Management**

- a. The cup competitions shall be managed by the Junior Competitions Administrator, who will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the cup competitions shall be the Hampshire Administrator.
- b. The competition trophies shall remain the property of HHA, and if presented must be returned to the Junior Competitions Administrator by Easter of the following season. Any damage or loss to this property while in the keeping of a club shall be the liability of that club.

### **3. Eligibility**

- a. The competitions shall be open to teams of the relevant age group and gender from any Hampshire HA Affiliated Club
- b. Clubs can enter more than one team into a Cup Competition, however if they do so they must:
  - i. Submit a team sheet for each of their teams at the start of the season
  - ii. Once a team sheet is submitted players cannot play down, but players can play up
- c. Players:
  - i. must be bona fide members of their club.
  - ii. who have played for another club in a junior outdoor League match during the same season shall only be eligible if they have genuinely changed clubs during this period and severed all links with their previous club.
  - iii. who have changed clubs during a season and have played for their new club in a junior outdoor League match may not play for their previous club.
  - iv. Players are allowed to represent their club in up to 2 age groups.
  - v. Only players who are at least 13 years old on the day of the game may play in Under 16 or Under 18 matches

### **4. Format of competitions**

- a. The Junior Competitions Administrator shall make the draw for the first round of each competition, which shall determine the format for subsequent rounds. The draw is completely random with no seeding based on the previous years results.
- b. Venues for subsequent rounds shall be as shown by the draw.
- c. Matches in each round will have a play on date. Matches must be played on this date or on the Sunday before or after the set date. Matches may only be played outside this time frame by reason of weather postponement, which, in the case of a semi-final, shall be no later than 14 days prior to the due date for the final.
- d. The final of each competition shall be played at Hampshire Day on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

## **5. Matches**

- a. Matches can be played under decent floodlights but they must be played to allow the away team to return at a reasonable time.
- b. A team must have a minimum of eight players on the pitch for the match to commence.
- c. The home team shall provide an adequate supply of suitable hockey balls.
- d. In the event of a colour clash, the away team shall change shirts.
- e. Players shall wear different numbered shirts.
- f. All matches shall be played on artificial turf pitches conforming to England Hockey requirements. If pitch facilities are inadequate, the umpires may direct that the match be postponed or the venue changed.
- g. If scores are level at the end of full time, the winner shall be determined by a barrage of 5 penalty strokes for each team, followed if necessary by 'sudden death' penalty strokes. For this purpose, FIH Tournament Regulations apply.
- h. A match may only be abandoned once it has started by the unanimous decision of both umpires, and the captains of both teams shall be deemed to have transferred their powers in this respect to the umpires jointly. The umpires are requested to advise the captains and the Junior Competitions Administrator of the reason for their decision. The Junior Competitions Administrator shall have the power to award the game to either team, or require a replay.

## **6. Umpires**

- a. Each team shall ideally provide an umpire who shall be at least on the active EH Level One register and insured.
- b. If such an umpire is not available or fails to arrive, the captains/managers shall agree a replacement.

## **7. Communication**

- a. Each participating club shall nominate a liaison officer (typically the junior prime contact) through whom all administrative communication with the Junior Competitions Administrator shall be made.
- b. Draws, results and other pertinent details will be communicated by e-mail, and will be posted on the HHA website.
- c. Both teams shall notify the result of each match to the Junior Competitions Administrator on the day of the match. Posting of the result on the HHA website by either team by 9pm on the day after the match shall be deemed to be compliance with this Rule.

## **8. Cancelled or Unfulfilled matches**

- a. If any arranged weekend match is cancelled by the away team later than 2100hrs on the preceding Tuesday, such team shall be liable to reimburse the home team for any pitch and other costs which it necessarily incurs.
- b. Rule 8a also applies to any midweek match but with a notification deadline of 2100 five days before the scheduled match.
- c. Any team failing to arrive without notice for any arranged game shall be liable to reimburse the other team for any pitch and other relevant costs (such as travelling) which it necessarily incurs.
- d. The offending team in any such cancelled or unfulfilled match shall be deemed the loser.

## **9. Breach of rules**

- a. The Junior Competitions Administrator may impose suitable penalties including fines for breach of these rules.
- b. The Junior Competitions Administrator shall act on all matters not covered by the rules. There shall be a right of appeal to the Hampshire Hockey Association against any decision of the Junior Competitions Administrator within seven days of notification of such decision and upon deposit of £50, which may be returned in whole or in part at the discretion of the HHA.