

## **NORTH HOCKEY LEAGUE RULES 2017-18**

### **Abbreviations and Definitions**

EHL	-	The National League
GB	-	Great Britain
NGB	-	National Governing Body
NHA	-	The North Hockey Association
NHL	-	The North Hockey League
NHUA	-	The North Hockey Umpires Association
Secretary	-	To be read as 'League Secretary or delegated League Official'.

#### **1 Name**

The League shall be called the North Hockey League and must be so referred to in all correspondence and publicity in which the name of the League is used. It may have the name of a sponsor put in front of it.

#### **2 Jurisdiction and Authority**

2.1 The NHL shall be under the direct jurisdiction of the NHA.

2.2 Any club from outside the NHA region admitted to the league must agree to accept the jurisdiction of the NHA with regard to the administration of the league

2.3 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

2.4 These rules are subject to the rules on emendation laid down in the Constitution of NHA.

2.5 The committee has the powers to determine any matter not covered by these rules and may, at its discretion, waive, reduce or increase an applicable penalty and relegate any team which, in the opinion of the committee, fails to meet the standards demanded for hockey in the league.

#### **3 Composition of NHL**

3.1 The NHL consists of a Men's League and a Women's League, the structures for which are set out in Appendix 1 (Men's League) and Appendix 2 (Women's League). These appendices also contain other rules which are only applicable to the individual league.

3.2 Only clubs from leagues within the region of the NHA may qualify for entry to the league and must be affiliated to their NGB, their Regional and County Association.

3.3 Only club 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams may be admitted to the Men's League, Clubs 3rd XI's may also be admitted to the Men's League, but to Division 2 level only.

3.4 No club may have more than one team in any division. To achieve this a 2<sup>nd</sup> or lower team may be denied promotion or be relegated to a lower league.

#### **4 League Management**

4.1 Each league of the NHL shall be administered by a committee consisting of the following: A Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer appointed by NHA Competitions Committee and ratified by the NHA Council together with an Umpires' representative nominated by NHUA. The Co-ordinator of each division shall be a member of the Committee. The NHA Competitions Committee Chairman and Secretary shall be members ex-officio.

4.2 Each league shall have the power to co-opt additional members onto the committee but they shall have no voting rights.

4.3 An Emergency Committee of at least three members of the committee may handle urgent problems

4.4 The secretary of each league of the NHL shall administer the league. If any decision a secretary makes is challenged by a club then the full committee, or the emergency committee of that league shall decide the matter.

4.5 The treasurers shall be responsible for keeping and preparing accounts. Such accounts shall be presented by 30 April annually to the NHA treasurer who shall arrange an audit and present the accounts to the AGM of the NHA. Any one of the league treasurers and up to two other persons appointed by the committee of each league shall be mandated to sign cheques, use internet banking and to issue instructions for the bank account to be operated on behalf of the leagues.

4.6 The committee cannot decide to implement a penalty other than the standard or higher level fines, or reductions thereof unless the club concerned has had an opportunity to attend a hearing.

4.7 The NHL committees may call a meeting of clubs by giving at least 21 days notice. One such meeting called "The Summer Meeting" must be held prior to 30<sup>th</sup> June each year for the purpose of reviewing the previous season and advising clubs of any changes for the following season. Every club shall be represented at any such meeting. Clubs attending such meetings will receive a reduction of £80 in the following season's affiliation fee.

## **5 Finance Fines and Penalties**

5.1 The committee of each section shall recommend to the Competitions committee of NHA rates for league fees, the standard fine, the higher level fine, and for travel expenses for umpires and officials and teams where appropriate.

5.2 League fees must be paid by 31 October in each season. In the case of late payment the higher rate fine shall be payable for each month, or part thereof, by which payment is delayed. In the event of non payment by 30<sup>th</sup> November the team may be expelled from the league and any games played will be declared null and void.

5.3 Fines must be paid within 14 days of being notified. Failure to do so will result in the fine being doubled. If, after a further 14 days, the fine is still not paid, then further action will be considered by the league committee including whether the team's league status should be revoked and all results for that team removed from the table. The committee may, at its discretion, taking a club's previous record into account, waive, reduce or increase an applicable fine.

5.4 The amount of fees, standard and higher level fines and other penalties are set out in Appendix 3.

5.5 At the end of the season, should the funds at the disposal of the league be insufficient to meet its expenses, the teams shall be required to make up the deficiency by equal levy (pro rata to entry fee).

## **6 Liaison with the league Club Responsibility**

6.1 The liaison officer/s of each club is required to complete the 'Club Details Form' and return it to its league secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> June.

6.2 Clubs are also required to supply details of match start times and venues to Fixtures Live and the NHA website at least one month before a scheduled match.

6.3 Any proposed alteration to these start times must be submitted to the league committee for approval. These may then be varied for particular matches only by the mutual agreement of the umpires and clubs concerned. All such changes must be reported to the league secretary and divisional co-ordinator by email.

6.4 All university clubs are required to advise their section secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> March of their term dates for the next academic year. University clubs will be required to play their fixtures on the designated league dates.

6.5 Liaison officers must ensure that if any changes are made during the season both Fixtures Live and NHA Website are updated where appropriate. Failure to do any of the above will incur a higher level fine.

6.6 No communication on league business shall take place with any of the league officials after 10pm and must be by text or email unless specifically agreed to by the relevant official prior to that need.

6.7 There will be a higher level fine levied for any breaches of Rule 6.

## **7 Sponsorship**

If there is a sponsor, clubs must refer to the League's Sponsor at all times and include the name and, if possible, the Sponsor's official logo in fixture cards and/or handbooks.

## **8 Liaison with Opponents and Umpires**

8.1 The home team shall confirm details of venue and start time to the away team at least 10 days before the game and to the umpires, coaches and/or assessors at least 5 days before the game and ensure responses are received from all.

8.2 All teams in Premier and Division 1 must provide feedback on NHUA umpires via North Website by 8.00pm on the Wednesday follow a match.

8.3 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 8.

## **9 Hospitality**

First named teams are expected to offer hospitality before and after the match to visiting teams, umpires and press. A visiting team must advise at by 8pm on the Wednesday before the match if they do not require hospitality. Failure to do this will result in the away team having to compensate the home team.

## **10 Trophies**

All trophies must be returned to the league committee before or at the summer meeting, failure to do this will result in a fine of £100. Should a club lose a trophy the league will replace it and invoice the club for the cost.

## **11 Umpires**

11.1a Premier and Division 1: Umpires shall be appointed by the NHUA.

11.1b Divisions 2: Umpires shall be appointed by local umpiring associations in the men's league and a combination of local umpiring associations and teams in the womens' leagues.

11.2 The club liaison officer shall be notified of the appointments made by umpiring associations and the home team shall then be responsible for confirming the venue and start time to the appointed umpires at least five days before the game.

11.3 Where the umpiring association is unable to appoint an umpire then the teams must appoint an umpire who is qualified to at least level 1 assessed. In this case, the registration number of the umpire must be entered on the match report form. Failure to do this will result in the club incurring a standard fine.

11.4 Should an appointed umpire become unavailable at short notice and teams are not able to provide a level 1 assessed umpire then the game may be postponed and the divisional secretary informed.

11.5 Where an umpire is not qualified to a minimum level 1 assessed standard, then the result of the game shall stand but the team using the unqualified umpire may face an appropriate penalty which could be a fine and/or a points deduction.

## **Players**

### **12 Player Qualification**

12.1 Only bona fide members of a league club who are 13 years of age or older on the day of the match shall be entitled to be registered and to play in league matches for that club. The Club is responsible for verifying a players eligibility.

12.2 A player' currently playing, or playing in the previous season, for a different club are affiliated to a NGB must complete the transfer procedure set out in Rule 14 before becoming eligible to play for the registering club in NHL.

12.3 A player who is suspended under EHL Yellow Card rule is ineligible to play in an NHL match until they have served their EHL suspension. In the event of a player being suspended as a result of a yellow card received in the last EHL game before the winter break they shall only be ineligible for the next NHL match.

12.4 An NHL team shall not be allowed to register more than one player who does not hold a European Union Passport, or hold or be able to apply for and obtain a United Kingdom Passport or have a right of abode as defined by Sections 1 and 2 of the Immigration Act 1971. (Information regarding "Right of Abode" may be found on the Home Office website [www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk) by searching for "right of abode") or hold a current work permit as defined by the Immigration Act 1971 as a hockey player in the United Kingdom and hold a passport for a country with whom the European Union has an agreement containing provisions prohibiting discrimination in employment. A club wishing to register such a player for an NHL team must indicate, in the registration process. Players from the Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Gibraltar together with those holding dual passport eligibility where one such eligibility is that of a European Union member state will be considered to have no limitation as to their ability to be registered. A player who does not hold any passport must be eligible to hold a passport of a European Union State. The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on the registering team. The NHL committee shall decide any dispute regarding eligibility and shall be entitled to request such written or oral evidence, as it considers necessary. Any appeal against a decision of the NHL committee on eligibility shall be made in accordance with Appeals Rule below. An individual shall not play in an NHL game pending the outcome of an appeal

12.5 There will be a three point penalty for any breach of rule 12.

### **13 Player Registration**

See Appendix 1 (Men's League) and Appendix 2 (Women's League)

### **14 Player Transfer**

A Club registering the transfer of a player from any other Club affiliated to a NGB must either use the fixtures live registration system if the player is already on it or submit a completed transfer form. Confirmation 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, must be obtained.

The Divisional Coordinator will inform the Club of the date from which the player may play in the League. If the Club has a lower 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 Divisional Coordinator by 1st February. The Committee shall have the power to grant a transfer request after 1 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 14.

### **15 Player Selection**

15.1 Clubs are expected to select teams on merit. A club with a team in the EHL or with more than one team in the NHL, must, by 9pm on the Wednesday before the first league match, provide a list of 11 starred players for each of its teams other than its lowest placed team in the NHL. No player may be starred for more than one team. These players must be selected on merit and are excluded from playing for a team lower than the one they are starred for. Clubs are permitted to make a change to their starred list of 11 by emailing the swap details to the league before 8.00pm on the Wednesday before the next match. Reasons for the change must be given and the league must approve the change before the

de-starred player can play for the lower team. 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. In addition, no player shall play in more than one NHL or EHL game in a day. The league will not tolerate abuses of the system. All starred players are expected to be regularly available for selection. 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. The movement of players will be monitored. The league shall have the power to change starred players but in doing so must notify the clubs of any such changes before 8pm on the Monday before the next league match.

After the end of January, any player whose name has appeared in the starting line up in more than 75% of an EHL or NHL teams' league matches, cannot play for the club in a lower team league match unless permission has been obtained from the league. Any match a player has been banned from playing in for disciplinary/yellow card reasons shall count as though he has been in the starting line up for the matches he has been banned from. The signing of a team sheet or match card will be deemed to be a true record.

15.2 A club unable satisfactorily to justify its selection or subsequent action shall be deemed to have played an ineligible player. There will be a three point penalty for any breach of Rule 15.1

15.3 Clubs with a first team in the EHL must, for every EHL game, send a copy of the EHL match report form signed by the match delegate to the divisional co-ordinator by post, fax or email by the following Wednesday. There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 15.3.

## **16 Uniform**

16.1 Players participating in league matches shall wear club uniform as set out in the NHA handbook. If, in the opinion of the umpires, there is a clash of colours, the second named team shall always change shirts and socks as necessary. The second named team must always carry an alternative strip. Players participating in a game shall wear on the back of their shirt the number allocated to them on the team sheet which must be at least 9 inches in height and in a colour contrasting to their shirts. Goalkeepers shall wear a colour contrasting with those worn by both teams. Captains must be clearly identifiable by wearing an armband of contrasting colour. There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 16.

## **17 Discipline**

17.1 The league divests control of all disciplinary matters covered by the NGB disciplinary code. All league matches shall operate within the disciplinary code operating in England.

17.2 Any club from outside the jurisdiction of England Hockey admitted to the league must agree to be bound by this disciplinary code.

17.3 Any disciplinary matter arising as a result of a match in this league for a club outside the jurisdiction of the NHA shall be reported to and dealt with by the north disciplinary administrator.

17.4 The NHA Code of Pitchside Conduct set out in the handbook must be followed at all league matches. Contravention of the code of pitchside conduct should be included in any report. Umpires should advise the league secretary of any abuse of this code.

17.5 For each player or official on the bench who receives a red or yellow card, the team whose player or official received the card must remove a player from the pitch.

17.6 Any disciplinary action taken by the league will be reported to the county association of the club concerned.

17.7 Players shall be subject to incremental match suspensions for yellow cards an individual accrues throughout the season. The league secretary will keep a record of yellow cards. However, the responsibility for applying suspensions rests with the player's club.

The following suspensions shall apply to each individual:

4 yellow cards in a season = 1 match suspension,

2 further yellow cards in the same season = 1 further match suspension,

2 further yellow cards in the same season = 1 further match suspension,

For each further yellow card thereafter in the same season = 1 further match suspension.

Any match suspension imposed as a consequence of this regulation shall take effect in the next NHL match following the match in which the qualifying yellow card was issued. In the event that 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 this rule. The failure to suspend a player under this rule will be treated as the playing of an ineligible player and three points will be deducted. Note: See Rule 12.3 regarding yellow cards in EHL games.

17.8 Each club must supply a copy of its code of conduct and disciplinary code to the league secretary in advance of the season and this must be acceptable to the committee. Failure to provide documents at least 7 days before the first fixture of the season will result in the standard fine being levied.

## **Match Regulations**

### **18 Matches**

18.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Hockey as laid down by the NGB.

18.2 All matches must be played on artificial pitches of an acceptable standard, and there must be adequate changing facilities available.

18.3 Matches shall be played on dates fixed by the committee except that the match may be postponed by the home team if the ground is unfit for play or the umpires consider conditions to be dangerous.

18.4 Matches shall be played in daylight unless prior permission has been given by the league committee to play under floodlights. Such permission, which lapses at the end of each season, may be granted provided that the club, in applying, has submitted a current certificate of lighting acceptable to the league committee which must have an average lux of 350 and a minimum reading anywhere on the pitch of 250.

18.5 The latest start times shall be 3.30pm other than from 1<sup>st</sup> November until 14<sup>th</sup> February when it shall be 2.15pm. unless the club has an acceptable lighting certificate as set out in rule 18.4. Matches may be scheduled to start at 11.30 or earlier with the agreement of both the opposition and appointed umpires

18.6 University Clubs will be required to play their fixtures on the designated league dates.

18.7 Each team must have a minimum of 7 players on the pitch before the match can commence.

### **19 Postponement / Bad Weather Arrangements**

19.1 Postponement of matches shall occur only in the event of adverse weather conditions or ground conditions (or non-arrival of the appointed umpire). In exceptional circumstances, the committee may grant a postponement and shall normally require clubs to submit their reasons for postponement in writing to the league secretary and divisional co-ordinator at least eight days before the date of the match. Exceptional means the unplanned events that do occasionally happen. The committee will expect to see that at least 3 players are unavailable because of a commitment to an NHA or NGB representative game. This does not include Masters, Mixed, Veterans or Vintage Hockey, or social events.

19.2 In the case of bad weather, the home team should follow the following procedure. The home liaison officer or captain should ascertain the visiting team's departure time from its home base; if relevant this will take into account any planned overnight stay. The home liaison officer or captain must inspect the pitch before this departure time. A realistic view must be taken at this stage including travel conditions. Enquiries should be made of any local meteorological office to confirm weather conditions for the next 24 or 48 hours. If the pitch is unfit and is likely to remain so the game should be postponed and the travelling team and umpires informed before their departure times. This must be done by an answered phone call or a email with a confirmation of receipt.

19.3 Fitness of weather or ground conditions shall be decided as follows: Up to one hour before the designated starting time of the match by the captain of the first named team who must inform the opposition, the umpires, the divisional coordinator and the umpires appointment coordinator. After that time the umpires shall decide.

19.4 An away team must agree to a match being postponed. In the event of the home team wishing to postpone a match the away team shall have the right to inspect the ground prior to a decision regarding postponement being reached. In the event of the away team exercising this right it shall be responsible for its own costs, any umpiring costs and any costs incurred by the home team as a result of any delay in the postponement.

19.5 The home club must e-mail or text the reason for the postponement of a fixture to the league secretary and the divisional co-ordinator by 8pm on the day of the postponed match. There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 19.5.

## **20 Match Rearrangement**

20.1 A postponed fixture should be replayed within 15 days. Within 7 days of the postponement the clubs must either fix a date for the rescheduled fixture or agree to submit the decision to the league secretary and divisional co-ordinator. Both clubs must report the outcome by e-mail within 24 hours of agreement to the league secretary and the umpires co-ordinator. A club not reporting will have 1 point deducted.

20.2 If, on the day scheduled for a re-arranged fixture, the home team's pitch is unfit, the away team shall be entitled, if it has a pitch available and fit for play, to require the 'home' team to travel and play the fixture on its ground, provided that the umpires and other team can make suitable arrangements for travel or for their replacement.

20.3 In the event of a dispute over fixture dates between clubs, the league secretary or divisional co-ordinator may designate the venue and the date on which a fixture shall be played.

## **21 Abandonment**

In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of serious injury to a player or of adverse weather conditions, a report shall be submitted by the umpires to the league secretary and divisional co-ordinator by email. The league committee shall decide on the action to be taken. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture depending on the circumstances at the time of the abandonment. In the event of a replay the new date shall be arranged by the clubs in accordance with Rule 20.

## **22 Match Delegates**

See Appendix 1 (Men's League).

## **23 Team Sheets**

Each club shall complete a team sheet and hand it to the match delegate or umpires 20 minutes prior to the start time of the match. The match delegate, if there is one, shall show these team sheets to the umpires before the beginning of the match. The delegate or, if no delegate, a member of the home team shall record the match details on the match sheet and after the match arrange for this card to be signed, returning it and the team sheets to

the home club's team representative who shall communicate the result to the phone number listed on the match sheet within 60 minutes of the end of the match. The documents must be sent to the divisional co-ordinator who must receive them by the following Wednesday. The home club must retain a copy of the match sheets. There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 23.

#### **24 Failure to fulfil fixtures**

If a team fails to fulfil its league fixture(s) the committee shall have the power to make an appropriate ruling. (See also Appendix 1 (Men's League) and Appendix 2 (Women's League)). The offending team shall meet any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents including pitch costs. If a club fails to fulfil a season's fixtures any penalty may be applied the following season. Any club failing to honour fixtures three times in any one season shall be expelled from the NHL for the following season and may only qualify for re-entry by promotion from a league in the NHA area.

#### **25 League order, promotion and relegation**

See Appendix 1 (Men's League) and Appendix 2 (Women's League)

#### **General Matters**

#### **26 Appeals**

Clubs shall have a right of appeal to the Council of NHA against a decision of the league committee. Such appeals, together with a deposit of £100, refundable at the discretion of the appeal committee, must be sent in writing to the secretary of NHA within 14 days of the league committee's decision being notified to the club. If a club is affiliated to an association outside the jurisdiction of the NHA then the secretary of that association shall be requested to send an observer to the appeal hearing. The decision of the appeal committee shall be final and binding on all.

#### **27 Emendation**

Any club wishing to propose a change in rules for the forthcoming season must put the proposal in writing, before 1<sup>st</sup> January, to the secretary of NHA competitions committee, who will inform all county and regional league secretaries of the proposal. These rules are subject to the rules on emendation laid down in the constitution of NHA.

### **Appendix 1 (Men's league)**

#### **Rule 3 Structure**

The league shall consist of four Divisions, namely Premier Division, Division 1 and two parallel lower Divisions to be known as Division 2 East and Division 2 West. All divisions shall consist of twelve teams each team playing every other on a home and away basis.

#### **Rule 13 Registration**

Using the Fixtures Live registration system including photographs each Club is required to register for each team in the NHML a minimum of 20 and, without charge, a maximum of 30 players (excluding any registered Star players) for each team playing within the NHL. Additional players can be registered by paying a fee of £5.

Clubs with more than one team in the League or in a higher league may register the same player for any team squad but their use must be consistent with the requirement to select on merit.

For new clubs the initial registration for a season must be completed online by 16th September unless a special dispensation has been granted.



Registrations, once made, remain in force until such time as either they are withdrawn by the Club, there is an inter-Club transfer or the team leaves the League. New registration requests must be entered online by 8pm on the Wednesday before a game in which the player is to be used. Deregistration requests must be entered online and are effective immediately.

Any club registering a player who is eligible to play under Rule 12.4 must advise the Secretary of the appropriate section under the Act by email.

There will be a Higher Level fine levied for any breach of Rule 13.

### **Rule 22 Match Delegates**

The home club shall appoint a responsible person to act as match delegate. If a club in the NHL fails to produce a delegate then the umpires shall require the captain of the home team to nominate one of his team to stand down for the entire game and perform the duty.

### **Rule 24 Failure to fulfil fixtures**

If a team fails to fulfil a league fixture there will be a three point penalty.

### **Rule 25 League Order, Promotion and Relegation**

Three points will be awarded for a win and one for a draw in all league matches. In the event of teams being level on points, placings shall be decided on the combined results of the matches played between the teams and then, if unresolved, by the combined results with away goals counting double. If still undecided, positions shall be decided on superior goal differences. In the event of the goal difference being the same for two or more teams, the order shall be determined by ranking the teams, in descending order, by the 'goals for' totals. Beyond that, but only in the case of promotion, relegation, or qualification for some other tournament, play-offs shall take place. Any 2<sup>nd</sup> XI or 3<sup>rd</sup> teams which need to be relegated as a result of Rule 3.4, any teams which resign and any teams which the league committee may decide to expel or relegate shall be deemed to fill the last positions in their divisions. At the end of the season the number of promotion places available shall depend on promotion and relegation to and from the EHL, and between the leagues. Play-offs may be necessary. Qualifying clubs shall be invited to be promoted or to take part in play-offs for promotion. In the event of a club declining the invitation the next placed team in the division concerned shall receive the invitation.

#### **Promotion and relegation shall be as follows**

##### **Premier division**

The highest placed 1st team will be promoted to the EHL.

If no teams are relegated from the EHL the bottom team will be relegated.

If 1 team is relegated from the EHL the bottom 2 teams will be relegated.

If 2 teams are relegated from the EHL the bottom 3 teams will be relegated.

##### **Division 1**

The top 2 teams will be promoted.

If no teams are relegated from the EHL the bottom 2 teams will be relegated and the two teams finishing second in Division 2 will play off for the spare place in Division 1.

If 1 team is relegated from the EHL the bottom 2 teams will be relegated and the third bottom team will enter a play off with the two teams finishing second in Division 2 for the final place in the division for the following season.

If 2 teams are relegated from the EHL the bottom 3 teams will be relegated.

##### **Division 2 East & West**

The champions of these divisions will be promoted.

The runners up in each division enter a one match play off under EHB Cup Rules for one promotion place with the winner playing the 3rd bottom from Division 1 if 1 team is relegated from EHL. (No promotion place will be available if 2 teams are relegated from EHL)

The bottom 2 teams of each division shall be relegated. Further teams may be relegated to provide two automatic promotion places to the Regional leagues below each 2nd Division provided that no more than four teams (east) and three teams (west) need to be relegated to provide these places. Beyond that only the regional champions may be eligible for promotion, but where more than four teams would need to be relegated to provide 2 places (East) and 1 place (West) a play off shall be arranged between the regional champion(s) and any additional teams, above the bottom four, which would need to be relegated to provide the place(s).

## **Appendix 2 - Women's league**

### **Rule 3 Structure**

The league shall consist of two divisions of twelve teams, a Premier Division and a Division 1 plus four Division 2s of ten or 12 teams each - Division 2 North East, Division 2 South East, Division 2 North West and Division 2 South West each team playing every other on a home and away basis.

### **Rule 13 Registration**

By 16<sup>th</sup> September annually, each club shall submit, by email to the divisional co-ordinator, a list showing full names, in alphabetical order, of its members eligible to play in the league. Amendments (including change of name) must be received by the divisional coordinator by the Wednesday prior to the player(s) concerned playing in a league match. No new registrations shall be permitted after 1st February in any season. However, goalkeepers are the exception to this time limit provided that it is a new registration due to a medical or physical incapacity of the club's existing registered goalkeepers and not a transfer. Evidence of such incapacity should be provided in writing by the club who, by submitting any registration, shall assume responsibility for any incorrect or false information provided in support of this registration. This list shall be in the form of a 1997 compatible Excel Spreadsheet. There will be a higher level fine levied for any breach of Rule 13.

### **Rule 22 Match Delegates**

**This applies to premier and Division 1 teams only. The home club shall appoint a responsible person to act as match delegate. Match delegates should read the pages at the back of the NHA Handbook which set out their duties. And be ready to act as Match Officials Rule.**

### **24 Failure to fulfil a fixture**

If a team fails to fulfil a fixture there will be a three point penalty.

### **Rule 25 League order, promotion and relegation**

Three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw in all league matches. In the event of teams being level on 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 games between the teams concerned
4. Play off(s)

Generally, the champions of each division or league will be promoted and the lowest team relegated.

### **Premier Division**

The highest placed 1st XI in the North Premier Division shall be promoted to the EHL. North teams relegated from the EHL shall rejoin the NHWL Premier Division. The number of teams to be relegated to Division One will depend on the number of teams relegated from EHL. Provided that no more than one team is relegated from the EHL, the second placed team in Division One shall be promoted to the Premier Division. In this case, the bottom two teams shall be relegated from the Premier Division.

### **Division 1**

The team or teams relegated from the Premier Division shall be joined by the two highest placed teams of a play-off between the top team from each Division 2. After ensuring that the Division has twelve teams, the surplus number of teams shall be relegated to their respective Division 2 for the following season.

### **Division 2**

There shall be four Division 2s made up from teams in the following feeder leagues:

Division 2 North East - Durham and Northumberland

Division 2 South East - Yorkshire

Division 2 North West - Cumbria, Lancashire and Lancashire Central.

Division 2 South West - Cheshire and Greater Manchester

When promotions to and demotions from Division 1 have taken place the winners of each feeder league and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team in the Yorkshire league will be promoted to their respective Division 2. The Division 2 teams finishing 2nd place downwards will fill the remaining places until there is a maximum of 10/12 teams in each Division 2. Teams below that position will be relegated to their original feeder league. If a feeder league winner does not wish to take up the place in the Division 2, then that feeder league should find a suitable replacement from clubs in their feeder league. If this is not possible, then one less team will be relegated from the respective Division 2. Clubs are not allowed to represent two or more different feeder leagues.

The county association must inform the NHL of the named club by May 1st

### **Appendix 3 - Fees & fines**

Affiliation fees

Standard fine £20

Higher fine £50