

NORTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMENS LEAGUE 2017-2018

Dear all,

I hope your summer was good and you return to the hockey season with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

As we near the start of the season it's time to remind you of some important issues. These were probably mentioned at the summer meeting but that was some time ago.

There is a new item for us all - England Hockey entering the Pro League; the resulting changes to the England Hockey National League and the changes we in the North, and all regions, will probably have to make.

More on this at the end of the letter.

Entry Fees

These will be sent out to you later in September by your Division Coordinator. You then have until October 30th to pay those.

Premier & Division 1	£680.0	less £80 discount for attending the Summer Meeting	Net £600
Division 2	£100.00	less £80 discount for attending the Summer Meeting	Net £20.

READ THE RULES.

Registration.

2 rules for this now as our Premier and Division 1 teams have moved to online registration.

For Prem and Div 1 - Premier and Division 1 teams

Using the Fixtures Live registration system each Club is required to register for each team in the NHWL 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 clubs newly promoted to the League 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Registrations, once made, remain in force until such time as either they are withdrawn by the Club, there is an interClub transfer or the team leaves the League. New registration requests must be entered online by 10.0pm 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 coordinator of the appropriate division under the Act by email.

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

For clubs with teams in NHWL Division 2 *is our existing registration rule*

Rule 13 **By 16th 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.

I remind you that for all registrations the onus for establishing player eligibility rests squarely with the club administrators as, in registering a player, the club administrators are confirming that the player is eligible to be registered for their club. In doing so, they are also confirming that the player has no outstanding indebtedness (financial or otherwise) to his previous club.

For anyone new to the league, either club or contact, can I remind you that rule 15.1 states that no player shall play more than one match in a day in EHL/NHML. Any breach of this rule will result in a 3 point deduction.

Start times and Lighting Certificates

Rule 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. Subject to this, the latest start times shall be 3.00pm other than from 1st November until 14th February when it shall be 2.15pm.

Current means it covers the months of November to February for the season 2017-2018

If any of your home matches are planned for later start times I must have a copy of a **current lighting certificate by October 22nd**

If you choose to play a match starting after 2.15pm, November to February, without the correct lighting certificate your club, not the NHWL or NHA, will be held liable if there are any accidents or claims of any sort.

*Rule 18.5 The latest start times shall be 3.30 pm other than from 1 November until 14 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.***

Match Officials

It is now mandatory for Premier division and Division 1 to provide a Match Official for their home matches. The rules regarding Green cards make it even more important for match officials to support umpires.

Anne Bowring is the main point of contact for this. anne.bowring@btinternet.com

Match officials must make sure they have a reliable stopwatch with them. [See attachment with more information.](#)

READ THE RULES

Fixtures are all on Fixtures Live and I remind you to **put in your home start times and let your opposition know that.**

Rule 8.1 *The home team shall be required to 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.***

Rule 23 Team Sheets *Each club shall complete a team sheet and hand it to the match delegate or umpires 20minutes 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 Fixtures Live through their Club Members area within 60 minutes of the end of the match.** See below – from Fixtures Live*
*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. . See attachment*

Result to Fixtures Live

This is replacing the 'SMS results entry' feature.

Once team captains have been set up, they are able to **enter results via the Club Member area.**

Most leagues make the home team responsible for entering results. Our system allows either captain, and Club Administrators from either club to enter a result, on the principle that *if we have the correct result, let's get it entered asap.*

The system records who entered a result, and when, which Competition Administrators can easily see.

How teams are chased for results on a match day

Both captains are emailed, if the result hasn't been submitted

- if no start time was entered, at the 'chase time' set by the Competition Administrator (defaults to 18:45)

How Competition Administrators get updates

You will receive emails:

- whenever all results are in for a match day - so that you know that your work is complete
- 30 minutes after the chase time, if there are still results awaited, listing the matches and the contact details of the relevant captains.

This is the article on Fixtures Live that team captains need: <http://w.fixtureslive.com/support/51/article/How-do-I-text-in-a-result-as-a-captain>

Umpires

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

The NHUA do not have enough umpires to be able to appoint to all our Division 1 this season.

Clubs will be responsible for finding their own umpires for their home games. I remind you to re read the rules here, and available on the NHA web site.

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 women's' 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.

Discipline

Rule 17 outlines issues regarding discipline and the matter of yellow cards that you should make sure your players are aware of. Please let me have your current Code of conduct or tell me where I can find it on your web site. **More specifically I need a copy of your Disciplinary Code** . Remember it has to be specific to your club and how you will deal with any miscreants, not just a download of the EH Code of Ethics.

Handbooks – are printed and should be with you shortly. Chris Reece, NHA secretary will be sending them out. If you need more please contact him. We use the information you have given us for all communication. If any details have changed please let us know

Hospitality.

I remind you that all clubs are expected to offer facilities and hospitality to visiting teams, umpires and other visitors to your game. If, for any reason, you cannot offer refreshments at any home match please let the opposition know that when you confirm things. It is not good enough to tell them after the match has ended.

Equally, visiting teams should tell the home team if they do not intend to stay for refreshments.

Web site.

In previous messages I have reminded clubs of the importance of keeping your club information up to date. Chris Reece has reminded me that he is the initial point of contact if you are having problems accessing your club's account at - chris.reece59@btinternet.com

Information.

England Hockey is preparing for the EH/GB entry to the Pro League. Quite where that leaves all the rest of hockey in the UK is any ones guess at this point in time. Suffice to say that any possible promotions from our Premier divisions is undecided as the season starts and that will affect all our divisions and every other hockey league. Watch this space. We will do our best to tell you what is happening, once we know. More at end of this letter.

League rules, Match report forms, transfer forms can all be found under Information – Downloads – North Women's League.

Premier and Division 1 clubs should complete their feedback on umpires by each Wednesday after a match. The umpires do complete their feedback on you regarding discipline, facilities, hospitality etc. Fines will be levied on clubs that fail to do so.

If you still have any queries please contact your Division Coordinator:-

Premier Division: Gill Cussons, gillian.cussons@virginmedia.com; Tel: 0151 427 2930 (daytime) 07900 415 044
Division 1 Anne Bowring; anne.bowring@btinternet.com Tel: 0114 24649090 07947 062337

Division 2 North West; Leighan Bleasdale, leighanbleasdale@hotmail.com; Tel; 0152436540 07794 269616
Division 2 North East; Andrew Nix, anhockey@sky.co; Tel: 07557104694
Division 2 South West Co-ordinator; Bev Deakin, dhcbev@gmail.com; Tel. 07845 766440
Division 2 South East Co-ordinator; Henri Williams, henrihockey@live.co.uk. Tel: 07850 715172
Anne Bowring is your contact for all things Fixtures Live.

Anne Bryant,

annebryant@totalserve.co.uk Tel: 01422 373774

PRO LEAGUE

England Hockey have a meeting on September 20th to decide what changes will be made after their consultations. They have consulted with National League clubs, with Conference clubs in April '17 and then with regions in late July. There were 2 open forums in mid August. Maybe not the ideal time.

From the EH Restructure

The proposed new structure key points and differences for clubs to note are as follows:

The leagues will include 72 teams. The top 24 will be involved in nationwide competition, premier and Division 1 and 48 teams will play in 4 conferences split geographically.

The top 24 teams would play in a new structure that runs in two separate phases at different times in a year.

Conferences –The conferences will be expanded from their current size to 4 divisions of 12 teams. This will reduce the current level of travel at this level.

However it could well be a greater level of travel, and therefore cost, to any teams moved up from regional leagues into the Conference.

They will be determined each season based on the geographic spread of teams, rather than set into a fixed structure based on hockey's regions.

The conferences would run during a standard hockey season from September – April with 12 teams playing 22 fixtures home and away. The 4 league winners would be promoted into the top 24 at the end of the normal season in March. The teams that finish bottom in the conferences would be relegated to the Regional leagues. The winners of the Regional Leagues would be involved in a playoff to enter the conferences.

Clubs' 2nd XIs would be allowed to compete at Conference level (but not at the same level as their 1st XI, i.e. the first team would have to be playing in the top 24).

NHWL committee have a meeting planned for September 24th to look at decisions agreed by EH board then decide what changes we may have to make.

I will hope to have those emailed to you after our meeting through your division coordinators. They will also be put on the North Hockey web site.

We do not know yet how teams might progress from Regional to higher leagues and this could reflect on how we manage promotion with NHWL. I suggest you aim to finish as high as possible in your division with a good goal difference.

NHML are also deciding what changes they will have to make.

We hope to work together to get the best outcome for our clubs in the North.