

NORTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

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1. TITLE

The Association shall be called the North Hockey Association (NHA and hereinafter referred to as “The Association”) and shall be affiliated to England Hockey (otherwise known as England Hockey) or such other successor National Governing Body (NGB) as shall be legitimately constituted and adhere to its rules. NHA is a non-profit making organisation. All surpluses shall be used to further the association’s aims and objects. No surplus will be distributed other than to another non-profit making body or to members on winding up or dissolution.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTS

These shall be to:

- 2.1 Promote, develop and encourage all hockey (outdoor, indoor and mixed) for adults, young people and children in clubs and schools. This shall include all aspects of player coaching and education and any surplus generated from this source shall be reserved towards ongoing young player and umpire development.
- 2.2 Arrange such Regional Leagues and other Regional Competitions for all age levels, as may be approved by the North Council.
- 2.3 Select and prepare squads of players to represent the North Region.
- 2.4 Implement policies and rules laid down by England Hockey
- 2.5 To promote and ensure good governance and management within the administration of counties and league structures
- 2.6 Organise umpiring and umpire coach education and maintain and improve standards of umpiring.
- 2.7 Organise coaching and coach education and maintain and improve standards of playing and coaching.
- 2.8 Organise technical officiating and education, maintain and improve standards of technical officiating.
- 2.9 Produce or procure technical and other resources relevant to hockey.
- 2.10 Raise funds by any means approved by the North Council.
- 2.11 Pay remuneration, if thought fit by the North Council, to any official or employee of the Association and the expenses of any honorary official or employee or member who performs services to the Association.
- 2.12 Co-operate with Sport England and any other relevant body in the provision of playing and other facilities for the game.
- 2.13 Foster friendship between members and players of all regions.

3. CONSTITUENT BODIES

- 3.1 The County Hockey Associations listed in Schedule 1, each of which shall be bound by this Constitution, and which shall play in accordance with the “Rules of the Game” authorised by the Hockey Rules Board and the International Hockey Federation, shall be the constituent bodies of the Association.
- 3.2 The boundaries of the County Hockey Associations referred to above shall be those obtaining on 31 May 1997.
- 3.3 County Hockey Associations shall hold their Annual General Meetings before 30 June each year.
- 3.4 County Associations shall submit their constitutions, and any amendments thereafter for approval/ratification.

4. OFFICERS

- 4.1 The Officers shall be the President, Immediate Past President the Deputy President, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer and the Vice President. They shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.
- 4.2 Neither the President, Deputy President nor the Immediate Past President shall serve for more than three consecutive years in any one office.
- 4.3 Nominations may be made by the North Council, the Executive Committee, a County Association or an affiliated club. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary of NHA no later than six full weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting in any year. The nominations shall include the name and address of the nominee and his/her consent to the nomination. Nominations made by an affiliated club shall be seconded by another club or by a County Association.
- 4.4 If a vacancy occurs among the Officers, the North Council shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the Association year. Nominations may be made by the North Council or by County Associations.

5. NORTH COUNCIL

Subject to the over-riding power of a General Meeting, the Association shall be governed by the North Council. The Council may, however, delegate to any other Committee such of its powers as it may think fit.

- 5.1 The Council shall consist of:
 - 5.1.1 The Officers, one of whom it shall elect as Chairman;
 - 5.1.2 County Representatives (see Schedule 1);
 - 5.1.3 A representative of the Coaching, Competitions, Performance and Umpiring committees;
 - 5.1.4 The Regional Disciplinary Administrator;
 - 5.1.5 The IT Media Officer;
 - 5.1.6 The Regional Welfare Officer;
 - 5.1.7 The regional representative to the England Hockey Regional Consultative Committee;
 - 5.1.8 Any member elected to the England Hockey Board (non-executive)
 - 5.1.9 Any member elected England Hockey President or Vice President
 - 5.1.10 Council may co-opt to Council or Executives committees and such co-optees shall have the power to vote.
- 5.2 The Council may invite to any of its meeting such persons as it may think fit. Such persons shall not have the power to vote.
- 5.3 If a nominated representative of a County Association or a Standing Committee is unable to attend a meeting, the Association or Committee concerned may send a deputy who shall be entitled to vote.
- 5.4 Subject to 5.1.2 above, each member shall have one vote. In addition, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 5.5 A quorum shall be eight voting members, within which there shall be representatives from at least three County Associations.
- 5.6 Meetings:
 - 5.6.1 The Council shall hold at least three meetings each year for the despatch of business, the agenda for each to be received by the members 14 days prior to the meeting.

- 5.6.2 A Special Meeting of the Council may be called subject to the above notice
 - 5.6.2.1 at the discretion of the Executive Committee
 - 5.6.2.2 by the order of the Council;
 - 5.6.2.3 upon receiving a written requisition from no fewer than eight Council members, of whom four shall be County representatives. Such requisition shall state clearly the reason for such a request.
- 5.6.3 A meeting called under 5.6.2.3 above shall be held within one calendar month of the requisition and the quorum shall be as prescribed in 5.5 above.
- 5.7 Terms of reference:
 - 5.7.1 The Council shall:
 - 5.7.1.1 prescribe the policies of the Association;
 - 5.7.1.2 be responsible for the long term plans, finance and budgets of the Association;
 - 5.7.1.3 annually approve the Chairmen of the Standing Committees, namely Coaching, Competitions, Performance and Umpiring;
 - 5.7.1.4 appoint a Regional Disciplinary Administrator (RDA), a Deputy and other members as required under rule 13;
 - 5.7.1.5 receive and consider reports and minutes of the Standing Committees;
 - 5.7.1.6 appoint a representative to England Hockey Regional Consultative Committee;
 - 5.7.1.7 make nominations for England Hockey and any other relevant England Hockey sub-committees or to fill any ad hoc vacancies as required by England Hockey;
 - 5.7.1.8 determine the rules of the North Hockey League
 - 5.7.2 The Council shall have the power to:
 - 5.7.2.1 make such appointments as it may deem appropriate;
 - 5.7.2.2 approve and amend the constitutions and terms of reference of the Standing Committees and of the appeals panels;
 - 5.7.2.3 approve and amend the Association's regulations;
 - 5.7.2.4 affiliate to, or disaffiliate from, any body;
 - 5.7.2.5 take any other action which it may deem appropriate.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 6.1 The Committee shall consist of the Officers and the Sub-Committee Chairs, one of whom shall be Chairman.
- 6.2 The Regional Representative to the England Hockey Regional Representative Committee:
- 6.3 The Committee may invite to any of its meetings such persons as it may deem appropriate. These persons shall not be entitled to vote.
- 6.4 Each member shall have one vote. In addition, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 6.5 A quorum shall be four voting members.
- 6.6 The Committee shall normally hold at least three meetings in each Association year of which one shall be an annual finance review.
- 6.7 If the Chairman is unable to attend a meeting, the voting members present shall appoint one of their number to act as Chairman for that meeting.
- 6.8 Terms of reference:
 - The Committee shall:
 - 6.8.1 be responsible to the Council;

- 6.8.2 formulate for the approval of the Council, a long term plan incorporating relevant financial considerations;
- 6.8.3 implement the policies approved by the Council and deal with any matter within those policies;
- 6.8.4 co-ordinate the work of the Standing Committees;
- 6.8.5 appoint regional coaches and managers for representative sides and oversee appointments to Performance Centres;
- 6.8.6 consider and formulate proposals to the Council on any matter, including policy issues raised by other committees;
- 6.8.7 deal with the administration of the Association;
- 6.8.8 have power to convene a special meeting of the Council;
- 6.8.9 have power to take immediate action in the case of an emergency;

7. MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 Full membership
 - 7.1.1 This shall be the only category of membership available to associations, clubs and schools and shall be by affiliation and be open to associations, clubs and schools which are located within the County Associations defined in 3.1. All affiliated associations, clubs and schools shall be bound by this constitution.
 - 7.1.2 A bona fide member of any affiliated Regional or County Association (which, by derivation, includes NHUA and regional and county Hockey Umpires' Associations), club or school shall be deemed to be a member of the Association at no additional cost.
 - 7.1.3 Clubs:
 - 7.1.3.1 A club shall normally affiliate only through the County Association within whose boundaries its ground is situated.
 - 7.1.3.2 Any club wishing to change its county affiliation must first seek the approval of the Council.
 - 7.1.4 Schools:
 - 7.1.4.1 A school shall normally affiliate only through the County Association within whose boundaries its ground or building is situated. If, however, a school moves or the location of the ground is changed, it may continue to affiliate through the County Association of which it was first a member.
- 7.2 Honorary Life Members
 - 7.2.1 Honorary Life Members may be elected by the Council in recognition of special service to NHA. They shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1 Income and property of the Association.
- 8.2 The income of the Association shall be derived from the affiliation fees and subscriptions of members and, subject to the approval of the Council, from any other appropriate source, and shall become the property of the Association. Such income shall be used for the furtherance of the aims and objects of the Association as defined in clause 2, and for such other purposes as a General Meeting or the Council may determine. The level of affiliation fees and subscriptions shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and shall be due by 1 November in each year.
 - 8.2.1 Full Members:

- 8.2.1.1 All clubs, universities, colleges and schools shall pay an affiliation fee to the Association through the County Association to which they are affiliated.
- 8.2.1.2 Any club, university or college which, exceptionally, affiliates direct with the Association shall pay an affiliation fee direct to the Association.
- 8.2.1.3 Any member whose fee has not been paid by 30 November shall be removed from membership of the Association. Such members may apply for re-instatement on payment of any outstanding affiliation fees due, the affiliation fee for the current season and a re-affiliation fee (which, unless otherwise decided by the Council, shall be 50% of the current affiliation fee payable for each team).

8.3 Annual Accounts

- 8.3.1 The Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and all subsidiary accounts shall be made up to 31 March in each year, shall be audited and presented to the next Annual General Meeting.

9. **GENERAL MEETINGS**

9.1 Annual General Meeting

- 9.1.1 9.1.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held in June each year. The Association year will run from 1 July to 30 June following.
- 9.1.2 Notice of the Annual General Meeting, a list of nominations for Officers, a copy of the agenda and a copy of the accounts shall be sent to every member at least 21 days before the date of such meeting.
- 9.1.3 Business to be transacted:
 - 9.1.3.1 the election of Officers, subject to any ballot which may be held and subject to 4.2 and 4.4;
 - 9.1.3.2 the appointment of a qualified auditor;
 - 9.1.3.3 the presentation of accounts and a report on the current financial position;
 - 9.1.3.4 the determination of the annual affiliation fees and subscriptions;
 - 9.1.3.5 the presentation of reports;
 - 9.1.3.6 the consideration of any amendments to the Constitution;
 - 9.1.3.7 the confirmation of the Council's appointments and/or nominations;
 - 9.1.3.8 the presentation of any trophies;
 - 9.1.3.9 any other items submitted for inclusion on the agenda
- 9.1.4 No clause of the Constitution shall be amended nor any resolution passed at a previous General Meeting may be rescinded, save by resolution, of which notice shall be given on the Agenda, passed by at least two thirds of those present and entitled to vote at General Meetings.
- 9.1.5 Notice of any proposed alterations to the Constitution and any other motions to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting, together with the names of the proposer and seconder (unless the motion is to be submitted on behalf of the Council) shall be given in writing to the Hon. Secretary of the Association not later than six full weeks before the date of such meeting.
- 9.1.6 The Chair shall be taken throughout the meeting by the incumbent President, or in that person's absence, by the Deputy President. In the absence of both these Officers, the meeting shall elect a member of the Council to chair the meeting.
- 9.1.7 At any General Meeting. No member may cast more than one vote, other than the Chairman, who, in addition, has a casting vote. The following shall be entitled to attend a General Meeting and to vote
 - 9.1.7.1 the Officers and other voting members of the Council and the following affiliated members:
 - 9.1.7.1.1 clubs with both female and male playing members – two representatives each;

- 9.1.7.1.2 clubs with only female playing members – one representative each;
- 9.1.7.1.3 clubs with only male playing members – one representative each;
- 9.1.7.1.4 clubs which only play mixed hockey – one representative each;
- 9.1.7.1.5 schools – one female and one male from each County or equivalent Association;
- 9.1.7.1.6 Honorary Life members;
- 9.1.8 Any other person may attend a General Meeting, but may not take an active part in the proceedings unless invited by the Chairman.
- 9.1.9 Twelve members present and entitled to vote shall form a quorum, of which there shall be representatives from at least three counties (clubs).
- 9.2 Special General Meetings
- 9.2.1 The Honorary Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting at any time:
 - 9.2.1.1 by order of the Council;
 - 9.2.1.2 upon receiving a requisition from no fewer than twenty affiliated clubs, signed on behalf of each club by two of their officials. These twenty clubs must be drawn from at least three County Associations. Every requisition shall state clearly the reason for such a request.
- 9.2.2 A meeting called under 9.2.1.2. above shall be held as soon as possible and, in any event, within six weeks of receipt of the requisition.
- 9.2.3 At least fourteen days notice of a Special General Meeting, and of all resolutions to be proposed thereat, shall be given to each member as defined in 7.1.1 and in 9.1.7.1. above. No other business shall be conducted.
- 9.2.4 Provisions 9.1.6 to 9.1.9 shall apply to a Special General Meeting.

10. COMMITTEES

- 10.1 The Council shall approve annually the designated Chairmen of the Standing Committees, which shall be Coaching, Competitions, Masters, Performance and Umpiring. The Management Committee of NHUA shall be deemed, for the purpose of this Constitution, to be the Umpiring Committee of NHA.
- 10.2 The composition of each Standing Committee is laid down in the relevant schedule.
- 10.3 A quorum shall be four voting members.
- 10.4 Each Standing Committee shall:
 - 10.4.1 act under the terms of reference prescribed by the Council;
 - 10.4.2 deal with, or make recommendations on, any matters referred by the Council or Executive Committee;
 - 10.4.3 prior to each committee meeting, submit the agenda and, subsequently, the minutes promptly to the Honorary Secretary of NHA;
 - 10.4.4 have the power to appoint such sub-committees as it deems fit.
- 10.5 Each Standing Committee shall elect a Secretary.
- 10.6 Each Standing Committee may hold funds as authorised by the Council. It shall keep records of its income and expenditure for each Association financial year.
- 10.7 Each Standing Committee may co-opt such persons as they think fit.
- 10.8 Only those nominated members of the Standing Committees shall have a vote. Co-opted members shall not have a vote. In addition, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

11. CODE OF ETHICS AND BEHAVIOUR and NORTH DISCIPLINARY CODE

Amended: June 2019

- 11.1 The Code governing the conduct of all officers, administrators, players coaches, managers, umpires, reserve umpires, match officials, technical officials and spectators or shall be set out in the NHA and England Hockey Codes of Conduct. Any officers, administrators, players, coaches, managers, umpires, reserve umpires, match officials, technical officials and spectators deemed to be in breach of any part of the code(s) of Conduct may be disciplined thereunder.
- 11.2 The Council shall annually appoint a Regional Discipline Administrator (RDA), (5.7.1.4), who shall be a member of Council, and a Deputy (DRDA). These person shall be required to work with the County Discipline Officers and Administrators to implement the regulations set out in the EH Red Card & Match Day Misconduct Offence Regulations.
- 11.3 Any Child protection and Safeguarding issues shall be referred to the Welfare Officer. Doping issues must be referred to England Hockey.

12. REGIONAL DISCIPLINARY APPEALS PANEL (RDAP)

- 12.1 There shall be a RDAP to consider any appeals against decisions made and approved by the RDA within the codes.
- 12.2 The Council shall appoint annually an independent Chairman of the RDAP (5.7.1.4) and four other suitable persons, two of each gender, to form the RDAP, none of whom shall be an officer or employee of EH or a currently serving RDA or CDA (or deputy). Schedule 6 provides for co-options where necessary. At least one of those appointed shall be a member of the Executive Committee. When the Chair (RDAP) is unavailable or unable to chair because of a conflict of interests, he/she may appoint a deputy from those above. Persons shall any declare any expressions of interest in any appeals
- 12.3 For the purpose of any hearing or decision to be made by an RDAP, the Chair shall request two of the Panel members to act with him/her as the RDAP. No person may be appointed to a particular panel or be involved in a decision relating to that matter who has previously been involved in adjudicating on any matter to be referred to in the RDAP or is a member of an affiliated body directly concerned in the incident that led to the decision being appealed against or have any other discernible conflict of interest.
- 12.4 The RDAP may appoint a person to act as Secretary to the RDAP and shall from time keep the RDA and all CDAs in the Region fully informed as to the contact details of the Secretary and, in particular, the address, including any email address, to which any documents may be sent. If a Secretary is not appointed, the RDA of the particular Region shall be deemed to be the Secretary.
- 12.5 Appeals must be lodged in accordance with the EH Red Card & Match Day Misconduct Offence Regulations. (currently within 7 days).
- 12.6 The composition of the RDAP/ appeal committee shall have regard to the matter under consideration (i.e. if the matter relates to a women's game, there shall be at least one woman on the committee; the reverse shall apply if it relates to a men's game).
- 12.7 A deposit £100 shall be lodged at the time of the appeal and any refund shall be at the discretion of the RDAP/Appeal Committee.
- 12.8 The costs of any appeal shall be borne fully by the appellant unless the appeal committee shall, exceptionally, decide otherwise.
- 12.9 The decision of the RDAP/Appeal Committee shall be final.
- 12.10 The business of the RDAP/Appeal Committee shall be handled in accordance with the terms of reference (schedule 6).

13. NHA APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 13.1 All appeals for matters other than those to which Section 12 (RDAP) apply shall be lodged in writing with the NHA Honorary Secretary within 14 days of notification of the decision being appealed against
- 13.2 The Chair shall be the person appointed as Chair to the RDAP and the four other members shall be those appointed to the RDAP. Two others may be appointed and those currently serving RDA or CDAs (or deputy) shall be eligible for appointment.
- 13.3 Sections 12.5 to 12.8 above shall also apply to this committee.

14. DISSOLUTION

A resolution to dissolve the Association shall be put to a General Meeting and shall be passed only by the affirmative vote of at least 75% of those entitled to vote and voting. The Council shall proceed to realise the assets of the NHA. Thereupon, after discharging or making provision for its liabilities, the whole of its assets shall be distributed in accordance with NHA's objects in paragraph 1 as shall be determined by a General Meeting.