

NORTH HOCKEY LEAGUES

SUMMER MEETING 2018 for MENS & WOMENS LEAGUES

Wakefield Hockey Club 18th June – 1.30pm

1 Welcome – John Scrinì

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that we would begin with the presentation of the trophies.

6 Presentation of Trophies

As Anne Bryant is stepping down as Chair of North Women's hockey she asked her replacement, Clare Thompson, to present the Women's League trophies.

Women's League

Premier	Leeds Ladies
Div. 1	Pendle Forest
Div. 2 NE	Stokesley
Div. 2 SE	Boston Spa
Div. 2 NW	Lancaster
Div. 2 SW	Wilmslow

Men's League

Premier	Brooklands Manchester University 2
Div. 1	Lindum
Div. 2 W	Brooklands Manchester University 3
Div. 2 E	Doncaster 2

2 Secretaries' Reports

Men's Report – Peter Cocker

As usual in this report I will start the review of the season by offering congratulations to those clubs that have been promoted and commiserations to those clubs relegated. A table showing the composition of the league for next season is enclosed with the notice for the Summer Meeting, whilst the final league tables are still available on the North website.

Congratulations go to Brooklands MU2 on finishing the season as Premier Division champions, to Lindum and City of York on gaining promotion to the Premier Division and Deeside Ramblers 2 and to Doncaster 2 on gaining promotion to the Division 1. As Brooklands MU2 cannot be promoted to the EHL, this means that Alderley Edge 1 is promoted to the EHL as the highest placed "eligible" team. Brooklands MU3 finished the season as winners of Division 2 West, the current rules mean that BMU3 cannot be promoted to Division 1, so the highest placed "eligible" team, which is Deeside Ramblers 2, was promoted.

With Deeside Ramblers relegated from the MHL this season, the NHML promotion and relegation rules meant that there was no automatic promotion place available for the winner of the Division 2 play-off. Sheffield Hallam 2 and Windermere met at Leeds University, with Sheffield Hallam 2 winning 4-0 and going on to play Neston South Wirral the following weekend. Neston South Wirral became the first side to retain their place in Division in the play-offs, winning a tight and competitive game by 1-0. The NHL rules require at least 2 teams are relegated from Divisions 2 East and West, whatever happens above and this meant that Wakefield 2 and Stokesley were relegated from Division 2 East and Lancaster and Morecambe and Oxton 2 relegated from Division 2 West. If Sheffield Hallam 2 had won the play-off game it would have created a vacancy in Division 2 East. Because the play-offs were delayed because of extended season, we also played the game between the runners up in the North East League and the Yorkshire League to fill this potential vacancy. Bradford beat Durham City by 3-2 in a very closely contested game, although with Neston South Wirral's success, this game was rendered irrelevant.

The committee met on three occasions during the season, dealing with a wide range of issues, including rule changes, equipment checks, after match issues with umpires, club discipline, lack of suitable post game hospitality, unregistered players, fielding ineligible players and selection on merit. I am pleased to report that this has been a fairly routine season in terms of administration, with no major issues needing to be dealt with. The Committee also had to deal with 2 failures to fulfil a fixtures in Division 1 and Division 2 West, resulting in a 3 point deductions and fines to cover "out of pocket" expenses. The Committee also contributed to the EHL review of the National League, which included strong representation at a meeting of regional league secretaries. The final decision was announced by EH in March and will have a significant impact on the NHL at the end of next season.

The on-line player registration system using Fixtures Live, introduced in September 2015, continued to operate effectively during the season with few problems.

I think I have done very well to reach this stage in my report without mentioning the weather. I made the mistake last year of saying that the weather had been relatively kind to us over the past few seasons, with few games lost due to bad weather. Well, that all came back to bite me with a vengeance this season, with all but 3 fixtures wiped out on 9 December and 23 games postponed on 3 March. To make matters worse, 9 games on the east side of the Pennines were postponed on 17 March and a full programme of rearranged games lost on 18 March. With a number of other more localised postponements of both regular and rearranged fixtures, coupled with an extremely early Easter and, as mentioned earlier, this also resulted in the dates of the play-offs being moved back. Eventually the whole thing became a logistical nightmare, with fixtures being rearranged and postponed again due to further bad weather, or player availability problems. For both Annette Badger and I, it became virtually a full time job to cope with the rearranged fixtures, spending hours on the computer and phone.

Whilst most teams tried to replay the fixtures as quickly as possible, there is still an underlying problem with a number of teams acknowledging the existence of the "15 day" rule and the need to replay games on a Sunday.

A special word of thanks and appreciation must go to Peter Richardson (Ben Rhydding) and Gawaine McKenzie-Hogg (Leeds University) for their invaluable help and assistance hosting the various play-off matches.

This season saw the introduction of what was previously known as the "technical red" system into the laws of hockey. This meant that although the player would be excluded for the remainder of the game, there was no subsequent action attached. However, some clubs had a little difficulty in remembering that the two yellow cards received do both count towards the accumulation of yellow cards.

This season has seen a decline in the number of yellow cards issued across all of the divisions, with the most marked decrease in the Premier Division. A continuing concern to the Committee however is the level of yellow cards issued for abuse. This year out of a total of 498 yellow cards, some 139

(28%) were for abuse. Whilst we do not collect the reason for green cards, it is also clear that substantial proportion of green cards are for abuse. Whilst it is generally accepted that the umpires and MD already have the "tools in their bag" to deal with these issues, the Committee is determined to enforce a zero tolerance policy in respect of any abuse. We will continue to work closely to support the umpires in tackling this problem and looking for MDs to play a much more active role in this area. It still appears that too many MDs think that they are there just to record goals and cards! For some years now the Committee has "invited" teams with a consistently poor disciplinary record to appear before them to explain what they are doing to improve their disciplinary record. This season however, the committee did not feel it necessary to issue any such invitations, although I did contact some clubs on an "informal" basis.

Whilst on the subject of discipline, can I also take this opportunity to remind clubs that 3 years ago the Committee decided to set out its policy on the penalties to be imposed on teams for the accumulation of yellow and red cards. This remains in place for next season as follows:

i any team reaching 22 yellow/red cards during the season will be given a higher level fine (currently £50)

ii when/if any team reaches 27 yellow/red cards during the season they will be invited to appear before the Committee which can result in the deduction of up to 3 points, with a similar penalty for each additional 3 yellow/red cards received.

You will see from the disciplinary tables that this year 2 clubs reached the 22 red/yellow card trigger point, and attracted higher level fines of £25. You will also note that 2 other clubs reached 21 yellow/red cards and narrowly avoided a fine.

Whilst we do appreciate that the new "cards" system has put more responsibility on to the match delegate, we believe that this has been a very positive step forward. The home team is now responsible for submitting the match sheet and the home and away team sheets, so that the MD, umpires and divisional co-ordinators know who is entitled to sit on the bench (manager, coach, physio, etc). Sadly however, the divisional co-ordinators have again reported a continuing deterioration in the way the sheets are completed.

This year both the men's and women's committees have considered a number of proposed rule changes and those that found mutual agreement were then submitted to North Competitions. The rule changes for next season are not this year attached to the papers for the Summer Meeting as they will be presented to North Council for approval (or not) prior to the AGM on 12 June. I will try to circulate the approved changes prior to the Summer Meeting.

The North website continues to grow in both its use and scope and it is important that club's keep their own information up to date. I appreciate however, that the club official contacts on the North website are often very different to those for the NHML, so the North Handbook will continue to play an important role for the foreseeable future.

Although we now pay around £20,000 for umpire appointments for the Premier Division and Divisions 1 and 2 East, Peter Richardson will report that we have again operated at a profit this season. This is primarily due to the level of fines raised this season and it continues to be a concern that we are dependent on fines to effectively keep the league on an even keel, particularly when we are all striving to improve all aspects of administration and therefore drive down the level of fines.

At this stage I would again like to give Annette Badger a special mention and a big thank you.

Annette again managed to juggle a finite umpiring resource very effectively in making the NHUA appointments for both the NHML and NHWL. This becomes even more difficult when dealing with rearranged games to be played on a Sunday when there is a full programme of EH fixtures.

I would also like to single out Chris Darling for a special word of thanks. Each year Chris produces fixtures for leagues across the North and I am sure that his year will have been particularly trying with the late conclusion of so many league fixtures. The fact that you now have next season's fixtures is testimony to the work and commitment that Chris puts into this work.

In closing I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to my colleagues on the men's and women's Committees for their continued support and hard work on behalf of the leagues. As Secretary I have

an almost day to day contact with the clubs and, even with the odd falling out, can safely say that the strength of the league comes from the quality and integrity of the people I deal with in the clubs and committee.

Women's Report – Anne Bryant

All our league games were completed - well I think so.

What a season! Frost, wind, snow, deluges of rain, more frost, this side of the Pennines then the other side of the Pennines, North or South, more snow, more frost – the weather seemed never ending - and so did the season. Our thanks to all those secretaries and others involved in trying to re-arrange postponed matches. A difficult season for all.

However - Any review of the season should start with offering congratulations to those clubs that have been promoted. Very well done – and commiserations to those less successful and maybe relegated. Final League tables are on the North web site.

We congratulate Leeds Ladies club on their promotion to North Conference and welcome back Wakefield 1st and Liverpool Sefton into our Premier division along with Pendle who are promoted from Division 1.

The play offs went well, with strongly contested games that were good to watch and concluded with Lancaster and Stokesley being promoted to Division 1

We welcome Whitby, Slazenger's, Preston, South Lakes, Alderley Edge 2nd and Didsbury Northern 2nd into Divisions 2s

Thank you to those clubs who entered teams into England Hockey competitions and keep the North name up there.

Lancaster reached the semi final of their tier. Alderley Edge. Chester, City of York, Bowden, Formby and Newcastle travelled up and down the country to take part in EH competitions and we congratulate all those North teams that entered the EH events. They might not have come away with trophies but they put the North's name well to the front. Well done and thank you.

On to issues for the coming season. Some are applicable just to women's league and some to both leagues so please do make sure you hear these.

You know – or should do by now that EH – is implementing major changes to the structure of the national hockey league for 2019-20. Not this coming season but the one after that.

This will have major impact on the North Leagues which in turn will impact on regional and county feeder leagues.

John Scrinzi will be giving you the details shortly.

1. Handbook. We ask all clubs to complete the form that Gill Knowles has sent out to you. the forms can be sent to Gill by email (copying in Chris Reece please) You can also access the information form directly from the North website where there will be a downloadable PDF that you can print off- same size as the current handbook I have been told. Can you also ensure that you provide a postcode for your main pitch,

2. Fixtures Live.

All our clubs are now just brilliant at getting their results in to Fixtures Live and I'm certain you all appreciate the immediacy of being able to check results as they come in on a Saturday evening. Last season we used the online registration system for our Prem and Division 1. This has worked well and now **all clubs** must use the system for registration. Again Anne Bowring will be the main contact for women's teams. You need to have someone at the club to take on that responsibility. Many of you have that person in place already so you can register all your players before the season starts. The Women's League covers the cost for this as we feel that it is to everyone's advantage.

Doing this will have an impact on the present rules regarding registration Appendix 2 rule 13. So this has been amended in the new rules.

Integration of administrative tasks makes things easier for clubs and leads to a better and clearer understanding of the rules.

John Scrini will be going over rule amendments with you shortly.

Rules.

Whilst I am talking of rules - As usual the committee spent some time looking at rules we felt needed tightening up, re wording or needing further amendments. Some clubs also gave us their opinions on rules they felt needed looking at –too often though just as it affected their club with little or no consideration as to how their suggestions would impact on other divisions. I will be advising clubs and maybe feeder leagues to make sure they look at North rules in relation to their own rules and ensure they apply them correctly.

We are now making it mandatory that **all** matches must have a Match Official provided by the home team.

There are guide lines for this on the web and in the handbook. These include many points that realistically are not relevant for all our clubs and pitches but do please make sure your club is aware of the main points- recording what happens on the pitch, team sheets. Timing suspensions etc. plus any comments they think are needed.

Match officials are there to record what happens on the pitch – they are not there to deal with spectators. It is the **home clubs responsibility to manage the spectators** and I hope that some of you will look to manage that better in future.

All clubs Code of Conduct should apply to all members of the club.

The matter of a club providing 2 umpires for a home game then expecting the opposition to reciprocate is **not** a rule. It often leads to complaints during or after the game. It is not a rule. Teams should provide an umpire each if none are appointed.

I remind you all to read the rules – before the season starts, not just when you have a problem please. On the web site and in the handbook.

3. Lighting. Check your start times and rules to see if you need to play under lights. **A reminder to all clubs that your lighting certificates need renewing on an annual basis so the one you have dated 2012 is not acceptable.**

Now is the time to get started on that to ensure you are ready for the season. Halliday lighting are the experts. Please check your certificate and make sure it fits the criteria in rule 18.4 and it will last until the end of February 2019.

4. Fees – Eunice Ellison our treasurer is very disappointed not to be with us today but she insists she will be thinking of us – whilst sitting in her caravan in Switzerland!

Copies of the accounts have been sent to clubs and there are some copies here if needed. Any queries to Eunice later please.

5. Umpires. We owe NHUA many thanks for all they have managed to do in appointing umpires this past season. In particular I thank Annette Badger who manages to somehow get umpires to more games than she has umpires available.

Annette was able to supply umpires to all Premier and all but a couple of Division 1 matches

Annette, thank you.

I'm delighted that the NHUA recognise great ability and expertise when they have it in their midst and to that end they awarded Annette the Ken Stephenson Lifetime Achievement Award at their

AGM earlier this week. Many congratulations Annette - though I am a little concerned at the amount of alcohol that seemed to involve.

Gill Meacham from Yorkshire Umpires is here with us today and would like to meet Div 2 South East representatives briefly after this meeting.

Umpires are there to manage what is happening on the field of play – and they do that very well. There are times when players may become a little over excited and have to be penalised. It's part of the game. Most players accept the umpire's decisions but occasionally they want to contest that and argue the point. Captains are responsible for players' behaviour and must take responsibility for dealing with them if necessary.

If a club has a **major** problem with an umpire – and I say major because I do think that clubs and umpires can have problems with one another on occasions – then the club concerned should take their concerns to the appointing body. The NHUA or the county umpires association or the club that arranged the umpire.

A reminder that home clubs must confirm with their opposition, and appointed umpires 10 days before a match – and again if matches have to be postponed please make sure the umpire is told and you have confirmation for that. Leaving a message or text is not enough.

6. Feedback on line. A reminder to all clubs that they must put their umpire feedback on the website by 8.00pm after the match. We still have some clubs who are not good at this.

7. Women's competitions. Our thanks go to Ann Edwards who organises the 2 competitions we have, The Under 21, won by Lancashire Central and the Cock of the North was won by the Isle of Man who beat Yorkshire in a thrilling final.

8. Nearly there now. I remind you that you have your division coordinators –

Premier – **Gill Cussons**

Division 1 – **Anne Bowring**

Division 2 NE - **Andrew Nix.** –

Division 2 SW - **Bev Deakin** –

Division 2 SE – **Henri Williams**

Division 2 NW – **Leighan Bleasdale**

They are your point of information and contact for all queries. Please do try and contact your coordinator **before** you do something you are not certain about.

9. The North website continues to expand and it is important that clubs keep their own information up to date. We know that the club contacts on the website are not always consistent with those for the teams and League so you might need to update the web site and let your division coordinator be aware of any changes.

To those of you that are representing both mens and womens teams from one club do please talk to your colleague – before the season starts preferably - and tell them what went on here today - new rules, guide lines etc. A report will be on the North web site when Jayne Smith manages to decipher all we have scribbled or said today. Thank you Jayne.

Last few bits .

1. Fixtures- you should have received those from your coordinator.

2. I am retiring now as Chair of North Women's hockey and Clare Thompson will be taking on that role from now. I am sure you will all be as supportive of Clare as you have been of me. I will be continuing as a general secretary for this coming season.

I must refer to the

England Hockey Awards. What a good night for the North

Innovation - Scarborough HC (for beach hockey) the mind boggles over that being played under a sea fret.

Vitality Hockey Maker of the Year - Bev Barstow from Wakefield HC

Official of the Year - Lee Barron

Lifetime Achievement: Judith Nicholson. From Hull. A past Chair of NHWL Its worth repeating the EH comments for Judith –

Looking through the hockey archives, Judith's name is first mentioned in 1974, when she was one of 16 founder members of Welton Ladies Hockey Club, which went on to become the most successful ladies club in the Hull area. She was chair of that club from 1976 to 1985 and again from 1987 to 1989. Judith has been involved with the North Hockey Association, holding offices such as Vice President, President and Secretary. In recent years, despite fighting cancer and crippling arthritis that has necessitated two knee replacements; she has continued to work with senior hockey but has now become fully involved in the development of Junior hockey in the area. Judith works tirelessly for hockey and without her determination and commitment, many hockey players would not have got the opportunities to play and be successful in their chosen sport.

Very well deserved Judith.

And last but not the least we congratulate Pendle Forest 1st XI as becoming Investec Women's Team of the Year – very well done Pendle.

They have assured me that they celebrated in an appropriate manner.

3. Thank you all for being here today - for all you do – and I hope your club appreciates your efforts as much as we do.

3 Treasurer's Reports

The accounts had been circulated to clubs prior to this meeting.

As Eunice was not present at the meeting Anne Bryant suggested any queries of the Ladies accounts be directed to Eunice on her return from holiday.

Peter Richardson went through the Men's accounts stating that the weather had no effect on them whatsoever!!

4 Umpiring Report – Annette Badger

As last year there were shortages of umpires, even on the Men's side at the beginning of the season, and most Saturday's there were only 18 Women's Panel umpires available. Never the less bar 5 Women's Div 1 appointments all games were covered. However, it would be prudent for Div 1 sides to ensure that they continue to have umpire cover.

The bad weather created further problems but again umpires were appointed to all rearranged matches. Thanks go to those teams who kept the Appointments Secretary informed from the start as this made the task so much easier.

Hospitality was generally good with:

Men's Prem – 1. Bowdon,

Div 1 1. Lindum,

Women's Prem 1 Wakefield,

Div 1 1 Lymm,

Again over all behaviour has been good this season with a few notable exceptions. There are only a few teams and often within them only a few players who are notable for dissent which suggests that Team Captains should exercise more control.

Men's Prem 1. SUB

Div 1, 1. Chapletown,

Women's Prem 1 Doncaster,

Div 1 1 Morpeth,

The reorganisation of the National League that will come into effect in 2019 – 2020 will require the Regions to supply some umpires to the Conference Leagues. Whilst this should not have too great an impact on the ability to appoint to the Men's Leagues the possible impact on the Women's Umpire Panels could be that it will no longer be possible to appoint to Div 1. So, it would be sensible for those teams to make preparations during the forthcoming season to enable them to provide umpires in 2019. Currently a small group, of which I am a member, are working towards this end plus we are looking at the reorganisation of umpiring in England one of the aims of which is to develop Club umpires.

Next season we are planning to hold another meeting to which Team Coaches/Capts are invited to meet with Umpire Coaches and Umpires and are hoping to arrange it in the East side of the region. Finally, I would like to thank the teams for all their feedback and Peter Cocker and Anne Bryant for their support during the past year.

5 Regulations and Rules

John Scrinì presented the following rules and regulations changes to the meeting

~~Red = section to be amended/ removed~~

Rules 13 Registration, 22 Match delegates Women's now as Men's so removed from Appendices

Blue – comments

Green = suggested re/wording

Code of Pitchside Conduct set out in the hand book not at present . Should be include

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 1st and 2nd 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.~~ **Current rule 3.4 becomes rule 3.3**

3.4 No club may have more than one team in any division. To achieve this a 2nd 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 30th 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 30th 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 30th 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 31st 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 See 19.2 also

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, **where possible**, 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 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.

Player Registration

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

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.

NHL registrations, once approved, 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 Wednesday, if the player is to be used on the following Saturday. There is a 3 day lead time for the registration to take effect following the electronic approval of the request by the league committee.

De-registration requests must also be entered online and become effective as soon as the league committee complete the electronic de-registration approval process.

By default, the Fixtures Live registration system sends emails to the relevant league and club administrators following the above process steps.

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.

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

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, in which they have played cannot play for the club in a lower team league match unless permission has been obtained from the league.

After the completion of the first set of EHL fixtures, any player whose name has appeared 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/or on the NHA web site** 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 1st November until 14th 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.~~

19.6 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of rule 19.2 and 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.

20.1 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 within the 15 day period 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 and Appendix 2 Womens League~~

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.

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 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 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 1st 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 2nd XI or 3rd 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 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. 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.

If a club has more than 1 team representing that club in the North HL then the team playing in the lower division shall be the team that forfeits the game in the event of any team from that club failing to honour a fixture.

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 2nd 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 Level Fine £50

7 2018/19 SEASON

Due to the impending changes to the National League in 2019/20 the following will apply for 2018/19

NHML and NHWL Promotion and Relegation 2018-19 (only)

NHML

Premier Division

4 teams promoted to National League with no teams relegated.

Division 1

4 Teams promoted to Premier Division. Bottom team to play offs. (1)

Division 2's

2 teams promoted from each Division to Division 1. 3rd Placed teams to playoff (1)

Bottom team in each division to play offs. (2)

Feeder Leagues

Top two teams in North West League promoted to Division 2 West and third placed team to playoffs(2). Top teams in Yorkshire League and North East League promoted to Division 2 East. Second placed teams to play offs. (2)

Play off 1

3rd placed teams in Division 2's play off for right to play bottom team in Division 1 for place in Division 1

Play Off 2

- i) Bottom team in Division 2 West play at home against 3rd placed North West team for place in Division 2 West.
- ii) 2nd placed Yorkshire League team play 2nd placed North East team away. Winner plays Division 2 East bottom team in Yorkshire for place in Division 2 East.

Note: Should the bottom team in Division 1 lose Play Off 1 they will drop into the appropriate Division 2. If the 3rd placed team from that Division does not win Play off 1 there will be no place in the appropriate Division 2 for their Play-off winner. (e.g. If bottom team in Div 1 is from East and 3rd team from West win Play off 1 then there is no place in Div 2 East for winner of Play off 2 ii)

The reason for the above suggestion brings in the prospect of relegation in all divisions except the Premier Division. It gives more chance of promotion for clubs and therefore increases the competitive of Divisions for next season making clubs that finish bottom justify the case for staying

up.

NHWL

Premier.	4 up to North Con	no relegations	
Div 1	4 up to Prem	no relegations	1 up from each Div 2
Div 2s	1 up from each	no Play offs	1 relegated from
each			
	Feeders as usual 1 into each Div 2		

8 LEAGUE REORGANISATION

John Scrinì then gave the meeting an idea as to what was happening regarding the possible reorganisation of the league:

At the North Council Meeting prior to the AGM last Tuesday it was agreed that a Working Party consisting of myself (President) Chris Reece (Secretary) Annette Badger (Deputy President) Bev Deakin (Vice President) and Gawaine Hogg (Chairman Competitions Committee) would look into how the structure for league hockey in the North could be improved to overcome some of the problems that have been encountered in the last few years. As you may be aware at the EH AGM in 2017 EH were asked to look into the governance of the sport so we will be looking at forming one committee to run the North League so there is a consistency of decisions across both leagues for clubs and ways of helping clubs to develop in the league structure.

We aim to hold meetings with Counties and Feeder Leagues in early July requiring their feedback by the end of that month. We shall after these meetings by mid –July put proposals on the North

website for clubs to see who if they wish should give feed back to their Counties and Chris Reece. A decision will be considered by North Executive in August and will need ratifying by North Council in late September/early October. Clubs will then be advised. Any changes will be implemented for Season 2019-20. We always aim to have in place as close to the start of a season what clubs are playing for so should the process be delayed October 31st is the cut-off date for implementation for Season 2019-20.

With no further business the meeting closed at 3pm

