

Senior National Competitions Rules 2023-24

Delegated Authority

The Board of Scottish Hockey delegates powers to the Management Committee and the Competitions and Events Manager (Senior) to ensure the Competitions Rules, hereinafter referred to as the rules, are applied equitably, ethically.

The Competitions and Events Manager (Senior) shall be responsible for the competitions as set out in these rules and also for any other competition that might from time to time, be organised by Scottish Hockey.

The Competitions and Events Manager (Senior) - "CEM" - shall have power to:

- a) Determine all matters arising from these rules;
- b) Determine matters not specifically covered in these rules;
- c) Impose penalties prescribed herein for any failure to comply with these rules;
- d) Delegate to the Competition and Events Manager (Youth) or another suitable staff member to apply these rules in absence of the CEM.

Failure to comply with these rules may lead to the imposition of a penalty, as defined in 'Section 3 Management' and throughout these rules.

All matches will be played in accordance with the current FIH Rules of Hockey and Indoor Hockey or as agreed by Scottish Hockey.

Non-payment of fines within the requested timeframe will result in an escalation to **Scottish Hockey Head of Hockey Operations** and may result in additional sanctions.

No action or legal proceeding, or threat of legal action, by any club, District, or individual, shall be commenced against Scottish Hockey in respect of a dispute unless Scottish Hockey has refused or failed to abide by the provisions for the appeal of the dispute.

The start of the Senior 2023-24 season is 16th September 2023, and the season comes to an end on Sunday 5th May 2024. All competitions must be completed by the end of season. An extension beyond this date may be granted in extreme circumstances.

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ALL COMPETITIONS

1 ADMISSION

- 1.1 Only clubs which comply with the Governance requirements of and which pay the appropriate affiliation fee to “The Scottish Hockey Union Ltd” (Scottish Hockey) may apply for entry to any of the Competitions.
- 1.2 Club Affiliation to Scottish Hockey require all clubs to have a Club Committee, Club Constitution and Safeguarding and Wellbeing Policy.
- 1.3 Clubs shall apply for entry via the Competitions Entry Forms by the date specified. Only complete applications will be accepted. Details of entry fee payments can be found on the affiliation and entry form guidelines.
- 1.4 Clubs seeking admission must be affiliated to a District and have played in a District League for the previous season. Any current sanctions applied to a club by an affiliated District body may prohibit a team from entering a Scottish Hockey organised competition.
- 1.5 Clubs entering from a District League competition shall enter the lowest division of the League they are applying to.
- 1.6 Scottish Hockey have the right to refuse entry to competition and/or to expel clubs or teams from competition.

2 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 2.1 All players must register with Scottish Hockey before playing via the membership system through their club.
- 2.2 The club with which a player is registered at the conclusion of one season, shall be the club with which the player will be registered at the start of the following season, unless the player has been transferred.
- 2.3 Players playing in an outdoor hockey competition of another country during the Scottish season may not play in any Scottish Hockey outdoor competition other than as a result of a bona fide geographical move.
 - 2.3.1 A player whose Home National Association is not Scottish Hockey is not eligible to participate in any Scottish Hockey competition unless they hold a No-Objection Certificate from their Home National Association. This must be sent to the Competitions and Events Manager. Such players must also be resident in Scotland for 14 continuous days before being allowed to play in any of the Scottish Hockey competitions.
- 2.4 Players playing in an indoor competition of another country may not play in any Scottish Hockey indoor competition in that season other than as a result of a bona fide geographical move.
 - 2.4.1 A Player whose Home National Association is not Scottish Hockey is not eligible to participate in any Scottish Hockey indoor competition unless they hold a No-Objection Certificate from their Home National Association. This must be sent to the Competitions and Events Manager. Such players must also be resident in Scotland for 14 continuous days before being allowed to play in any indoor Scottish competitions, including League and Cup.
- 2.5 All teams in the Premiership, National League, Men’s Regional League or Women’s Championship League (including Championship 1) must nominate a pool of 9 ‘bona fide’ players (these players are ineligible to play for any lower teams for the season). This must be submitted to Scottish Hockey at least two days before the team’s first match is played. These lists will be made available to Districts to assist with the running of the District Leagues. In the event of an injury, clubs may request dispensation for a player to play in a lower team to aid the process of returning to full fitness, this request must be made in writing to the Competitions and Events Manager and will be judged on a case by case basis.
- 2.6 No player may play for more than one team on any one day within any senior Scottish Hockey competitions except with the prior permission of the Competitions and Events Manager. This request must be granted prior to the date of the competition (a player who is listed on the match report form is deemed to have played that fixture).

2.7 A club must select a 1st team before a 2nd team; a 2nd team before a 3rd team, and so forth, on any given day, in any Scottish Hockey competitions (Premiership/National League/Championship & Regional League).

2.8 Player transfers

- 2.8.1 a player transferring from one club to join another club, in order to be eligible to play for the transferee club must be transferred in line with the on-line system no later than 1.00pm on the Thursday prior to the weekend that they intend to play for the transferee club. Any transfer on or after the 31st October will be subject to a £20 fee.
- 2.8.2 A player who has previously played for another club in an outdoor league match in Scotland or club or team in any other country affiliated to the FIH may only register for a Scottish Hockey affiliated club if the conditions set out in Regulations 2.8.2 or 2.8.3 and 2.8.4 are fulfilled:
- 2.8.3 If the previous club is in Scotland, consent to the registration must be provided through the on-line registration system or in writing and attached to the on-line registration system, from the player's former club – if they played for this club in the current or previous season.
- 2.8.4 If the previous club or team is from any other country affiliated to the FIH the relevant league administration or Home National Association must consent to the registration through the on-line registration system or in writing and attached to the on-line registration system. This is to confirm that the player is not currently registered for any other club or team, or that they have any issue with the player's registration with Scottish Hockey. No objection certificate must be supplied.
- 2.8.5 In order for the player to be eligible to play for the transferee club these forms of consent must be included through the on-line registration system process and completed by 1.00pm on the Thursday prior to the weekend that they intend to play for the transferee club.
- 2.8.6 Where a transfer is not accepted Scottish Hockey will investigate the matter and decide whether to allow the transfer having referred to these rules.

2.9 No player shall be permitted more than one outdoor and one indoor transfer in any season. In exceptional circumstances a player may apply directly to the CEM for a further transfer.

2.10 No outdoor transfers shall be authorised after 1st March in each season and no indoor transfers shall be authorised after 18th December in each season. In exceptional circumstances a player may apply directly to the CEM for a transfer.

2.11 No transfer shall be authorised if the player has not fulfilled his / her obligations to the club he or she wishes to leave or if the CEM considers that the transfer would not be in the best interests of the competition. Exceptional circumstances may be referred to the Competitions and Events Manager.

2.12 No player under the age of 14 years may play in any of the senior Scottish Hockey competitions as set out in these rules or in any other senior competition that might, from time to time, be organised by the Competitions and Events Manager.

3. MANAGEMENT

3.1 Where it is the opinion of the CEM that there has been a breach of these rules the following sanctions may be applied. The sanction may be supplemented or replaced, in full and or in part by the additional sanctions.

SANCTIONS

- a) Withdraws from a League competition prior to the League commencing where fixtures have been issued - £300 fine;
- b) Withdraws from a League competition once a League has commenced - £350 fine and full payment of entry fees;
- c) Concedes an outdoor Premiership, National, Regional or Championship League match in the first instance- £250 fine, 3 points awarded to opponent and lose the game 0-5. Teams may also be liable for payment of unused pitch hire; for a second occurrence, £300 fine, 3 points awarded to opponent and lose the game 0-5 and 1 point deducted. Teams may also be liable for payment of unused pitch hire. On the 3rd concession a further £350 fine and the team will be removed from their league and all previous results annulled.
- d) Concedes a Scottish, District or Reserve Cup or Plate match - £200 fine, full payment of entry fees and lose the game 0-5. Teams may also be liable for payment of unused pitch hire and will not be allowed to enter the cup the next season
- e) Concedes a National Indoor League match - £250 fine and 3 points awarded to opponent, lose the game 0-10; for any

other conceded game in one session, 3 points awarded to opponent, lose the game 0-10 and a further 2 points deducted;

- f) Failure to return a Match Report Form (MRF), and/or incomplete Match Report Form, within two days of the date of the match being played will result in a £50 sanction;
- g) Match Report Form infringement - Inaccurate participant information; Team responsible for the MRF will receive 1-point deduction and lose the game 0-5. Individual participants may also be subject to match suspensions;
- h) Match Report Form Infringement - An Umpire falsifying the MRF; £150 fine and affiliated club 3-point deduction. Umpire is also subject to individual sanction;
- i) Umpires reporting late contact will result in the home team being imposed with a £40 fine;
- j) A fine of £50 shall be payable by any club whose Entry Fee balance is not paid by 31 October. A further fine of £50 shall be payable by any club whose Entry Fee balance is not paid by 30 November. Any club whose Entry Fee balance and fines are not paid by 31 December shall be referred to Scottish Hockey and may be expelled from all Scottish Hockey competitions for that season, having all matches played to that date declared void and being required to apply to re-enter the League in the lowest division;
- k) Fielding an ineligible player (Outdoor) - £50 fine per game, lose the game 0-5, 3 points awarded to opponent;
- l) Fielding an ineligible player (Indoor) - £50 fine per game, lose the game 0-10, 3 points awarded to opponent;
- m) Playing of an unregistered player before 1st March - £50 fine per player per game;
- n) Playing of an unregistered player after 1st March - £100 fine per player and lose the game 0-5, 3 points awarded to opponent.
- o) Umpire Appointment change if a request to change an umpire is not approved by the Officials Convenor, a sanction of £50 will be imposed.
- p) Umpire Appointment change if there is a failure to fulfil an appointment - Umpire arrives late but is able to part fulfil fixture there will be a sanction of a £100 fine and 1-point deduction;
- q) Umpire Appointment change if there is a failure to fulfil an appointment there will be a sanction of a £200 fine and 2-point deduction.
- r) Umpire Appointment change Indoor - if there is a failure to fulfil an appointment there will be a sanction of a £200 fine and 2-point deduction. Maximum of £400 on any given day, no point maximum.
- s) Indoor Technical assistant, failure by team to provide assistants to an appointed match - £25 fine in the first instance. For every further occurrence during a season an additional fine of £25 will be imposed plus a 1-point deduction.
- t) For outdoor and indoor competitions, failure to update the system with match information and/or inform your opponents on time will result in a £50 fine.

ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS

1. Forfeit the match in question, the score being recorded as 0-5 for Outdoor hockey matches and the score being recorded as 0-10 for Indoor hockey matches. In the event of a team forfeiting any match where more than one team from a club is playing on the same date, the lowest team within the club should forfeit. If a team falls below the minimum number of players (see 4.2.11 and 4.3.2) during a match, the match shall be forfeited and the score recorded as 0-5 or 0-10, or by the score at the point when the match was discontinued, whichever score is more advantageous to the opposing team;
2. Deduction of one or more league points;
3. Rearrange the match with the possible loss of home advantage;
4. Relegated one or more divisions;
5. Declared ineligible for the appropriate event;
6. Expelled from the competition;
7. Barred from entry to the appropriate competition for the following season;
8. Required to pay for pitch hire, travelling expenses, and/ or any other reasonable expenses incurred; and
9. Any other reasonable and appropriate penalty determined by the Competitions and Events Manager.

3.2 In the event of a match being abandoned due to adverse weather or pitch conditions, the match shall be classified as complete if more than 52 minutes are complete, if less than 52 minutes are complete the match will be replayed on a date specified by the Competitions and Events Manager.

3.3 In the event of a match being abandoned due to misconduct or breaches of the Discipline Code, the match shall be referred to the Competitions and Events Manager who will take the appropriate action in conjunction with the Field Discipline Committee.

3.4 In the event of a match being abandoned due to exceptional circumstances, , the match shall be classified as complete if

more than 52 minutes are complete, if less than 52 minutes are complete the match will be replayed on a date specified by the Competitions and Events Manager.

3.5 During a match, team Captains are responsible for the behaviour of all members of his / her team and a personal penalty is awarded if a captain does not exercise these responsibilities where team is defined within the FIH Tournament Regulations.

4. MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 All Outdoor and Indoor Competitions

4.1.1 The first named team shall provide the match ball.

4.1.2 Every team must have clearly numbered shirts.

4.2 All Outdoor Competitions

4.2.1 All Scottish Hockey Outdoor Leagues (Premiership, National, Regional and championship leagues) and Cup competitions will play 4 x 17.5-minute quarters (without the clock stopping at Penalty Corners). The breaks between quarters are 2 minutes after the 1st and 3rd quarter and 5 minutes at half time.

In addition to this, where no technical table is appointed and players are serving time off the pitch for personal penalties, the umpires shall bring said player back on at the earliest possible opportunity following expiry of the allocated time.

4.2.2 The Home Team is responsible for making all necessary arrangements for the match. The Home Team shall confirm the time, venue, and any additional details to the Scottish Hockey Membership system, opponents, umpires and clubs providing umpires no later than **FIVE DAYS** before the match. **An unanswered email, phone or text does not constitute contact.** Contact must be acknowledged. Should communication between any parties be unsuccessful, Scottish Hockey should be informed no later than 3 days before match date via competitions@scottish-hockey.org.uk or 0141 550 5999.

4.2.3 Men's Matches should be on the date assigned by the Competitions and Events Manager, with any reasonable start time. Reasonable consideration must be given to teams travelling long distances.

4.2.4 Women's Matches should be on the date assigned by the Competitions and Events Manager, with any reasonable start time. Reasonable consideration must be given to teams travelling long distances.

4.2.5 By agreement from both teams, teams may play mid-week matches. Mid-week matches should have a reasonable start time agreed by both teams and confirmed by the Competitions and Events Manager.

4.2.6 Any match rearrangements should, where possible, be by mutual consent of both teams and agreed by the Competitions and Events Manager. The appointed umpires should also be notified and the Scottish Hockey appointments system updated. The home team has responsibility for doing this.

4.2.7 For teams travelling over 100 miles one way the start time should be between 12:00 hours and 15:30 hours unless by prior consent of the travelling team.

4.2.8 All matches must be played at a venue where the travelling distances **to and from** the venue for the Away Team does not exceed 500 miles in total. For matches exceeding this distance, unless agreed otherwise between the competing teams, the match shall be played at a neutral venue under the direction of the Competitions and Events Manager, at an approximate mid-way point between where the two teams are based (based on the AA Route Finder reference), with both competing teams contributing equally to the cost of the pitch hire.

4.2.9 For matches arranged by the Competitions and Events Manager (e.g. National League, Play-Offs, Cup Semi-Finals and Finals), the Competitions and Events Manager shall determine the date, venue and start time of each match.

4.2.10 The umpires are responsible for ensuring that the match is started promptly whether or not all players are present. If it is not possible to start the match within **10 minutes** of the allotted start time or within **10 minutes** of gaining access to the pitch, then the match shall be abandoned.

4.2.11 A team must have a minimum number of eight players on the pitch at the start of the game for the match to commence (within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time). Otherwise they will concede the match and be subject to sanctions in Rule 3. If a team falls below eight players, at any point in the match, the game will be conceded by that team and will be subject to sanctions in Rule 3.

4.2.12 It shall be the responsibility of the home team to publish the correct match time and venue on the Scottish Hockey Games Management system no later than 11:59 hours **three clear days prior to the match**

4.3 All Indoor Competitions

4.3.1 Details of venues, times of matches, umpire appointments and Technical Official appointments shall be sent to all concerned from Scottish Hockey and detailed on the Appointments System.

4.3.2 A team must have a minimum number of three players on the pitch at the start of the game for the match to commence (within 5 minutes of the scheduled start time). If a team falls below three players, at any point in the match the game will be conceded by that team and will be subject to sanctions in Rule 3.

5. POSTPONEMENT AND REARRANGEMENT

5.1.1 No outdoor league or cup matches, whether on scheduled or rearranged dates, may be rearranged without the **permission** of the CEM in writing.

5.1.2 Clubs may request dispensation for players to attend funerals and weddings. In the case of weddings, the request requires 4 months' notice. The CEM will reschedule the fixture, this may result in clashes with youth competitions or national training dates. The club will have to provide information requested. There are a number of dates that games will not be rescheduled for, including indoor fixtures, cup and plate competitions and the associated slip dates from the quarter finals onwards, playoff matches and associated slip dates for the play offs.

5.1.3 Any additional dispensation requests are at the discretion of the Competitions and Events Manager. If dispensation is approved the CEM will reschedule the fixture. This may result in clashes with youth competitions or national training dates.

5.1.4 The Home Team, subject also to the authorities controlling the pitch, shall determine as early as practicable whether a match shall be postponed because of ground conditions or weather. It is advisable for the teams concerned, the umpires and Technical Officials, to agree a procedure for early contact about the playability of the pitch at a time which will avoid unnecessary travel. The Home Team shall inform the Technical Official or Match Manager (if appointed), the umpires, their opponents and the CEM of this decision as soon as possible. Where both teams attend at a venue, the umpires shall be the ultimate arbiter of whether a match shall be postponed.

5.1.5 The Home Team is responsible for making all the necessary arrangements as for the original match as per section 4.

5.1.6 All teams must complete their full schedule of league fixtures and cup/plate games. Failure to do so will result in sanctions as stated in Section 3.

5.1.7 University fixtures that fall out with term time will be rescheduled. The CEM will advise the Play by Date by which the game must be played in advance of.

6. MATCH REPORTS

6.1 A Match Report Form (MRF) must be completed in full for each match and returned to the Scottish Hockey Office (**both sides of the Match Report Form by scanned email or clear photograph**) within **TWO DAYS** after the match by the **HOME TEAM** or **FIRST NAMED TEAM**. If MRFs are not fully completed they will not be accepted and the sanction in section 3 will be applied.

6.2 Results must be submitted on the Games Management System by the nominated team admin by 21.00 hours on the day a weekend match is played and by 09.00 hours of the following day for a midweek fixture. A fine of £50 shall be imposed for teams failing to input results on time.

6.3 A player may only play for a team if listed on the Match Report Form before the start of the match.

6.4 It is the responsibility of the Technical Official or Match Manager, where appointed, to ensure that the Match Report Form is properly completed by both teams and both umpires and both pages of the MRF returned to the Scottish Hockey Office in full by **scanned email or clear photograph**, within **TWO DAYS** after the match.

7. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

7.1 The Appointments Committee shall appoint Technical Officials and Assistants as required.

7.2 Expenses for Technical Officials appointed by the Appointments Committee must be claimed on the Expenses Claim Form. The basis for the claim shall be from home address registered on the membership system. All expense claims must be in line with the Scottish Hockey expenses policy. Expenses must be claimed monthly, no expenses will be paid which are older than two months.

7.3.1 Appointed Technical Officials may extend the duration of an umpire-imposed match suspension for players who are guilty of misconduct during a temporary suspension.

7.3.2 Appointed Technical Officials may suspend any member of a team - the composition of a team is defined within the FIH Tournament Regulations - for:

The remainder of a match in progress where this member is guilty of misconduct: at any time during a match provided this occurs off the pitch; and / or a series of games occurring on the same day where this member is guilty of misconduct: at any time before, during, or after a match provided this occurs off the pitch.

7.3.3 Any technical official who imposes this misconduct suspension in terms of article 7.3.2 hereof shall report same to the Scottish Hockey CEO as a Complaint in terms of the Scottish Hockey Ethics Manual.

7.3.4. Where possible, any suspension imposed by Technical Officials shall only be imposed after any Team Manager has been warned about acts of misconduct.

7.3.5 Where no Technical Officials are appointed, umpires shall have the power to suspend team officials who are guilty of misconduct during a match for the remainder of that match. No player will be required to leave the pitch in the event that any officials are suspended. Any umpire who imposes this misconduct suspension shall report same to the Scottish Hockey CEO as a Complaint in terms of the Scottish Hockey Ethics Manual.

7.3.6 Any Technical Official shall report any player guilty of misconduct on the pitch and during the match where it was not seen by either umpire. Such misconduct shall be reported to the Scottish Hockey CEO as a Complaint in terms of the Scottish Hockey Ethics Manual.

7.3.7 Suspensions imposed upon non-players by Technical Officials or umpires shall not result in the offending team playing for the remainder of the match with one fewer player.

7.3.8 Except for suspensions in terms of article 7.3.1 hereof, no suspension imposed by Technical Officials shall result in the offending team playing with one fewer player for the remainder of the suspension.

8 UMPIRES / TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

8.1.1 Expenses for umpires appointed by the appointments committee must be claimed on an expenses claim form. The basis for the claim shall be from home address registered on the membership system. All expense claims must be in line with the Scottish Hockey Expenses Policy. Expenses must be claimed monthly, no expenses will be paid which are older than two

months.

8.1.2 It is the responsibility of both participating teams to notify the CEM when any person other than the appointed umpire officiates at their fixture.

8.2 UMPIRING – AVAILABILITY

8.2.1 All teams must nominate at least one graded umpire from its own list of named umpires, to be available every Saturday and Sunday of the hockey season in conjunction with the scheduled fixtures (**league, playoffs, cups and play by dates**), as detailed in the Competitions Calendar, regardless of whether that club has a fixture on that date. Availability will be based on umpires named in the pool for men's matches and women's matches.

8.2.2 All nominated umpires are required to log their availability onto the umpire appointment system. Failure to do so may result in a £50 fine liable to the umpire's nominated team.

8.2.3 Umpires who umpire outdoor and indoor games must have an outdoor umpire qualification, minimum C-Grade or equivalent Level 1 umpire qualification.

8.2.4 For an umpire to be deemed available, they must be able to travel to umpire any game in the Premiership/National league without restrictions on either timing or geography.

8.2.5 Where a team has less than 100% availability following a final availability snapshot, the CEM will issue an email to notify the failure to fulfil requirements, if action is then not taken to correct this a penalty will be imposed. For a first offence a fine of £200 will be imposed. For all following offences a 1 point deduction will apply.

8.2.6 It is a team's responsibility to ensure that they have access at all times to their section of the appointments system and have a collective responsibility for managing and maintaining their team's 100% availability.

8.2.7 Umpire availability for University teams will be in conjunction with the University Term Calendar. If the team umpire declares availability for a date which would otherwise fall out with the University term calendar and is appointed, the team of the umpire shall be responsible for providing a replacement umpire.

8.2.8 Should no umpires from a team be allocated on a specific date, teams must ensure that at least one umpire from its list remains available for that date, if the Appointments Committee requires to appoint that umpire as a replacement at short notice.

8.2.9 If only one umpire from a team is appointed on a given day, but is unable to fulfil the appointment, the team shall be responsible for nominating a replacement umpire from its list of named umpires; approval must be sought from the Appointments Committee. The same applies to any umpire who becomes unavailable at short notice. Failure to notify and/or replace umpires will result in sanction from section 3.1.

8.3 UMPIRING – APPOINTMENTS

8.3.1 The Officials Convenor, in conjunction with the Competitions and Events Manager, shall have the authority to make and rearrange any umpire appointment taking into account a number of factors including the umpire's grade and experience, and the location of a match.

8.3.2 In the event of a match or series of matches being rearranged to dates out with the dates noted on the Competitions Calendar, each team can provide any umpire (not limited to their own list), without facing sanctions.

8.3.3 Where a match is rearranged by a club to a midweek date, both teams will be responsible for supplying an umpire to complete the fixture.

8.4 UMPIRING – OUTDOOR COMPETITIONS

8.4.1 The Officials Convenor will appoint umpires to all **PREMIERSHIP, NATIONAL LEAGUE** and **PLAY-OFF** matches where possible from the list of umpires nominated by League teams.

8.4.2 If a game is postponed the home team must contact the originally appointed umpires and confirm their availability for the rescheduled date. Should they be unavailable, it is the responsibility of the teams to provide other suitably qualified umpires.

8.4.3 In the event of there being only one appointed umpire on the day of a match then, unless there is a graded person available, the Home Team will provide an appropriately qualified person (minimum C-Grade/ Level 1) to umpire for the whole match.

8.4.4 In the event of neither of the appointed umpires appearing, both teams shall provide umpires for the duration of the match.

8.4.5 In the event of an appointed umpire arriving after the match has started then this umpire shall take over from the substitute at the earliest opportunity. In the event of both appointed umpires arriving after the match has started, the Away Team substitute shall be replaced first.

8.4.6 Where it is known in advance that one or both of the originally appointed umpires are unlikely to appear the Home Team shall inform the Away Team, the Appointments Committee and the unavailable umpire's team in order that they may make any necessary arrangements.

8.5 UMPIRING – INDOOR TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

8.5.1 The Appointments Committee shall appoint Umpires, Technical Officials and Assistants for every session throughout the National competitions, where possible.

8.5.2 The Appointments Committee shall appoint Technical Officials and Assistants for every session throughout Regionalised competitions, where possible.

8.5.3 The Technical Official is responsible for ensuring that:

- a) The Match Report Form is completed for each match and returned to the Scottish Hockey Office (via email) immediately after the day's matches;
- b) The time is kept for each match;
- c) The time schedule set out for the matches under his/her control is adhered to;
- d) The match is conducted in line with 'managers, umpires and technical officials guidelines';
- e) The conduct of players and officials adheres to 'managers, umpires and technical officials guidelines';
- f) Umpires and a team representative must sign the match report form.

8.5.4 Teams participating in any session but not playing in a particular match must provide two assistants as noted on the fixture schedule to the Technical Official to carry out duties described in Rule 8.5.3. Failure to provide will result in sanction/s noted in section 3

8.5.5 If no Technical Official is present, the Technical Assistants will be responsible for carrying out duties described in Rule 8.5.3

8.5.6 The Technical Official shall have the power to:

- a) Reorganise the umpires' appointments, unless an Umpires Manager is appointed;
- b) Reorganise the match schedule.

8.6 UMPIRING – INDOOR COMPETITIONS

8.6.1 The Appointments Committee shall appoint umpires for all stages of the National Indoor League competition from the list of umpires nominated by National Indoor League teams. Clubs competing in the regionalised Indoor Leagues shall provide umpires for their own sessions, unless their umpire is umpiring in National 1. In such a situation the appointments committee will allocate umpires for that session.

8.6.2 No Division 1 team should have an umpire who is also playing for their team in the same session.

8.6.3 Where there are insufficient umpires at any stage of the competition, clubs will be required by the Technical Official to provide umpires for matches other than those in which their team is participating.

8.6.4 In exceptional circumstances where there are no available umpires from other teams, teams will be required to provide an umpire for the match in which their team is participating.

8.7 UMPIRES AND TECHNICAL OFFICIALS – OUTDOOR CUP COMPETITIONS

8.7.1 The Appointments Committee shall appoint a Technical Official and Assistants to the Semi-Finals and Finals of all competitions.

8.7.2 The Appointments Committee will appoint umpires for:

- All matches in the Scottish Cup; and
- Semi- Finals and Finals of ALL other competitions;

8.7.3 For all other matches, each team is required to provide a graded umpire.

8.7.4 If a game is postponed the home team must contact the originally appointed umpires and confirm their availability for the rescheduled date. Should they be unavailable, it is the responsibility of the teams to provide other suitably qualified umpires.

8.7.5 In the event of only one of the appointed umpires turning up on the day of a match, the Home Team will provide an appropriately qualified person (minimum C-Grade/ Level 1) to umpire until the other appointed umpire arrives.

8.7.6 In the event of neither of the appointed umpires appearing, both teams shall provide appropriately qualified persons (minimum C-Grade/ Level 1) for the duration of the match. In the event of an appointed umpire arriving after the match has started, this umpire should take over from the substitute at the earliest opportunity. In the event of both umpires arriving after the match has started, the Away Team substitute shall be replaced first.

8.7.7 Where it is known in advance that one or both of the originally appointed umpires are unlikely to appear the Home Team shall inform the Away Team, the Appointments Committee and the unavailable umpire's team in order that they may make any necessary arrangements.

9. DRESS

9.1 All players shall wear shirts with numbers in the centre of the back of the shirt. These numbers must correspond to the numbers on the Match Report Form.

9.2 Where teams have strips of similar colours, the first named team shall change if requested to do so by the Technical Official or by the umpires. The second named is responsible for wearing a colour of socks clearly distinguishable from the first named teams' colour of socks.

9.3 All players must wear shin guards while playing. It is highly recommended that all players wear mouth guards. Other protective equipment can be worn in line with FIH rules.

10. DISPUTES, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

10.1 Where a Technical Official is appointed, in the event of any dispute requiring immediate action before, during or after a match, the decision of the Technical Official shall be final.

10.2 Any club wishing to register a complaint must submit it in writing to the CEM within ten working days of the match. A telephone call and an email to the Scottish Hockey Office as soon as possible would help expedite matters but written evidence

must follow.

10.3 Clubs have the right of appeal from a decision of the CEM as laid down in the Scottish Hockey Ethics Manual.

11 OUTDOOR LEAGUES

11.1 ADMISSION

11.1.1 No club may have more than one team in any division of a Premiership/National League competition.

11.1.2 The Premiership/National League is open to the 1st teams of all clubs. Clubs wishing to enter Scottish Hockey competitions must comply with Rule 1.

11.1.3 Men's Regional League is open to the 1st teams of all clubs not entering the Premiership/National League, and to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams of clubs which have a team in the National League complying with Rule 1 provided that any team applying is based within the geographic territory applicable to the Central League as defined in article 11.1.8 hereof. Any team from outwith this geographic territory may apply to the CEM to join this league where any application for membership shall be determined by the CEM having regard to all relevant and reasonable factors.

11.1.4 Women's Championship League is open to the 1st teams of National and District League Clubs, along with the 2nd and 3rd teams of any club which has a team in the National Leagues complying with rule 1.

11.1.5 The number of teams in any Division of the Premiership, National League, Regional League, or Championship League shall be at the discretion of the CEM, depending on the number of entries.

11.1.6a Each season a number of clubs qualify to represent Scotland at European Hockey and EHL events. By entering any domestic competition, all clubs are committing that should a team from their club finish in a European qualifying position within that domestic competition, their club will represent Scottish Hockey in the relevant European competition. Where a qualifying club withdraws from the relevant European Competition, the replacement club shall be determined by the Competitions and Events Manager who shall have complete discretion to nominate same regardless of a team's position at the end of the relevant domestic competition or participation therein.

11.1.6.b Where a club withdraws from the relevant European Competition and provides in excess of 6 months' notice from the date of that club's qualification, provided a replacement club participates, the withdrawing club shall be responsible for 50% of the entire reasonable costs incurred by the replacement club in participating at the relevant European competition.

11.1.6.c Where a club withdraws from the relevant European Competition and provides less than 6 months' notice from the date of that club's qualification, provided a replacement club participates, the withdrawing club shall be responsible for the entire reasonable costs incurred by the replacement club in participating at the relevant European competition.

11.1.6.d Where a club withdraws, and a replacement club does not undertake to participate at the relevant European competition then the originally qualifying club is responsible for all tournament costs passed onto Scottish Hockey for payment from the host of the relevant European competition and any fines imposed upon Scottish Hockey by the European Hockey Federation as a result of the failure of the originally qualifying club to participate.

11.1.6.e Where a club withdraws and a replacement club undertakes to participate at the relevant European competition and subsequently fails to participate, that replacement club shall not be reimbursed as provided for in articles 11.1.6. b and 11.1.6. c hereof and instead shall be solely responsibility for all tournament costs passed onto Scottish Hockey for payment from the host of the relevant European competition and any fines imposed upon Scottish Hockey by the European Hockey Federation arising from the failure of that replacement club to participate.

11.1.7.f Where a club, player or other registered official participating in a European Competition has a financial penalty imposed on them by the European Hockey Federation, the Club and/or Individual are wholly responsible for settling the full amount of that penalty. Should Scottish Hockey be required to pay this penalty as a result of their obligations to the European Hockey Federation, the Club and/or Individual are wholly responsible for reimbursing Scottish Hockey.

11.1.8 The geographic territory area applicable to the Central League is clubs geographically located within the traditional boundaries of the West and East districts of Scottish Hockey which: for West District comprises Clubs whose grounds are located in the Regions which, following the passage of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994, constituted Argyll & Bute, Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, and West Dunbartonshire; and which for East District comprises Clubs whose grounds are located in the Regions which, following the passage of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994, constituted City of Edinburgh, Clackmannan, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Stirling, and The Borders.

11.2 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

11.2.1 The CEM relies on the integrity of clubs that their team selection will have the team in the highest division as the strongest team their club can produce on that date and reserves the right to monitor player selection and apply appropriate sanctions. Named 9 players are ineligible to play for any lower teams for the season. Sanctions will be imposed on teams in breach of this rule, in line with section 3.

11.2.2 Clubs wishing to alter a nominated pool of players must make a written application (letter or email) to the CEM for consideration during the Winter Break stating their reason for change. The Winter Break is defined as the time between the last scheduled match for the division in question in the first part of the season and the first scheduled match for that division in the second part of the season. In exceptional circumstances further changes may be approved.

11.2.3 Special consideration **may** be given for goalkeepers provided that application is made to the CEM **in advance** of the fixture.

11.2.4 A maximum of 18 players may be used by a team in a match, of whom 2 must be goalkeepers wearing full protective equipment. If one of the goalkeepers becomes injured or is suspended during a match, that team can continue to use 17 players including only 1 goalkeeper. If a team chooses not to include a second goalkeeper in the 18 players, they are limited to using 16 players in a match.

11.3 COMPETITION

11.3.1 The Premiership, National & Championship Leagues shall operate on a nationwide basis. The Regional League shall be divided into two based on position and operates on a predominately central basis.

11.3.2. Premiership, National League, Women's Championship. All teams play each other once – then split into a top half (A Division) and a bottom half (B Division) with all first-round results carried forward. Each team would play each side in their division once, with the top two in A Division awarded the European places following play offs (Premiership only).

11.3.3 Regional League 1 & 2 and Championship. All teams play each other twice, once at home and once away.

11.3.4 In the event of exceptional circumstances the first point at which the season would be called complete is after all teams have played each other once.

11.3.5 The number of teams in any Division shall be at the discretion of the CEM, depending on the number of entries.

11.3.6 In the event of an odd number the higher division will have the higher number of teams when splitting a league into two. For example, in an 11 team league; 6 teams would form the A Division and 5 in the B Division.

11.3.7 The CEM shall be responsible for determining the dates of all fixtures. The date of a fixture shall not be altered without the prior approval of the Competitions and Events Manager.

11.3.8 The CEM shall have power to reschedule any series of matches or any other combination of matches to be played at a single venue or to reschedule a single match.

11.3.9 Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat. If teams are level on points their positions shall be determined by the greater:

- a) Goals difference;
- b) Goals for;
- c) Head to Head results record;
- d) Head to Head goal difference.

Thereafter a playoff on a neutral ground shall be arranged at the end of the season.

11.3.9 If, at the end of the season, the CEM considers that the number of fixtures conceded have unduly influenced promotion and/or relegation in any Division, they reserve the right to decide the issue by computing goal averages for fixtures played by the teams in question

11.3.10 Except under exceptional circumstances or as confirmed by the Competitions and Events Manager, all matches must be played by the weekend for which the last series of matches are scheduled.

11.4 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

Premiership & National League

- a) The team finishing in position 1 in Premiership at the end of the league competition: will be Division Champions; will receive the Premiership trophy; and will be allocated the lower ranked European competition place. The team finishing in position 12 in Premiership at the end of the league competition is relegated.
- b) The team finishing in position 1 in the National League: will be Division Champions; will receive the National league trophy; and will be promoted to the Premiership in the next season. The team finishing in position 2 in the National League will progress to the Play-Offs for Promotion/Relegation referred to in article (d) hereof.
- c) Teams finishing in positions 1-4 in Premiership at the end of the league competition will enter semi-final/final format Play-Offs to determine the National Champions Trophy and higher ranked European place. These Play-Offs will: take place over 2 days on dates to be determined by the Competitions and Events Manager; will be subject to additional regulations determined by the CEM and published in "Play-Off Regulations" no later than 30 days prior to the play off dates and will comprise:
 - (i) day 1: the semi-finals will be played (Team 1* v Team 4) and (Team 2* v Team 3) where * denotes the Home team. The winners of each semi-final will advance to a deciding final. In the event of a draw, the result will be determined by a penalty shootout as referred to in article 13.3.2.; and
 - (ii) Day 2: the deciding final shall be played at a location to be determined by the CEM. The winner will be determined by the score in a one-off deciding match. If the score is level after normal time the winner will be decided by a penalty shootout as detailed in competition rule 13.3.2. The winner of this final will win the National Champions Trophy and will be allocated the higher ranked European place. Where the winner is also the team finishing in position 1 in Division 1 at the end of the league competition, the lower ranked European competition place shall be allocated to the runner up in this deciding final.
- d) The team in position 11 in the Premiership and the team finishing in position 2 in the National League at the end of the league competition will enter a one match play-off for Promotion/Relegation to determine which of the teams will qualify for entry to the Premiership and National League in the next season. The match will be played at a venue and date to be determined by the Competitions and Events Manager (Senior) - and will be subject to additional regulations in that; should the game be tied at the end of 4 x 17 ½ minute quarters, then the result of the match shall be decided

by a shoot-out.

National League & Championship Leagues

11.5.5 The team finishing in position 1 in the Championship League will be the division champions. The last placing team in the Championship League at the end of the league competition is relegated.

11.5.6 Promotion to the National League is open to first teams only.

11.5.7 The highest placing first team within the top 3 in the Championship League will automatically be promoted to the National League for the following season. The last placing team in the National League will be relegated to the Championship League.

11.5.8 The team in position 2 (2nd placing first team within top 5) in the Championship League and the team finishing second bottom in the National League at the end of the league competition will enter a one match play-off for Promotion/Relegation to determine which of the teams will qualify for entry to the National League and the Championship in the next season. The match will be played at a venue and date to be determined by the Competitions and Events Manager - and will be subject to additional regulations in that; should the game be tied at the end of 4 x 17 ½ minute quarters, then the result of the match shall be decided by a shoot-out.

11.5.9 In the event that only one first team places within the top 3 the Championship League that team will automatically be promoted to the National League. The last placing team in the National League will be relegated to the Championship League. No other promotion/relegation will occur.

11.5.10 In the event that no first teams place within the top 3 of the Championship League there will be no promotion to National League and no relegation to Championship League.

11.5.11 Where the highest or 2nd placing 1st team declines the option to be promoted, the replacement club shall be determined by the Competitions and Events Manager who shall have complete discretion to nominate or not regardless of a team's division or league position.

Championship League 1

11.5.12 The team finishing in position 1 in the Championship League 1 will be Division Champions and will be promoted to the Championship League in the next season. The team finishing in position 2 in the Championship League 1 will progress to the Play-Offs for Promotion/Relegation.

11.5.13 The team in position 2 in the Championship League 1 and the team finishing tenth in the Championship League at the end of the league competition will enter a one match Play-Off for Promotion/Relegation to determine which of the teams will qualify for entry to the Championship League and the Championship League 1 in the next season. The match will be played at a venue and date to be determined by the Competitions and Events Manager - and will be subject to additional regulations in that; should the game be tied at the end of 4 x 17 ½ minute quarters, then the result of the match shall be decided by a shoot-out.

Men's National League & Regional League

11.5.14 The team finishing in position 1 in the Regional League will be the Division Champions.

11.5.15 Promotion to the National League is open to first teams only therefore in the 2022-23 season there will be no promotion to the National league from the regional league as no teams in Regional League 1 are eligible. As a result there will be no relegation from the National League.

Men's Regional 1 & Regional 2

11.5.16 The team finishing top of Regional 2 will be automatically promoted to Regional 1 in the following season. The last placing team in Regional 1 is relegated to Regional 2.

11.5.17 The team in position 2 of Regional 2 and the team finishing second bottom of Regional 1 at the end of the league competition will enter a one match play-off for Promotion/Relegation to determine which of the teams will qualify for entry to Regional 1 or 2 in the next season. The match will be played at a venue and date to be determined by the Competitions and Events Manager - and will be subject to additional regulations in that; should the game be tied at the end of 4 x 17 ½ minute quarters, then the result of the match shall be decided by a shoot-out.

11.6 PITCHES AND VENUES

11.6.1 The Scottish Hockey Premiership is the pinnacle of domestic club hockey in Scotland, where our international and aspiring international athletes play the majority of their hockey.

11.6.2 A water-based surface remains the standard for international competition and all Premiership clubs should continue to play on, and aspire to play on, water-based surfaces.

11.6.3 For season 23/24 and due to the ongoing review of water based surfaces, clubs who do not have reasonable access to a water-based surface may apply for special dispensation to play on a non-water based surface.

11.6.4 All other league matches shall be played on pitches that meet the standard set by Scottish Hockey, that being water-based or sand-dressed, in accordance with FIH specifications

12 INDOOR LEAGUES

12.1 ADMISSION

12.1.1 Men's and Women's National Indoor League Division 1 are open to the 1st teams of clubs only.

12.1.2 All other National Indoor League divisions are open to
a) 1st teams of all clubs not in Division 1 and
b) other teams of a club that has a team in any other Division of the League.

12.1.3 A Club shall have no more than one team within in the same Division of the National Indoor League, except the lowest.

12.1.4 Should a promotion/relegation situation arise involving two teams from the same club, the higher placed team will remain in the higher Division.

12.1.5 Lower Divisions of the Men's and Women's National Indoor Leagues may be regionalised at the discretion of the Competitions and Events Manager.

12.1.6 The number of teams in each Division of the Men's or Women's National and Regional Indoor Leagues shall be at the discretion CEM may vary this depending on the number of entries.

12.1.7 All teams entering into an indoor league must provide an umpire in the session in which a team is playing except for Division 1. In Division 1 umpires will be appointed through the appointments committee, see 8.6.

12.2 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

12.2.1 The club must nominate a pool of 8 'bona fide' players for their highest team. These players may not play for any lower team in the club.

12.2.2 Special consideration **may** be given for goalkeepers provided that application is made to the CEM **in advance** of the fixture.

12.3 COMPETITION

12.3.1 Men's National Indoor League Division 1. Each team will play once against each other to decide ranking positions. Teams will then play in 2 pools, based on their rankings following 7 matches. Teams carry the points against those in their pool into pool games. Teams placing in positions 1/4/5/8 following 7 matches will form Pool A and play each other once. Teams placing in positions 2/3/6/7 following 7 matches will form Pool B and Play each other once. Following these fixtures there shall be semi-finals which comprise matches to be played between the Team finishing 1st in Pool A and the second placed team in Pool B and between the team finishing second in Pool A and the first placed team in Pool B. The winners of these matches will play each other in a final at the GALA Day. Teams placing 3rd will play off against each other for position, and the teams finishing 4th will play off against each other to determine relegation as referred to in article 12.4 hereof. The losers of the semi-finals will play for 3rd and 4th placings.

12.3.2 Men's National Indoor League Divisions 2 and 3 will run with each team playing each other twice. The highest placed team will be promoted. The lowest placed team will be relegated to the league immediately below the existing league (National 2 to National 3 and National 3 to highest regional league)

12.3.3 Women's National Indoor League Division 1 Each team will play once against each other to decide ranking positions. Teams will then play in 2 pools, based on their rankings following 7 matches. Teams carry the points against those in their pool into pool games. Teams placing in positions 1/4/5/8 following 7 matches will form Pool A and play each other once. Teams placing in positions 2/3/6/7 following 7 matches will form Pool B and Play each other once. Following these fixtures there shall be semi-finals which comprise matches to be played between the Team finishing 1st in Pool A and the second placed team in Pool B and between the team finishing second in Pool A and the first placed team in Pool B. The winners of these matches will play each other in a final at the GALA Day. Teams placing 3rd will play off against each other for position, and the teams finishing 4th will play off against each other to determine relegation as referred to in article 12.4 hereof. The losers of the semi-finals will play for 3rd and 4th placings.

12.3.4 Women's National Indoor League 2 and 3 will run with each team playing each other twice. The highest placed team will be promoted. The lowest placed team will be relegated to the league immediately below the existing league (National 2 to National 3 and National 3 to highest regional league)

12.3.5a Men's Regional League. Where there are multiple Regional League Divisions each team will play each other twice on a home & away basis. The number of Divisions and number of teams in each Division is dependent on entries. Where there is more than one regional league the top team of each division will play off for promotion to the National league in a manner to be determined by The Competitions and Events Manager.

12.3.5b Men's Regional League. Where there is a single Regional League Division each team will play each other once. The number of Divisions and number of teams in each Division is dependent on entries. Where there is a single league, the top placed team will be promoted to National Division 3.

12.3.6 The Competitions and Events Manager shall be responsible for determining the dates, timings and venue bookings of all fixtures.

12.3.7 Details of venues, times of matches, umpire appointments and Technical Official appointments shall be sent to all concerned from Scottish Hockey and detailed on the Appointments System.

12.3.8 Each team must have a Team Representative (e.g. manager, coach or captain) who will inform the Technical Official which players listed on the Match Report Form will participate. Only players listed on the team sheet and up to 4 named non-

playing representatives may sit on the bench. All National Indoor League Division 1 teams and play off fixtures must have a non-playing manager.

12.3.9 All teams participating in the GALA Day (comprising promotion position and relegation play off matches) must have a non-playing manager on the bench throughout each match. Time outs as defined in the Indoor Hockey Rules shall not be permitted unless determined by The Competitions and Events Manager.

12.4 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

12.4.1 National Indoor League

- The team finishing first in National League Division 1 will be league champions and will be awarded a European spot.
- The Division 1 team in position 7 will play off against the team that finishes in position 2 in Division 2.
- The Division 1 team that finishes in position 8 will be relegated and the eligible (section 12.1) team that wins Division 2 will be promoted.
- The Division 2 team that finishes in position 8 will be relegated and the eligible (section 12.1) team that wins Division 3 will be promoted.
- The bottom placed team of National Indoor Division 3 will be relegated to the highest division of the Regional League.

12.5 POSTPONEMENT AND REARRANGEMENT

12.5.1 Should there be hazardous travelling conditions on the day the competing teams should contact the Technical Official and venue to discuss travelling conditions. Any team which decides not to travel must contact the Technical Official to confirm their decision at the earliest opportunity. This will be deemed as forfeiting their games. If both teams are unable to travel the points will be split and the result recorded as 0-0.

12.5.2 Due to the limited availability of suitable venues and the high cost of cancellations, no postponements or rearrangements, at the request of clubs, will be allowed.

12.5.3 The CEM may be forced to rearrange finals dates due to unforeseen circumstances.

13 OUTDOOR CUPS AND PLATES

13.1 ADMISSION

13.1.1 The Men's Scottish Cup is open to the 1st teams of all clubs.

13.1.2 The Men's District Cup is open to:

- Any team of clubs not participating in the National League or Premiership League
- The 2nd teams of clubs participating in the Scottish Cup
- Any other teams where the Reserve Cup is not being played.

13.1.3 The Men's Reserve Cup is open to:

- All other teams not participating in the Scottish or District Cups.
- If a club enters their 2nd team into the Reserve Cup, their 1st team must also be entered into the District Cup.
- If a club enters teams from their 3rd team "down", their 1st team must also be entered into the Scottish Cup and their 2nd team must be entered into the District Cup.

13.1.4 The Women's Scottish Cup is open to the first teams of all clubs; and all teams that participate in the Championship Leagues.

13.1.5 The Women's District Cup is open to:

- Any team of clubs not participating in the Premiership, National or Championship Leagues.
- All teams not eligible for the Scottish Cup.

13.1.6 The Scottish Plate is open to all teams which have completed a fixture in the Scottish Cup and been knocked out before the Last 16.

13.1.7 The District Plate is open to all teams which have completed a fixture in the District Cup and been knocked out before the Last 16.

13.1.8 The Reserve Plate is open to all teams which have completed a fixture in the Reserve Cup and been knocked out before the Last 16.

13.1.9 No team may play in more than one Cup competition.

13.2 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

13.2.1 For the purposes of player eligibility the Cup and related Plate shall be regarded as the same competition.

13.2.2 The CEM relies on the integrity of clubs when fielding players. Teams should only field players normally associated with that particular team who play in a league run by Scottish Hockey. Should it be found that the player has played eight or more games or 25% of the games before the cup fixture for the higher team in a league run by Scottish Hockey then they will be deemed to have fielded an ineligible player. Should a player step down from a higher league team within a club and play for a lower cup team, and in the opinion of the opposition and/ or umpires unfairly influence the outcome, and a formal complaint is received, then an investigation will be carried out.

13.2.3 Where a club cannot enter a 1st team but would like to enter their 2nd and 3rd teams they must apply directly to the Competitions and Events Manager, clearly explaining the reasons for this. If agreed the club must name 14 first team players not eligible to play. In addition to this, players who play 8 games or 25% of the games before the cup fixture are not eligible to play for the lower team in the cup. If this rule is broken then there is expulsion of all the club teams in the cup competitions.

13.2.4 A player normally associated with a lower team within a club may play for a higher team within the club for maximum two cup fixture then that player may not return to play for the lower team.

13.2.5 Players who play for a lower team in the Cup or Plate which is eliminated from the competition may play for a higher team within their club in subsequent rounds of the Cup or Plate.

13.2.6 Special consideration **may** be given for goalkeepers provided that application is made to the CEM **in advance** of the match being played.

13.2.7 A maximum of 18 players may be used by a team in a match, of whom 2 must be goalkeepers wearing full protective equipment. If one of the goalkeepers becomes injured or is suspended during a match, that team can continue to use 17 players including only 1 goalkeeper. If a team chooses not to include a second goalkeeper in the 18 players, they are limited to using 16 players in a match.

13.3 COMPETITION

13.3.1 All Cups and Plates will be played on a knockout basis.

13.3.2 In the event of a draw, the result shall be determined by a stroke competition. If the game has a technical table the result shall be determined by a penalty shoot-out (running penalties) as defined in the FIH Tournament Regulations.

13.3.3 The draws for all Cups and Plates may be seeded at the discretion of the Competitions and Events Manager.

13.3.4 Teams may agree to play on a date prior to the scheduled date subject to confirmation from the Competitions and Events Manager. If an agreement cannot be reached the fixture will be played on the scheduled date.

13.3.5 Men's Competitions

- a) Teams in Premiership and National Division league shall be exempt from the Scottish Cup until the round of the last 32
- b) Any rounds of the Reserve Cup, District Plate and Reserve Plate before the last 16 may be arranged on a regional basis

at the discretion of the Competitions and Events Manager.

13.3.6 Women's Competitions

- a) Rounds of the District Plate before the last 16 may be arranged on a regional basis at the discretion of the Competitions and Events Manager.

13.4 PITCHES AND VENUES

13.4.1 The semi-finals and final of all Cup and Plate competitions shall be played at dates, venues and times, determined by the Competitions and Events Manager.

13.5 POSTPONEMENT AND REARRANGEMENT

13.5.1 No Cup or Plate matches, whether on scheduled or rearranged dates, may be postponed or rearranged without the prior permission of the Competitions and Events Manager. If permission for a rearrangement is given, then the new date will be determined by the CEM before the date of the match which is to be rescheduled. Such arrangements shall take precedence over all other scheduled Premiership, National, Regional, Championship or District League matches.

13.5.2 Clubs are required to provide at least 7 working days' notice to the Competitions & Events Manager, their opposition and their appointed umpires if relevant of their request of a postponement / rearrangement. The CEM shall set the date for a match postponed or rearranged.

13.5.3 If a club concedes any Cup or Plate match, the concession must be by the lowest team in the club remaining in the competitions on that day. If a "higher" team concedes, then any lower remaining team in the Cup or Plate competition shall also be removed from the competition.

14 SHIRT ADVERTISING, SPONSORSHIP AND CLUB NAMES

14.1 All Competitions

14.1.1 All shirt advertising and sponsorship shall:

- a. Comply with the current EHF or FIH regulations on shirt advertising, including Logo size and location.
- b. Be approved by the CEO of Scottish Hockey.
- c. Exclude the advertising of tobacco products and any other product or service which in the opinion the CEO of Scottish Hockey may be offensive or contentious.

14.1.2 Details of any proposed shirt advertising must be submitted by the Club, School or District to the CEO of Scottish Hockey prior to entering any agreement.

14.1.3 A Club may change the name under which it plays only with the prior approval of the CEO of Scottish Hockey. Details of any proposed name change must be submitted by the Club to the CEO of Scottish Hockey prior to entering any agreement.

14.1.4 The foregoing shall apply to both Indoor and Outdoor hockey clubs, schools and districts.

14.1.5 All Clubs shall adhere to any reasonable request made by Scottish Hockey for the addition of any Scottish Hockey sponsor logos to their shirt, provided the costs of same are at the sponsors or expense of Scottish Hockey.