

England Ice Hockey Rules & Regulations 2023-2024

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Introduction to the England Ice Hockey (“EIH”)

About us

England Ice Hockey (EIH) is the National Governing Body (NGB) responsible for the governance, administration, development and promotion of the sport of ice hockey in England and Wales. The Association oversees grassroots (junior) ice hockey, women’s ice hockey, senior ice hockey, para (sledge) ice hockey, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) ice hockey, and recreational (community) ice hockey.

EIH supports clubs, players, coaches and officials, and schedules and sanctions competitions and tournaments in the interests of promoting the sport of ice hockey.

To ensure the successful development of the sport of ice hockey in England and Wales, EIH works with the various stakeholders including Ice Hockey UK (IHUK), the Scottish Ice Hockey Association (SIH), the International Ice Hockey Association (IIHF), ice rinks throughout England and Wales, and our Member Clubs.

EIH mission statement

EIH’s vision is to create a nation enjoying memorable experiences in ice hockey, through participation, performing to the best of abilities and making continued progression.

Our mission is to create an environment that improves the sport for existing members and welcomes new players, coaches, volunteers and officials into the community, providing the framework and partnerships to develop their talent that enables them to excel.

Under the new brand of England Ice Hockey, we are committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the sport. To do this, we will harness four strategic pillars:

Participate
Progress
Perform
Partner

Each pillar will have specific workstreams, programmes and goals that will enable England Ice Hockey to grow and thrive.

About this document

- EIH has produced this document, which contains the current information on the rules and regulations of EIH, so that clubs and participants adhere to the same conditions throughout England and Wales.
- This document will be updated annually, typically being issued on 1 July each year.
- Violation of any rules and regulations outlined in this document or EIH policies will result in the member (club and/or individual) being subject EIH Discipline Policy.

EIH commitments

EIH is committed to promoting a safe, inclusive and positive environment for all participants to enjoy the sport of ice hockey. This commitment applies to all people involved with EIH, its competitions and players including: EIH clubs, EIH registered participants and officials, EIH volunteers, all members of Player Support Teams (including but not limited to: coaches, parents and medical professionals), all EIH staff, and all other competition support staff, whether acting in a paid or voluntary capacity, regardless of who they are engaged or employed by.

Involvement in EIH in any capacity, including but not limited to clubs, players, coaches, volunteers and competition support staff, means that you agree to:

- Abide by EIH *Rules and Regulations*
- Abide by EIH *Code of Conduct & Ethics*
- Abide by EIH *Social Media Policy*
- Be aware of and abide by EIH's *Safeguarding Policies*
- Be aware of and abide by the *UKAD Anti-Doping & IHUK Anti-Doping Rules*
- Be aware of and abide by EIH's *Anti-Corruption Policy*
- Be aware of and abide by EIH's *Data Protection Policies* all in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) and the Privacy Shield (USA), in particular ensuring that every measure is taken to protect personal data to which you have access. This includes but is not limited to ensuring you do not give out your username or password to EIH accessed sites or emails.
- Act with integrity and set a positive example, promoting the reputation of the sport and taking all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute.

EIH will not be held liable if a breach of the above codes is found to be the responsibility of the individual, club, its employees, representatives or volunteers. Please note that the above list is not exhaustive. All breaches of EIH codes and policies must be reported to the correct body and EIH so the correct procedures can be followed in all instances. In the event of a breach that upon investigation is found to be due to the negligence of the promoter/player and/or its representatives, full liability and consequences will be the responsibility of the club/individual.

EIH contacts

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Website: www.englishicehockey.com

1. General

1.1 Competition standards

Standards of play ensure integrity of competition at all levels. The IIHF rules recognise the need for fair play and the responsibility of EIH, clubs, players and officials to adhere to these standards. EIH follows the IIHF competition standards with the following exceptions:

Gender participation:

- EIH allow women and individuals that identify as non-binary to participate in senior National Ice Hockey League(s)
- EIH allows male netminders U16 to play in the Women's National Ice Hockey League
- All junior leagues are mixed-gender

1.2 Obligations

These terms and conditions have been created to provide all persons registering with the England Ice Hockey Limited with an enjoyable, safe and welcoming experience whilst engaged in our sport and using the services of the association. This agreement is made on the terms listed below and those set out on the internet between EIH ('we' or 'us') and yourself ('you' or 'your').

Each club which participates in any EIH competition is deemed, by acceptance of the invitation, to be bound by EIH rules, regulations and policies, the applicable competition rules and the rules and regulations of any body of which the relevant EIH is a member or affiliated with, and accepts the jurisdiction of EIH. To the extent that there is any conflict between the rules of another body and EIH's, each club agrees that EIH's rules, regulations and policies shall take precedence. For clarity, this does not apply when the Law in England and Wales supersedes any EIH regulation.

All clubs and their members competing in EIH competitions are deemed to have read and accepted the rules as a condition of entry.

Each club and their members agree to be bound by and comply with all EIH policies, including but not limited to:

- Anti-Corruption Regulations
- Anti-Doping Regulations
- Data Protection Policies
- Equality and Diversity Statement and Policy
- Safeguarding Policies
- Social Media Policy
- Code of Conduct & Ethics, including for spectators
- UKAD & IHUK Anti-Doping Rules

All members applying for EIH membership must be in good standing with EIH. In particular, all outstanding fees and fines owed to EIH must be fully paid-up.

EIH reserves the right to bar any club or member from participating in any EIH sanctioned activity for non-compliance with any disciplinary action. This may include monies owed to other clubs as a result of EIH disciplinary action.

1.3 Club affiliation

Clubs must be affiliated to EIH by meeting and maintaining the minimum requirements outlined in this section. Affiliation with EIH is designed to aid the development of strong relationships between clubs and EIH, and to provide clubs with access to EIH resources, events, administration support, player pathway development and coaching end education development.

A 'Club' or 'Team' is any group of 14 or more individuals who meet the eligibility criteria of this policy and who successfully apply for club/team status as outlined below. Only affiliated bodies are recognised as EIH Club/Team (NB: referred to as club for the rest of this section).

- **University affiliated club** – a group or team recognised by a university as being their representative team in sanctioned events and tournaments.
- **Recreational affiliated club** – a group or team recognised by EIH recreational section as being able to compete in sanctioned events and tournaments.
- **National based affiliated club** – a group or team recognised by EIH to participate in league competition, and sanctioned events and tournaments. The group should operate in the proximity of their rink, and should not offer the same product/conflicting product so as to damage the operation of another club.
- **Clubs who just wish to train and be insured only** may also apply. Clubs not in leagues are not permitted to train with other EIH teams unless prior permission to sanction this as a Challenge Game has been obtained from EIH.

All affiliated clubs/teams should be able to offer their services to their local community (e.g., youth, university, recreational, men and women, able bodied and disabled).

1.3.1 Application process

Any group of players may apply to become club or team. Potential clubs/teams must submit an application to EIH via the registered office. All applications will be presented at the next EIH Annual General Meeting for approval and applicants will be notified of the outcome.

1.3.2 Application criteria

To be granted affiliation status with EIH, when applying clubs/teams must meet the following criteria:

- Recognised as any of the following:
 - Recognised by EIH as entering an EIH league or competition unless confirmed as 'training only'
 - Officially affiliated with a university sporting section (*BUIHA only*)
 - Officially affiliated with EIH Recreational section
- Have an effective club committee consisting of a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer
- Have a Head Coach who is an EIH licenced L2 Team Coach
- Have a Designated Safeguarding Lead if there are players aged under 18 in the Club
- Have a bank account with appropriate signatories
- Have a suitable venue for playing ice hockey on EIH approved venue list
- Ensure your Club members are also registered as EIH members. Clubs must submit an initial membership database of a minimum of 14 persons.
- Acknowledge and adhere to EIH policies, including but not limited to EIH Code of Conduct and Ethics, EIH Safeguarding Policies, EIH Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, EIH Anti-Corruption Policy and UKAD & IHUK Anti-Doping Rules.
- Be in good standing with EIH, including but not limited to settling any outstanding fees and fines in accordance with EIH terms.

In addition, clubs must, when asked:

- Publish its legal name, form (e.g. unincorporated association, company limited by shares or guarantee etc) and any identifier (e.g. company number). In addition, for those clubs that are owned, the club shall also publish the identities of the owner.
- Submit a digital copy of the club/team logo, to be approved by EIH.
- Submit a digital copy of the team strip, to be approved by EIH.
- Submit a copy of the public liability insurance from the club's ice rink.
- Be committed to maintain and develop the spirit of the game.
- Always promote the good name of EIH
- In the event of insolvency of EIH, affiliated Clubs must acknowledge that they can be called upon to guarantee the debts of the association to the sum of £50.00 (Fifty Pounds).

1.3.3 Maintaining affiliation status and re-affiliation

For clubs/teams to maintain their affiliation status with EIH they must adhere to the aforementioned affiliation requirements. In addition, on an annual basis, clubs are required to:

- Partake in league or recognised competition, unless confirmed as 'training only'
- Re-affiliate at least 14 days prior to the opening of EIH individual registration window, normally set as the 1 July
- Have settled any outstanding debts with EIH
- Be in good standing with EIH
- Notify EIH of any changes of legal name, Memorandum of Agreement or Articles if appropriate

Should the named party on the affiliation register change, the responsibility is on the club to notify the association with the change. No changes can be made after the AGM notification has been distributed until after the AGM, in any one year.

1.3.4 Ownership of clubs

EIH recognises that clubs in EIH may be owned by different mechanisms: some by individuals, some by companies, some by other means.

All changes of ownership must be approved by EIH. Previous and new owners should contact EIH to discuss this matter before taking control of the team.

Where a club is owned by an individual, transfer of ownership must be completed with an agreement for all debts to be honoured by the new owner.

1.3.5 Insolvency

Should a club or club's owner be placed into administration (under the Insolvency Act 1986, as amended), the club must notify EIH within five working days. The club shall be permitted to continue for that season, if requested, however penalties will apply as outlined in EIH Discipline Policy.

No Director or person who is judged to have had significant responsibility in the ownership and governance of the club shall be permitted to be a Director in the new ownership company, nor shall be permitted to be involved in any controlling role (including representing the club at meetings) at the club for a period of three years from the end of that season.

1.3.6 Cancellation of affiliation

Should a club wish to cancel their affiliation with EIH, the authorized signatory must notify EIH in writing.

1.3.7 Affiliation declaration

I confirm that CLUB/TEAM wish to be a Member of the England Ice Hockey and that we are agreeable to becoming a subscriber to the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I have read and understood the requirements of Article 7 of the Articles of Association. I have read, understood and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by EIH in EIH Rule Book, EIH Codes of Conduct and all EIH policies and procedures, including but not limited to:

- *EIH Anti-Corruption Regulations*
- *UKAD Anti-Doping and IHUK Anti-Doping Rules*
- *EIH Data Protection Policies*
- *EIH Equality and Diversity Statement and Policy*
- *EIH Safeguarding Policies*
- *EIH Social Media Policies*
- *EIH Code of Conduct, including for spectators*

In the event of insolvency of the Association I acknowledge that the Organisation above can be called upon to guarantee the debts of the Association to the sum of £50.00 (Fifty Pounds).

I confirm that I am obliged to notify the Association of any change to any of the details provided.

By submitting this affiliation form, I agree that EIH may collect, use and disclose my personal data as provided in this application form (or obtained by the organisation as a result of my membership) for the following purposes, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 and EIH's Data Privacy Policy:

- *The processing of this affiliation application.*
- *The administration of the affiliation within the Association.*
- *The administration of compliance with UKAD and IHUK Anti-Doping rules.*

1.4 Registration of individuals

Individual registration of players, coaches, managers, off-ice officials and club volunteers is open to everyone, however some clubs may limit their membership. Club membership must be open and transparent. All individuals must register directly with EIH and follow their EIH affiliated club's membership process. EIH registration is only confirmed upon successful completion of the registration process by the affiliated club selected and provision of the documentation required by EIH as outlined in this rule book.

Membership is split into players and off-ice roles. Within each there are different categories and membership types as outlined below. Members can register in both sections on EIH registration portal and must submit the required fee as determined by the Board on an annual basis and published on EIH website.

All registrations run from 1 August to 31 July unless otherwise noted. Players may register up until 31 January of the playing season, with the exception of those registering at U10. All other registrations are accepted year-round. Pro-rata discounts are not available.

For full membership terms and conditions, please see our website.

1.4.1 Membership inclusions

All registrations include:

- Insurance for EIH sanctioned competitions and activities.
- Affiliation fees to EIH, IHUK and IIHF as appropriate.
- Provision of core activities to the development of ice hockey in the UK, including the delivery of participation programmes and leagues, the operation of section to support teams / clubs and the delivery of high-performance programmes.
- Enforcement of EIH Rule Book and policies to a consistently high standard.

1.4.2 Player categories

EIH has the following categories of player membership:

- Under 10 (to qualify as an U10 member, the player must be under the age of 10 on 31 December in the year that the registration period commences)*
- Under 18 (to qualify as a U18 member, the player must be under the age of 18 on 31 December in the year that the registration period commences)*
- WNIHL
- NIHL
- Para
- SEND
- Recreational
- University

*All individuals over the age of 18 will be registered in their own right however, where an individual is under the age of 18, the registration will be completed by the parent or guardian along with a parental declaration.

Under most circumstances, players are only permitted to register for one club. However, multiple registration is permitted in certain scenarios as outlined in *Section 3.3, Movement of Players*.

Where a player plays in multiple leagues, the player is only required to purchase the lowest fee for the age group they qualify for. Therefore, an under 18, playing in the WNIHL, will only be required to pay the fee to register as an under 18.

1.4.3 Player membership type and eligibility

Within each category there are four options with different eligibility for playing and competing:

- 1) Trial
 - 28-day registration that includes training sessions with the designated team/club
 - The registration start date is the day the form is confirmed as accepted by EIH and club
 - A trial includes training only insurance
 - A player is entitled to a maximum of two trials per calendar year
- 2) "Learn to Play" (L2P)
 - 10-week registration that allows an individual to play within a formal L2P scheme
 - Includes participation in EIH L2P events, club or rink led programmes

- It may also include in-house game play if formed as part of the play pathway
 - In-house game play or scrimmaging may be delivered as structured learning activity by coaches within a single club environment
- 3) Insurance only
- Season-long registration that allows an individual to take part in training only
 - This includes the ability to take part in L2P activities as outlined above
- 4) Standard registration
- Season-long registration that allows an individual to take part in all sanctioned activities
 - This includes the ability to take part in L2P, team training, development events, high performance events, sanctioned training camps and competitive fixtures

1.4.3.1 Player transfers

Upon registration, individuals may transfer from one club to another upon payment of the appropriate fee, completion of the transfer request and confirmation of approval from both the club from which they are transferring and the club to which they are moving.

A club may reasonably deny a transfer request if monies are outstanding from the individual in relation to their previous role in the club.

Any disputes with regards to monies owed by a transferring player is to be referred to EIH where an independent mediator will be assigned to resolve the case. The cost of mediation will be £250 per hour.

For in-season transfers, please see individual league rules.

1.4.3.2 Players under contract

A player will be considered under contract with a club where they have a signed contract between themselves and a club. This may include a club outside of EIH.

Where a player requires a transfer from a club, a player under contract must have the written agreement of the club to be transferred from prior, including where appropriate fulfilling any International Transfer requirements.

A player under contract would meet the requirements by HMRC in consideration of a player being 'registered' to that club. A player may not transfer out of a club whilst under contract and EIH will recognise this within its transfer process through approval of transfers from club to club. All rights therefore sit with the club in this regard subject to a contract being in place.

1.4.3.3 Cancellations

Where a club cancels the registration of a player, for any reason whatsoever, the club must notify EIH in writing using the relevant process. To be valid, such notification must be signed by the authorised signatory as identified on EIH member list.

1.4.3.4 International player transfers

Registrations are subject to IIHF International Transfer requirements which are administered by Ice Hockey UK. Whilst a registration form may be submitted, no registration will be processed until the completion of an International Transfer Card (ITC).

In addition, registrations may be subject to work visas as defined by Ice Hockey UK and HM Border Agency. Whilst a registration form may be submitted, no registration will be processed until the completion of a work visa as required.

1.4.4 Coach, Manager and Off-Ice Official categories

EIH has the following categories of off-ice roles membership:

- Coach (qualified and licenced through EIH coaching & education programme)
 - Foundation Coach
 - L1 Assistant Coach
 - L2 Team Coach
 - Advanced Team Coach
- Manager (qualified and licenced through EIH coaching & education programme)
 - Assistant Manager
 - Team Manager
 - Advanced Team Manager
- Team Bench Off-Ice Official (refers to persons who can go on the bench)
 - Equipment Manager
 - Physiotherapist
 - Sports Therapist
 - First Aider
- Off-Ice Officials (refers to persons who cannot go on the bench)
 - Team Scorer
 - Penalty Box Attendant
 - Goal Judge
 - Timekeeper
 - Photographer / Media Team
 - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
 - Secretary
 - Chairperson
 - Treasurer

The requirements for Coaches, Managers and Off-Ice Officials can be found in the *Section: Coach, Manager and Off-Ice Official Regulations*.

1.4.5 Dual role registration

Members may register as both a player and off-ice official. A discount may be applicable for dual role registration.

1.4.6 Transfer of memberships

Registration is personal to you and cannot be assigned or transferred to another person. The attempted use of a registration by another person would be considered fraudulent use and would lead to suspension of the registration and action under the associations disciplinary policy.

1.4.7 Membership declaration

“By submitting my membership form to EIH, I (the member) confirm that the details in this form are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and acknowledge and understand that it is my responsibility to:

- Observe and abide by the rules and regulations set forth by EIH in EIH Rule Book, EIH Codes of Conduct and all EIH policies and procedures, including but not limited to:
 - *EIH Anti-Corruption Regulations*
 - *UKAD Anti-Doping and IHUK Anti-Doping Rules*
 - *EIH Data Protection Policies*
 - *EIH Equality and Diversity Statement and Policy*
 - *EIH Safeguarding Policies*
 - *EIH Social Media Policies*
 - *EIH Code(s) of Conduct, including for spectators*

- *Inform my team of any medical conditions or previous injuries that may affect my safe participation in the sport.*
- *Provide parental consent if I am under 18.*

Medical declaration

By completing this membership form, I (the member) declare that I am medically fit to participate in my designated EIH role and have completed the medical information to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I participate in EIH activities at my own risk and will not hold EIH responsible for any injury, illness or accident to my person, or damage to or any loss of property, resulting from my participation unless caused by the gross negligence of EIH.

Anti-doping declaration

By submitting this membership form, I (the member) understand that I am deemed to have made myself familiar with and hereby agree to be bound by the UK Anti-Doping Rules and rules of the International Ice Hockey Federation and to submit to the authority of UK Anti-Doping and any other appropriate body in the application and enforcement of those Rules.

I understand that the UK Anti-Doping Rules and IIHF anti-doping rules apply to all participants of the sport, including Minors, and they make all participants subject to Drug Testing. For the purposes of those rules, consent of a parent or guardian to the Testing of a Minor is deemed to follow automatically from the fact that the Minor has been permitted by their parent or guardian to participate. Therefore, any participating Minors may be subject to Drug Testing without further notice.

I understand that if I ever need to use a prohibited substance or method for therapeutic reasons then I am required to apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) in advance of using the relevant substance or method.

I agree to fully cooperate with any anti-doping investigations or proceedings, whether conducted by UK Anti-Doping or any other competent body. Failure to do so without acceptable justification may be treated as misconduct under EIH's Discipline Policy and may be sanctioned accordingly.

I understand that I will be bound by these Rules for 12 months from the date of this declaration.

Data protection declaration

By submitting this membership application form, I (the member) agree that EIH may collect, use and disclose my personal data as provided in this application form (or obtained by the

organisation as a result of my membership) for the following purposes, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 and EIH's Data Privacy Policy:

- The processing of this membership application.
- The administration of the membership within our organisation.
- The administration of competitions, including sharing of data with competition organisers, clubs and appropriate personnel. Information that is shared securely may include: contact details including email and telephone number, emergency contact details, biography information on your EIH profile, relevant medical information and statistical data. By the global nature of the sport, this may at times, be shared outside of the European Economic Area, although EIH will ensure that all data is securely transferred via the encrypted password protected website.
- The administration of EIH website and social media channels whereby some data may be published to the general public. This data may include: name, club, social media handles, performance data, discipline action, statistics and images.
- The administration of compliance with UKAD, IHUK and WADA Anti-Doping Rules.

1.5 Payment of fees and fines

Every EIH member shall pay to EIH an annual subscription for each season (this runs from 1 August to 31 July unless otherwise noted). This is, from time to time, determined by the board. A member shall not be entitled to exercise any of the rights or privileges of membership until they have paid all monies payable to the association upon becoming a member. If any member shall fail to pay to the association any amount owing from such member in respect of:

- Membership fees and affiliation due upon registration
- Payments for services due, such as on-ice officials' fees for a period of 14 days following the date upon which written notice of the same was duly given to such member
- Fines or penalties imposed under EIH *Disciplinary Policy* for a period of 28 days following the date upon which written notice of the same was duly given to such member.

Then all rights and privileges exercisable by the club or individual as a member of the association shall be immediately suspended and services revoked.

In the event of a member being suspended, resigning their membership or the association otherwise terminating the membership, their subscription shall be payable in full for the year during which such suspension, resignation or termination of membership occurs. If they have already paid such subscription they shall not be entitled to recover such payment or any part thereof from the association. EIH may consider allowing a suspended player to retain their EIH membership pending the outcome of any ongoing investigation or disciplinary action. This is fully at the discretion of EIH.

1.5.1 Cooling off period

Clubs or individuals may cancel their registration within 14 days from the start date of their acceptance to the terms of this agreement. To cancel, the named contact or individual must submit information to EIH within the 14 days.

The amount refunded will be less a fixed fee of £5.00GBP for the period of registration and an administration fee of £20.00GBP. An individual would not be able to submit a claim for a refund if they have participated within competition during the cooling off period.

Where an incorrect fee has been paid, a payment correction may be submitted or a request for a refund for an overpayment be submitted. Any refund agreed will be processed on a pro-rata basis and will include deduction of processing fees in accordance with our payment provider.

1.5.2 Retirement of membership

A registered member may remove themselves from the jurisdiction of EIH at any time during their membership period. To retire membership, the name individual must contact EIH in writing from their registered email address, confirming the date from which they wish to end their membership.

A member who has retired is unable to reapply for EIH membership for a minimum of three months following the retirement date.

1.5.3 Refunds

Outside of the cooling off period, no refunds will be given, except where there is non-delivery of the services offered by EIH or in exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to season-ending injuries or long-term illness. Such circumstances EIH will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and may require supporting evidence. Any refund agreed will be processed on a pro-rata basis and will include deduction of processing fees in accordance with our payment provider.

1.6 General terms and conditions

1.6.1 Conduct

The favourable reputation of EIH, its sanctioned competitions and participants is a valuable asset and creates tangible benefits for all EIH members. Accordingly, it is an obligation for EIH clubs, owner(s), promoter(s), operator(s) or representative(s) thereof, to refrain from engaging in conduct contrary to the integrity of the game of ice hockey. Conduct contrary to the integrity of the game shall include, but not be limited to, comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage a competition, club, venue, sponsor, player, official or EIH. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with EIH policies are not prohibited. However, public comments that one of the stated persons above knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation or financial best interests of a venue, club, player, sponsor, official or EIH are expressly covered by this section.

An EIH affiliated clubs and registered members shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional and sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others. Clubs and members should act with integrity and set a positive example, promoting the reputation of the sport and taking all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute.

An EIH registered club or member must abide by EIH Rule Book and policies, paying particular attention to EIH *Code of Conduct & Ethics*, *EIH Social Media Policy* and *EIH Respect Charter*. It is expected that EIH clubs and members also take the time to ensure they are familiar with and abide by all key EIH policies and rules.

Members must also make every effort to ensure that any individual support teams, including but not limited to personal coaches, parents and personal medical professionals, are aware of and abide by this documentation.

1.6.2 Participation in competition not recognised by EIH or IIHF

Any EIH-registered player or official participating in domestic or international leagues or competitions not recognised by EIH or IIHF will face a suspension from all authorised domestic or international competitions and severe financial penalties.

The same applies to clubs lending their facilities to leagues or competitions not recognised by EIH or IIHF: they may face a ban from EIH/IIHF recognised competitions.

1.6.3 Anti-corruption

An EIH club and member shall be bound by EIH *Anti-Corruption Code and IIHF Integrity Code*. It is the responsibility of all participants to make themselves aware of the code. Violation of this code shall subject the member to EIH and/or the IIHF Disciplinary Procedure and the range of permissible sanctions.

1.6.4 Gambling and wagers

No EIH registered club or member shall wager, cause to wager or benefit from the wagering of anything of value in connection with any tour sanctioned tournament. Violation of this section will result in the member being subject EIH Discipline Policy.

1.6.5 Anti-doping

An EIH club and member shall be bound by the UKAD Anti-Doping Policy, IIHF Integrity Code and the WADA Anti-Doping Code for a period of 12 months from the commencement of membership or affiliation.

EIH is unequivocally opposed, on ethical and medical grounds, to the practice of doping in sport and fully supports the position of the International Olympic Committee/World Anti-Doping Agency (IOC/WADA) against the use of banned substances and methods. As such, EIH follows UKAD's policy on anti-doping. This shall apply to all participants in competitions over which EIH has jurisdiction and provides for sanctions against any participant found guilty of doping offense.

UK Anti-Doping Rules and IIHF anti-doping rules apply to all participants of the sport, including Minors, and they make all participants subject to Drug Testing. For the purposes of those rules, consent of a parent or guardian to the Testing of a Minor is deemed to follow automatically from the fact that the Minor has been permitted by their parent or guardian to participate. Therefore, any participating Minors may be subject to Drug Testing without further notice.

All EIH registered players may be subject to doping controls (urine analyses, blood tests and other authorised techniques for detecting prohibited substances or methods). By becoming an EIH member, all participants agree to fully cooperate with any anti-doping investigations or proceedings, whether conducted by UK Anti-Doping or any other competent body. Failure to do so without acceptable justification may be treated as misconduct under EIH's Discipline Policy and may be sanctioned accordingly.

It is every EIH registered club and member's obligation to be familiar and compliant with the WADA code and UKAD Anti-Doping Policy. A copy of the UKAD Policy and WADA Code is available via EIH website.

Violation of this code shall subject the member to EIH, the IIHF Disciplinary Procedure and/or the UKAD and WADA disciplinary procedure and range of permissible sanctions.

1.6.6 Promotional activities

An EIH registered player is obliged to attend all off-ice group promotional events arranged by EIH or competition, unless a safeguarding or medical reason has been highlighted by the team.

All EIH members agree to waive in full all their individual claims on performers' and intellectual property rights.

EIH membership means that all members grant EIH and EIH sanctioned competitions the right to use their name, photograph, likeness, biography, logo, artwork, voice or other similar identification for the purposes of promoting EIH and its competitions. This includes but is not limited to pictures, programmes, broadcasts and telecasts and all other publicity and promotional materials and media, including publicity and promotion in connection with a commercial product, as long as such publicity and promotion is directly related to the publicity and promotion of EIH, its sponsors and competitions, and does not constitute a direct individual endorsement of such commercial product.

Each member transfers to EIH any television rights they may own in all EIH sanction competitions in which the member participates.

An EIH member has the right to withdraw consent for use by emailing info@eiha.co.uk

1.6.7 Social media policy

All club members and individuals are bound by the particulars of *EIH Social Media Policy* as detailed in the supporting documents. This encompasses all players (and parents and guardians if U18), coaches, managers, off ice officials, owners, and any other direct person involved in operations of a club.

In addition, clubs must accredit with EIH any volunteer or paid person(s) regularly providing media coverage at their Club or venue and ensure they follow this policy.

For the purpose of this document the term social network site refers to, but is not limited to; Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Google+ and LinkedIn.

The intention of any post made is not relevant in considering a breach of this policy.

Where a club or individual has made a post on social media that may breach this policy, the matter shall be referred to EIH to adjudicate if the post brings the game into disrepute.

1.6.8 EIH marks and logos

Each EIH team shall identify itself clearly to the public as being part of EIH and appropriate league / cup competition and shall cooperate fully with EIH in furthering public awareness of EIH and ice hockey in England and Wales.

EIH will provide teams with EIH logos relating to the level of the competition and agrees to adhere to the appropriate *EIH Brand Rules* which can be found in the EIH website.

EIH retain the right to amend the aforementioned branding rules in the event of securing a headline sponsor.

1.6.10 EIH Disclaimer

EIH, its Board of Directors or staff, does not accept liability for the welfare or safety of participants travelling to and participating in competitions, with the exception of EIH run events. Whilst the association will take all reasonable steps to advise participants on this

matter, it remains the responsibility the venue and club to ensure full and adequate safety, security and insurance measures being in place for participants.

EIH will not be held liable if a breach of the codes set forth by EIH Rule Book and associated policies if found to be the responsibility of the participant, club, venue, its employees, representatives or volunteers. Please note that the above list is not exhaustive.

All breaches of EIH's codes and policies must be reported to the correct body and EIH so the correct procedures can be followed in all instances. In the event of a breach that upon investigation is found to be due to the negligence of the venue, club or participant and/or its representatives, full liability and consequences will be the responsibility of the venue, club or participant.

1.6.11 Discipline

All matters relating to disciplinary procedures will be dealt with by the relevant EIH disciplinary committee. Automatic fines and/or sanctions will be imposed for breaches of some rules and regulations as outlined in EIH Rule Book.

All clubs will be provided with disciplinary and appeal procedures and can be found on EIH website.

1.6.12 Authority

Notwithstanding the Rules and Regulations contained herein, EIH Executive Board shall be empowered to make any decision it deems to be appropriate and fair.

EIH Executive Committee (Board) reserves the right to expel any team from competition for any serious breach of these Rules and Regulations as it considers appropriate. Any club or team seriously in debt to EIH may also be suspended from competition with immediate effect.

By becoming a member of EIH, each club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the Rules and Regulations contained herein, and shall agree to abide by the decisions of EIH Executive Board.

1.6.13 Jurisdiction

EIH Rule Book and associated EIH policies and procedures shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law and the parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of English courts in respect of all matters arising out of this Agreement.

1.6.14 Force Majeure

Neither party shall be liable for any failure in the performance of any obligations under this agreement caused by circumstances beyond the reasonable control of a party to this agreement including, but not limited to, an act of war, extreme weather, a state of emergency or an act of terrorism in the region. Force Majeure will not include any financial difficulties the club, venue or sponsor may find themselves in.

The party claiming the Force Majeure event shall promptly notify the other party in writing of its reasons for the delay or stoppage of the participation in EIH competitions. If the party claiming the Force Majeure event has complied with the obligation of notifying the other of it the requirement for their performance under this Agreement shall cease.

1.6.15 Restriction of Liability

In the event that EIH accept that they have breached any clauses in this agreement or are found to have in a Court within the Jurisdiction damages shall be limited to the monies EIH have received from the other contracting party in connection with an EIH club or competition. Nothing within this agreement limits in any way the damages that EIH shall be entitled to recover against the other contracting party in the event that the other contracting party has breached their obligations in the contract.

1.6.16 Law

The laws of England and Wales will regulate the laws governing this agreement.

1.7 EIH Service

EIH will provide all clubs and members with support in the administration of EIH related activities.

The following services are available to all affiliated clubs and registered members:

- Combined liability insurance for club and individuals
- Access to EIH leagues and competitions
- Access to EIH development pathways for players and volunteers
- Dedicated support for clubs, including safeguarding support
- Access to a wealth of resources for clubs and individuals
- PR and communications support and coverage
- Governance and funding support
- Enforcement of EIH *Code of Conduct & Ethics and Department of Player Safety Procedures* to a consistently high standard
- A commitment to ensuring the safety of participants throughout the sport

1.7.1 Insurance

All players, coaches, managers, off-ice team officials, off-ice game officials and on-ice officials must be registered and insured through EIH and have met the minimum eligibility requirements outlined to be insured under EIH scheme.

Coverage includes any EIH affiliated club training session, any EIH sanctioned competition, including Challenge Games and tournaments, and any EIH run or sanctioned hockey camp. Any team travelling outside the United Kingdom must be covered by EIH travel insurance which can be purchased when applying to travel to a tournament.

All claims under EIH insurance schemes must be made directly to EIH's insurance broker via EIH Insurance Claim Form, accompanied in the case of personal accident by a doctor's certificate and appropriate evidence and witnesses, other than national team injuries which must be reported to the team manager.

Any accident that involves a member of the public must be reported immediately to EIH's insurance broker by the home club secretary if EIH public liability cover is in force.

Insurance documentation including how to make a claim can be accessed via EIH website.

2. The rink

2.1 Overview

Ice hockey is played on an enclosed sheet of ice with markings specific to the IIHF rules of play. The rink must be made fair and safe for players and set up in a way which also considers spectator safety to be of paramount importance.

All rinks and surfaces used for EIH competitions must adhere to the IIHF specifications, with the following exceptions:

- Rinks that are of a non-standard size (below 56m x 26m) may be approved by EIH to be used for all levels of hockey. The only exception to this is Sutton which may only be used up to U16 level.
- Rule 1.8 Goalkeepers' Restricted Area is not currently enforced to allow ice rinks the necessary time to make the changes to implement this rule.
- Teams must ensure that suitable provision of penalty boxes and players benches are provided as close to the IIHF dimensions as reasonably possible within the limitations of the venue.

2.2 Approval of rinks and venues

Only rinks, including temporary rinks, which have been approved by EIH can be used as a venue for hockey games. Venues may be approved on a case-by-case basis for competitions separately.

Clubs wishing to use a new or alternative venue must request permission from EIH and submit any venue details requested by EIH.

Any team which makes a major change in the structure of their ice rink should ensure that EIH is informed prior to the start of the season (for summer changes) or immediately (for mid-season changes) to ensure that the relevant bodies (referees, other teams) can be informed.

A list of approved rinks can be found by contacting EIH.

3. Teams and players

3.1 Team eligibility

To be eligible for any EIH league competition, the following applies:

- Each team must complete EIH affiliation process each season.
- Each team must submit an expression of interest to enter a competition by 30 April prior to the start of the following season.
- Each team must provide email and telephone details of a lead contact and fixtures secretary who will be the primary liaison for EIH.
- Each team must make sufficient home ice dates available to fulfil their home league fixtures and must provide home ice dates to EIH within five working days of being so asked. This number is defined annually and detailed in each section's Competition Rules.
- Any outstanding club or team fines owed to EIH must be settled.
- Each team must meet the minimum squad requirements outlined below.

3.1.1 Minimum squads

The minimum number of players, coaches and managers to enter a team in a league must be registered by 31 August of the playing season. Failure to have the required numbers by this deadline will result in the team automatically being dropped from EIH competitions for that season. Clubs that have entered a second team will have the second team suspended from the league structure if the minimum player requirements for two teams are not met by the deadline.

Clubs must be able to provide an EIH registered and EIH qualified L2 Team Coach and L1 Assistant Coach for all matches. Junior clubs must also provide a registered and EIH qualified manager. All clubs are strongly recommended to have a registered and qualified medical practitioner. Coaches and managers can be registered elsewhere or shared with another team within the same club.

3.2 Player eligibility

To be eligible for any EIH competition, the following applies:

- All players must be registered with EIH.
- All players must be registered with the correct age group team as detailed below by 31 January of the current regular season, with the exception of U10s.
- All players must meet the gender requirements as detailed in each section's additional eligibility rules.
- Any outstanding player fines must be settled.

3.2.2.1 British and non-British trained players

A British trained player is a player who operated under the jurisdiction of the UK national association for a period of 16 consecutive months (480 days) before their 18th birthday or who is currently registered as an Under 18.

A non-British trained player is any other player who does not meet the requirements in rule number 1.

1. The defining factor on whether a player fulfils requirements in rule 1 will be transfers to / from the UK national association before their 18th birthday.

2. Where a player has never been registered, a player may be authorised as British trained under IIHF transfer regulations following the appropriate international requirements therein.

A team may register an unlimited number of British and non-British trained players under the above definitions.

3.2.2.2 Applications for reclassification of players

All applications for being classified as British should be made on the appropriate form. All players whose applications are incomplete will be rejected and any players whose information does not match the above rules will also be rejected. Where insufficient evidence has been presented, an application will also be rejected.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/EnglishIceHockeyAssociation/NIHLBritishTrainedApplication>

3.3 Movement of players

Player movement between clubs and teams during the season can occur in the form of:

- Registering for more than one club
- Transfer between clubs or teams
- Emergency transfers
- Dispensation to play-up an age group or division

The following regulations apply:

- Any transfer request is valid for 28 days, except for emergency transfers and dispensation. No further transfer request can be made by the player until this period has expired.
- All parties involved (“primary club”, “secondary club”, player and parent/guardian of the player) must agree to the terms of any agreement or transfer.
- Applications must have been agreed in writing; e-mails between designated club officials are accepted and between all parties including parents where applicable.
- Clubs must submit an official transfer request to EIH on the Gameday platform.
- A minimum five days prior to the fixture being played must be given for the application to be considered for non-ITC card holders.
- EIH eligibility rules still apply.
- EIH must approve any movement of players between teams. EIH reserves the right to refuse any movement between teams at their sole discretion.

Please see each section’s rules for further stipulations.

Failure to comply with the above will mean the player is ineligible to play in EIH competitions. Should they do so, the team will be deemed as icing an ineligible player and the appropriate off-ice sanction applied.

3.3.1 ITC restrictions

A limited ITC card holder may only register with one club. An unlimited ITC holder may be afforded the movement opportunities in *3.3 Movement of Players* at the discretion of EIH.

4. Skaters' equipment

4.1 Overview

Skaters' equipment consists of sticks, skates, protective equipment and uniforms. All protective equipment – except gloves, helmets, neck guards and skates – must be worn entirely underneath the uniform. Equipment must conform to IIHF safety standards and be used only to protect skaters, not to enhance or improve playing ability or cause injury to an opponent. Full equipment, including helmets, must also be worn properly during the pre-game warm-up.

All skaters' equipment and kit must adhere to the rules set out by the IIHF, with the exceptions imposed by EIH as highlighted below.

4.1.1 Neck guards

The EIH makes a “strong recommendation” that all players at all levels use an approved Ice Hockey Neck Guard/Protector whilst participating in all on ice activities. This “strong recommendation” is in place until 31 December 2023, after which it will become a mandatory requirement. All protective equipment must be worn without alterations and as directed by the manufacturers' specification.

4.2 Dangerous equipment

4.2.1 Chin strap

The maximum gap allowed between the chin/neck and the chin strap is 2.5cm (roughly one finger). If this is violated the referee must send the player back to the bench to adjust their equipment and they should be replaced with another player.

This counts as a warning to the team, for any further violation a 10-minute misconduct penalty should be assessed to the offending player.

4.2.2 Shorts

The use of shorts which have been cut or torn in the inner thigh and back of thigh area is a practice which is not acceptable.

The use of shorts which have built in zips is allowed if the zip is closed and the Velcro flap has covered the zip or the button at the end has been closed.

For any breaches of the above, the player shall be ruled off the ice and a warning shall be issued to his team (exception of REC). For a second violation by any player of the same team for above offence, the referee shall assess a Rule 128, ii, Misconduct Penalty, Dangerous Equipment.

4.3 Uniforms

The practice of tucking jerseys into shorts is prohibited. If a player is seen with a tucked-in shirt they are to be given one warning.

For any further violations by the same player a 10-minute misconduct penalty will be assessed.

Shirts must cover all relevant pieces of equipment (including elbow pads) so that they are not visible. Where a player fails to comply, a warning shall be given to the player followed by a 10-minute misconduct for any further violations.

4.4 Captain's designation

A 'C' or 'A' cannot be taped onto the jersey for a captain. The referee must ask the player to remove the tape if this occurs. If the player refuses, a 10-minute misconduct penalty will be awarded.

4.5 Post-game

Any player who places any equipment on the ice surface after the final buzzer is to be asked to move the equipment by the referee. If they refuse to do so, the referee is to assess a Misconduct Penalty and his coach is to be warned. Teams may place sticks and gloves on their team benches.

All players who are not wearing a helmet, regardless of league/age group, during the handshake must be assessed a Misconduct Penalty and his coach is to be warned. If the coach fails to enforce the above, the referee should submit a Match Report.

4.6 Kit sponsors

All sponsors must be acceptable to EIHC. EIHC's decision is final on the suitability of any kit advertising. Such approval will not be unreasonably withheld.

5. The Competition

All EIH sanctioned games and tournaments must abide by the Rules of Ice Hockey as described by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). Rules can be found at: <https://www.iihf.com/en/statichub/4719/rules-and-regulations>

In addition, EIH specifies some amendments as outlined in this section. Where this section contradicts IIHF rules, EIH rules will take precedence.

Note: EIH participants are only insured through EIH insurance when the game or tournament has been sanctioned by EIH.

5.1 League structure

EIH league structure is outlined in each section's rules and is subject to change from time to time as directed by EIH Board. League formats are finalised by 31 May prior to the beginning of the new season.

All EIH leagues are solely owned and operated by EIH.

5.2 League rules

League rules can be found in the relevant section for each league.

5.3 Non-league games, tournaments and camps

EIH are committed to promoting participation and development opportunities by sanctioning non-league and cup competitions including challenge games, tournaments and camps. In addition, EIH are supportive of teams wishing to travel to sanctioned international tournaments.

EIH and the organiser have a duty of care to ensure the safety and welfare of participants by adhering to the procedures outlined below. The following minimum requirements apply, in addition to those outlined for each specific type of event:

- The club or team must be affiliated with EIH
- All players and team officials must be registered with EIH
- Players participating, where possible, should be from the home club of the participating teams. For 'borrowed' players, written permission must be given from the parent club and provided to EIH on request
- All EIH rules and regulations must be followed at all times, including but not limited to EIH's safeguarding policies and procedures, EIH injury reporting policy and procedure and EIH's minimum coach and adult / child ratio
- Domestic league and cup games take precedence and should not be disrupted; no exceptional circumstances for failure to fulfil fixtures will be granted in this scenario
- For any competition hosted in England and Wales, EIH gameday protocols apply
- All EIH discipline policies will apply during any non-league game and domestic or international tournament or camp
- If the match is hosted in England or Wales, the rink used must meet the standards outlined in *Section 2, The Rink*.

5.3.1 Challenge games

Challenge games are defined as a standalone non-league or cup matches involving UK-based teams.

The home team shall apply by email to their relevant fixture secretary for permission to play the game. This must be done at least five working days in advance of the fixture taking place. Written approval from EIH must be received.

EIH will request referees for fixtures through IHUK's referee section. Challenge games can be played without IHUK referees if they are unavailable. In this instance, coaches are responsible for officiating.

Where challenge matches are sought to play teams registered under a different domestic governing body (SIH, IHUK), or with a non-senior EIH team, then permission must be sought at least 28 days before the fixture is due to take place to ensure the appropriate paperwork is completed, as may be specified by EIH is in place, and that the opposing team is fully registered.

5.3.2 Domestic tournaments and camps

Teams based in England and Wales can apply to host tournaments and camps in the United Kingdom.

Where an organiser wishes to host international teams (defined as teams from outside of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland), the following conditions apply in addition to *section 5.3*:

- Approval from IHUK
- Any international team will need to provide confirmation from their IIHF affiliated body that they are approved to attend the event
- All international players must be registered with their IIHF affiliated body and hold appropriate insurance

5.3.2.1 Application process

To host a tournament or camp, the club/team must provide the following information at least two weeks in advance of the event, or four weeks in advance should an international team be invited to attend:

- A completed application form and payment*
- Contact details of the main organiser and Head Coach
- A copy of the event invitation and registration form

On receipt of the above form, EIH will review the application and confirm approval. Should an international team be invited to the tournament, IHUK approval will also be sought. EIH strongly advise against advertising the event prior to EIH approval.

*Please note, payment is only required for insurance for hockey camps. Should camps not wish to purchase this service they must have their own insurance a copy of which must be provided at the time of the application.

5.3.2.2 Post-event requirements

All hosts should provide the following within five working days of the conclusion of the event:

- An event report to confirm results and disclose any incidents encountered
- A copy of gamesheets must be kept and produced on request from EIH or IHUK
- It is recommended that teams provide any photos and reports for EIH to share to our social media channels to promote the team's participation and successes

All EIH discipline policies will apply during any domestic tournament, camp or exhibition game.

These guidelines are established as minimum standards. Any action taken by the tournament director to improve or enhance the quality of the tournament and provide a greater level of safety for the participants and spectators is highly encouraged. This section also applies to any EIH run events or development camps.

5.3.3 International tournaments, camps and exhibitions

Any international tournament, camp or exhibition must be endorsed by an IIHF affiliated organisation who must grant permission for the team to participate. In addition, approval from both EIH and IHUK is required. An administration fee may be payable for insurance for international trips.

5.3.3.1 Application process

For all international tournaments, camps or exhibition games, the club/team must provide the following information at least four weeks in advance of the intended outbound travel:

- A completed application form
- Contact details for the main organiser of the travelling club
- A copy of the official invitation from the host organisation and endorsement of event and team's participation from IIHF affiliated national body in the country in which the tournament, camp or exhibition is taking place (as per IIHF rules)
- Contact details for the host organisation
- Payment of the insurance administration fee if applicable

On receipt of the above form, EIH will seek approval from Ice Hockey UK (IHUK) and confirm to the named contact once travel has been approved by both IHUK and EIH.

EIH strongly advise against booking any travel prior to this approval.

5.3.3.2 Pre-travel requirements

All applicants must provide the following at least five working days prior to outbound travel:

- A list of all attendees, all of whom must be registered with EIH (players, coaches, managers, support staff - please note permission for any individual can be revoked at any time by EIH)
- Travel details, including flight numbers if applicable
- Hotel address
- Venue address
- Travel and tournament risk assessment
- Emergency action plan
- EIH strongly recommends that all travellers have their own travel insurance. Note: parents who are not registered as officials with EIH are not covered under EIH's insurance policies

5.3.3.3 Post-travel requirements

Once the club returns, EIH will contact the inviting international organisation to confirm no issues arose and that the host would be happy for EIH affiliated club or team to return. Please note: in the event issues are disclosed, players, coaches and staff may be suspended pending an investigation.

All EIH policies will apply during any international tournament.