

England Ice Hockey Junior Regulations 2023-2024

V1.5 September 2023



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8. Junior regulations

The following rules apply to junior competitions. Failure to comply will be assessed as an off-ice offence as denoted in the *Supporting Information*.

8.1 Team eligibility

To be eligible for any EIH competition, each team must:

- Complete EIH affiliation prior to entering EIH competition in the following season.
- Provide email and telephone details of a lead contact and fixtures secretary who will be the primary liaison for EIH.
- Submit an expression of interest to enter a competition by 15 May prior to the start of the following season.
- Make available sufficient home ice dates 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 appendix for each league.
- Settle any outstanding club or team fines owed to EIH or EIH affiliated clubs.
- Meet the minimum squad requirements outlined below.

8.2 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 may result in the team being removed from EIH competitions for that season.

Junior teams must have a minimum of 12 registered players within the appropriate age category, including a netminder (11 + 1). To enter two teams in the league, teams must have a minimum 24 registered players including 2 netminders (22 + 2). There is no maximum number of players for a team.

Entering a second or third team into the league is at the discretion of EIH.

Junior clubs must have an EIH registered and qualified L2 Team Coach, L1 Assistant Coach and Team Manager available for teams on match days. All clubs are strongly recommended to have a registered and qualified medical practitioner. Coaches can be registered elsewhere or shared with another team within the same club.

Please note that the minimum requirements for 2024/2025 will increase.

8.3 Player eligibility

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

- All players must be registered only with EIH.
- All players must be registered with the correct age group team as detailed below by 31 January of the current playing season, with the exception of U10s who can register at any stage of the season.
- Any outstanding player fines must be settled.
- A player who initially registers for a senior membership forfeits the right to play down to junior team or take part in any junior league, competition or tournament.

8.3.1 Junior age eligibility

All junior age group leagues are mixed-gender. The following age group classification apply for junior registrations:

Age as of 31/12/2023	Year of Birth	League 2023/24	Abbrev. 2023/24
9 or below	2014-2020	Under 10	U10
10	2013	Under 12	U12
11	2012	Under 12	U12
12	2011	Under 14	U14
13	2010	Under 14	U14
14	2009	Under 16	U16
15	2008	Under 16	U16
16	2007	Under 18	U18
17	2006	Under 18	U18

Players may play up one age category above their classification as detailed in section 8.4.5.2 *Playing up an age group*.

8.4 Movement of players

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

- Registering for more than one club (“dual registration” in Gameday)
- Transfer between clubs or teams (“permanent transfer” in Gameday)
- Emergency transfers (“emergency transfer” in Gameday)
- 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.

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.

8.4.1 ITC restrictions

A limited ITC card holder may only register with one club. An unlimited ITC holder may be entitled to some of the movement opportunities in *8.4 Movement of Players*, however this is assessed by EIH in accordance with IHUK rules.

8.4.2 Registering for more than one club

A player may register with multiple clubs in the following circumstances:

- A junior player playing up to a senior league whereby their primary club does not have a team in the senior division, or an available opportunity for them to play. This applies for NIHL and WNIHL divisions. The primary club only retains priority over the player in the event of a fixture clash where the minimum bench-strength would not be met and the fixture would be forfeited as a result.
- A junior player may sign for two teams where there is an agreement in place between both clubs to facilitate the acceptance of a team in the league. The agreement must outline which club retains priority over the player in the event of a fixture clash and which club is the primary club for the purposes of playoff qualification. This must be agreed by both clubs and the parent / guardian at the beginning of each season.
- Any registration granted with multiple clubs will last until the end of the season in which it was issued.

In all instances, the player eligibility rules apply as outlined in section 8.3 *Player eligibility*, including adhering to the minimum age restrictions. Please see section 8.4.5 *Dispensation: 'Playing up'* for additional stipulations.

Example:

Club A have an U18 team and no agreement or opportunity to play-up with an affiliated NIHL team. In this circumstance, a 17-year-old player registered with the U18 teams at Club A may also request to register with another NIHL club.

8.4.3 Transfers

During the season, a player may transfer between clubs (or teams) with permission from both the releasing club (team) and the club (team) to which they are transferring, along with the parent / guardian. The transfer will be valid until the end of the season unless otherwise stipulated.

The deadline for players to transfer between clubs or teams within a club is 31 January of the playing season. Players transferring after this date will not be eligible for league competition but may take part in challenge games and tournaments.

Once a transfer has been approved, it is locked for 28 days. No new dispensation or transfer request can be made by the player until this period has expired.

For international transfers, IIHF deadlines must be followed.

8.4.4 Emergency transfers

Emergency transfer requests allow dispensation for players to play for another club or team on a temporary basis (one game) due to unforeseen circumstances. Such dispensations cannot be utilised where EIHL deems an unfair advantage will be gained.

Emergency transfers are normally granted for standalone matches and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and are not confirmed until approved by EIHL.

The following rules apply:

- A team may only request a maximum of three players for any one fixture.

- Junior players enrolled in the England National Team Programme in the current playing season or immediately preceding season, including reserves, are not permitted to be utilised for emergency transfers in the same age group.
- This arrangement will apply only to players registered within the appropriate age category with EIHL, or those eligible to play up as defined in the following section.
- All emergency transfer requests are assessed and approved on an individual basis. EIHL reserve the right to refuse any emergency dispensation request at their discretion.

8.4.5 Dispensation: ‘Playing up’

There is free movement of players to ‘play up’ within their “primary’ club. Playing up is defined as playing for a team in a higher division or playing up one age group, including playing up from junior to senior hockey.

Clubs must demonstrate that due diligence has been done to ensure their responsibility to duty of care is fulfilled.

8.4.5.1 ‘Playing up’ a division

Where a club has a team in two or more divisions, a player may play up from the lower division’s team. This applies in any age group and is designed to aid development.

No player may play down to a lower division, however a player may be transferred to a lower division for reasons including but not limited to injury and player safety. In this instance, the player will not be granted dispensation to play up until 28 days after the transfer has taken place.

8.4.5.2 ‘Playing up’ an age group

Junior players may play up one age group. Junior players may not play down an age group. The following rules also apply:

- At U12, only a player who is aged 8 on the date of the fixture may play up to U12s.
- A female player who is aged 10 (or 9 if a netminder) on the date of the fixture may play up to any division in the girls’ U16 division.
- A female player who is aged 14 on the date of the fixture of the playing season may play up to any division in the WNIHL.
- Players who are aged 16 or over on the date of the fixture may play up to any division in the NIHL.
- A male netminder playing at U14 or U16 may play up to a WNIHL under the emergency transfer request rules.

Under 18 players must fulfil their responsibility to the teams in their age group unless a club agreement has been reached. However, such club agreements will be void where a scheduled U18 league game will not take place due to lack of players. In such circumstances the junior player must fulfil their responsibilities to the age grade team.

8.5 Dispensation from minimum bench strength

A team may request exemption from minimum bench strength for an individual fixture. The following will be considered:

U12:	No dispensation
U14, U16, U18:	9 + 1

All dispensation from minimum bench strength requests must be made in writing to EIH at least two days prior to the fixture concerned. Approval must be received from EIH in writing.

Teams are permitted to borrow Bench Team Officials from other teams but must meet the minimum bench strength as outlined in the *Match Day Protocols*. Priority must be given to the Bench Team Official's primary club in the event of a fixture clash.

Failure to obtain permission will result in the match being played as a challenge game and the match assessed under *failure to fulfil a fixture*.

8.6 Junior competitions

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/statchub/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 or approved by EIH.

8.7 League identity and structure

All EIH leagues are solely owned and operated by EIH.

Junior hockey leagues are regionally based competitions determined on a season basis pending league applications. The season runs from 1 September to 30 April. League formats are finalised by 31 May prior to the beginning of the new season to ensure the optimal development structure for all teams. The total number and distribution of home and away matches played by each team will be defined on an annual basis for each section and identified in *Appendix 8a*.

The 2023-2024 league structure is outlined below.

U18 leagues

- U18 North Division 1
- U18 South Division 1
- U18 North Division 2
- U18 South Division 2

U16 leagues

- U16 North Division 1
- U16 South Division 1
- U16 North Division 2
- U16 South Division 2

U14 leagues

- U14 North Division 1
- U14 South Division 1
- U14 North Division 2

- U14 South Division 2

U12 leagues

- U12 North-East Division
- U12 North-West Division
- U12 South-East Division
- U12 South-West Division

U10s*

- Regional divisions as advised at the beginning of each season, based on entries.

*Matches at U10 are played cross-ice in a non-league format. All other matches are played on full ice.

8.7.1 Junior National Finals

Once all regular season games have been completed, qualifying teams will compete in Junior National Finals contested at all age groups with the exception of U10s.

The top team from each league will qualify for the finals which take place in the form of a 'playoff' style competition played across one weekend at a neutral venue in the Junior National Finals.

The full format of the Junior Nationals Finals can be found in *Appendix 8b*.

8.7.2 Promotion and relegation

There is no promotion or relegation in any league for juniors.

8.7.3 Acceptance of new clubs and teams into the junior league structure

Where a league has two or more divisions, during each off-season EIH will review the make-up of each division in consultation with clubs. There will be a window of opportunity for clubs to apply to move between divisions.

Entering a second or third team in any age group is at the discretion of EIH, subject to ice time agreements being agreed with the venue.

New teams wishing to join a junior league must apply in writing to EIH. A new team is accepted, that team must complete the affiliation process as required by EIH for them to have full membership status.

8.8 Junior game length and format

The length of a match and format is dependent on age group as follows:

Age group	Length	Format
U10	See separate document	Cross-ice jamboree, non-checking
U12	3 x 18 minute periods	Full ice, non-checking, running clock
U14	3 x 15 minute periods	Full ice, checking, stop clock
U16	3 x 15 or 3 x 20 minute periods*	Full ice, checking, stop clock
U18	3 x 15 or 3 x 20 minute periods*	Full ice, checking, stop clock

*U16 and U18 teams must notify the fixtures secretary of the length of their matches which must be consistent throughout the season. This cannot be changed once the season has started.

The playing format of U12 fixtures, including but not limited to line changes, off-side and the administration of penalties is set out in *Appendix 8d*.

8.9 League administration

8.9.1 League applications

Prior to each new season, clubs must apply to enter teams into the leagues in advance of 15 May for the following season. By so applying, clubs agree to abide by EIH Rule Book and all other rules and regulations set by the IIHF, IHUK and EIH.

Teams that played in the immediately preceding season are deemed accepted for the following season, providing all outstanding debts have been settled and they meet the re-affiliation criteria outlined. However, they must still formally confirm their intention to continue in the league prior to the season.

Any team that withdraws from a league after the season has begun is liable for a fine of up to £500 at the discretion of EIH, alongside payment of any other fines and outstanding fees. Withdrawal from the league must be made in writing to info@EIH.co.uk by the authorised signatory of the affiliated club.

8.9.2 Awarding of points

Points will be awarded as follows:

- Two points for a regulation win
- One point for a regulation draw
- Zero points for a regulation loss

There will be no games played for double points in any competition, unless a formal request is made by a team due to exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to a non-fault failure to fulfil a fixture which cannot be rescheduled. In such instance, a team must obtain agreement from the opposing team in writing, submitting this alongside a formal request and reasoning to EIH for approval. EIH reserve the right to refuse any such request.

If there is no remaining fixture to play for double points in a no-fault circumstance then a score of 0-0 and 1 point each will be given.

8.9.3 League standings

The placing of teams in the league table shall be determined using the following criteria in the order below:

- i. Points
- ii. Points in the games between the tied teams
- iii. Overall goal difference in the regular league season
- iv. Overall goals scored in the regular league season
- v. Number of regulations wins
- vi. Overall goal difference in matches between the tied teams
- vii. Fewer penalty points
- viii. Fewer penalty minutes

8.9.4 Administration of fixtures

EIH Fixture Secretary will be responsible for providing the final schedule of fixtures aiming to be at least one month in advance of the season.

For the scheduling of fixtures, teams must provide EIH with enough home ice dates to fulfil all required fixtures for the league season within five working days of being asked. In the interest of fair allocation, teams are asked to specify as many dates as possible.

Fixtures, as far as possible, will be scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday during the specified season. In the event two teams jointly request to play a midweek fixture, this requires approval from EIH.

All junior hockey games must be scheduled to face off no later than 19:30.

No team shall be required to undertake a fixture that does not enable its players to arrive back at their home venue by 22:00 on a Sunday, based on normal traffic conditions. EIH Fixture Secretary will make every effort to ensure younger age groups are not scheduled for the latest ice slot. Agreements can be made between clubs with the permission of the relevant EIH Fixture Secretary to alter this.

All EIH league fixtures shall take priority over challenge matches, tournaments and exhibitions.

8.9.5 Availability

Teams participating in sanctioned competitions shall make themselves available for all league fixtures in the initial schedule release.

Teams participating in all competitions shall make themselves available on any Saturday or Sunday during the specified season, even on dates they were not originally scheduled to play after the initial fixtures were published. EIH are committed to providing as much notice as possible where this is the case. This does not apply to dates that were excluded before the original fixtures schedule was prepared.

Where a team wishes to avoid a certain date for a fixture allocation, they must submit their request and explanation to EIH Fixture Secretary when providing their ice slots. The secretary will accept a maximum of three individual requests per team. Whilst every effort will be made to facilitate bona-fide requests, EIH cannot guarantee avoidance of any dates within the season.

8.9.6 Rescheduling of fixtures

EIH will prepare a fixture list at the beginning of the season for each league. Once the fixture list has been confirmed, fixtures can only be rearranged in certain circumstances outside of their control as detailed below:

- Ice is withdrawn by the venue.
- Ice is lost due to a senior team (EIHL and NIHL) fixture. NIHL teams can only take ice from another section when arranging a league cup finals or playoff game and must consult with EIH and affected teams first.
- A clash with any ENTP event or development camp, or IIHF sanctioned international duty:

- For the avoidance of doubt, a clash is defined as any aforementioned event that occurs on the same day as the fixture, or any day either side of the fixture when the travelling distance between the league fixture and event is more than 150 miles.
- The clash must affect three or more players and/or one L2 Team Coach (or above) primarily registered to the team involved in the fixture.
- The request to change the fixture must be made within three working days of the selection of the participants affected, whereby the dates of the event or camp are known. Where the dates of the event or camp are unknown, the request must be made within three working days of confirmation.
- A team may also request a rearranged fixture no later than 28 days in advance where both teams have come to an agreement to reschedule a fixture within EIH season limitations. This must not affect another scheduled EIH fixture and must be approved by EIH before being confirmed. Any incurred costs, such as cancellation of ice time, are payable by the home team.

A team may not otherwise request to reschedule a match, including but not limited to the following reasons:

- Lack of available players, including due to players playing up to another team or other commitments. Dispensation exists to support teams in these instances to enable fixtures to go ahead.
- Lack of available coaches or bench staff. Teams are permitted to borrow coaches to fulfil minimum bench requirements.

In the above approved circumstances, teams involved in the fixture must make every effort to reschedule the game in the spirit of the competition.

8.9.7 Process of rescheduling fixtures

Any request to reschedule a fixture request must be made in writing via the fixture change request form, and within three working days of the issue being identified. EIH must approve any fixture change before it is confirmed; EIH retain the right to refuse any rearrangement.

Any fixture that is unable to be immediately rearranged will be moved to TBA. EIH and the affected teams will make every effort to reschedule the fixture within the season, however, should this not be possible due to ice time availability, the fixture will be cancelled with a 0-0 draw being declared and each team being awarded one point.

For any rejected request, the original fixture stands. If a team fails to attend said fixture, it will be considered as a *failure to fulfil a fixture as per section 8.10* by the offending team.

8.9.8 Postponement of a fixture

A team may request a fixture be postponed. A fixture can only be postponed for reasons outside one or both teams' control as outlined below:

- Ice facility failure as determined by rink management
- Unsafe rink conditions as determined by rink management
 - If teams and officials deem the rink unsafe, but rink management do not, teams should submit supporting evidence to EIH to decide the outcome of the fixture. Teams will still be responsible for costs.
- Medical emergency at venue / fixture as determined by rink management or by the officials in consultation with the team representatives.

- Unforeseen road delays or breakdowns where more than three players and/or one L2 Team Coach are affected.
- An 'Act of God' or severe weather conditions. Note: EIH will use the Met Office National Severe Weather Warning to decide if there is a basis for postponement. The following are accepted for fixture postponement:
 - Travelling from, through or to a red alert area for a fixture.
- Exceptional circumstances, for example, the death of a team member or club official.

Any decision to postpone a fixture must be made in consultation with the team representatives, EIH and the officials and rink management if the postponement occurs on-site. Safety of players shall be a key factor in any decision making.

Both teams must be in agreement that they can accommodate a rescheduled fixture and provide EIH with alternative dates within five working days of the original fixture.

Where a postponement is requested and approved but the fixture cannot be rearranged due to lack of ice time, the fixture will be cancelled with a 0-0 draw being declared and each team being awarded one point.

The team responsible for the postponement of the fixture shall be liable for the costs of the venue hire and referees' travel (if applicable). Any dispute over the team responsible for the postponement and/or the amount of any costs must be referred to EIH within five working days of the original fixture.

A postponement request that is not for one of the reasons given above will be treated in accordance with *section 8.10 Failure to fulfil a fixture*.

8.9.9 Abandonment of a fixture

A game in-progress may be abandoned if it is determined that it cannot continue. All referees and team representatives accept the moral and ethical responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care to all participants and spectators. A game may be abandoned for the following reasons where no team is at fault:

- Ice facility failure as determined only by rink management
- Unsafe rink conditions as determined only by rink management
 - If teams and officials deem the rink unsafe, but rink management do not, teams should submit supporting evidence to EIH to decide the outcome of the fixture. Teams will still be responsible for costs.
- The behaviour of anyone involved puts the welfare of a participant or spectator at risk as determined by rink management. Where this is a team member, the abandoned match will be treated under *section 8.10 Failure to fulfil a fixture* by the offending team or teams.
- Medical emergency at venue / fixture as determined by rink management or by the officials in consultation with the team representatives.

A fixture may also be abandoned solely at the discretion of the referees in the following circumstances:

- A team is not present on the ice 10 minutes after the scheduled face off time and has not agreed a delay or postponement. See *section 8.12 Match-day protocols* for further information regarding late starting matches. Where fault is established, the abandoned match will be treated under *section 8.10 Failure to fulfil a fixture* by the offending team or teams.

- The behaviour of anyone involved puts the welfare of a participant or spectator at risk as determined by the referee. Where this is a team member, the abandoned match will be treated under the *section 8.10 Failure to fulfil a fixture* by the offending team or teams.
- A L2 Team Coach is ejected from a game in progress and there is no suitably qualified Team Official to take over the management of the bench. Please refer to *section 8.11 Match-day personnel* for further guidance. The abandoned match will be treated under the *section 8.10 Failure to fulfil a fixture* by the offending team or teams.

Where no team is at fault for the abandonment of the fixture, the following will apply when declaring a result:

- Where less than 50% of the match has elapsed has been played, a 0-0 draw will be declared with each team being awarded one point.
- Where more than 50% of the match has been played, the result at the point of abandonment will stand.
- No abandoned games will be rearranged, unless exceptional circumstances are evidenced in writing with the agreement from both teams.

8.10 Failure to fulfil a fixture

Any team which, without just cause as defined in the previous sections, fails to fulfil a league or cup fixture will be liable to forfeit the match and may be subject to a fine and reimbursement of the opponent's out-of-pocket costs, including but not limited to, the cost of transportation, ice time, and the cost of referees (if applicable).

Automatic sanctions will be imposed as defined as follows:

- Where one team is at fault, they will forfeit the fixture with the match being awarded 5-0 to the non-offending team. The offending team will be liable to pay a fine as outlined in EIH DOPS Policy as well as reimbursement of incidental costs of the non-offending team.
- Where both teams are at fault, the fixture will be recorded as a 0-0 draw with no points awarded to either team. Both teams will be liable to pay a fine as outlined EIH DOPS Policy.
- Where both teams are deemed not to be at fault, the fixture will be recorded as a 0-0 draw with one point awarded to each team.

The tariff below should be considered as the usual sanction for teams for failing to fulfil a fixture, although the level of sanction remains at the discretion of the League Management and the Department of Player Safety (DOPS).

Age group	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4
U10	N/A	N/A	£50	Expulsion
U12	N/A	£50	£100	Expulsion
U14	N/A	£50	£100	Expulsion
U16	N/A	£50	£100	Expulsion
U18	N/A	£75	£150	Expulsion

Tariff 2 will also incur a 2-point deduction for teams U16 and above.

Tariff 3 will incur a 2-point deduction for U12 and U14 age groups, and a 4-point deduction for U16 and above.

For the purpose of clarity, tariffs are generally applied in line with the cumulative number of fixture offences (for example, tariff 1 will normally be applied for a first event). However, the severity of the tariff may be upgraded at the Disciplinary Committee's discretion for reasons, including but limited to, cancellation of a fixture within 24 hours of the match, cancellation of a high-profile fixture or failure to attend without notice.

In addition to the above, the offending team will be held liable to indemnify the non-offending team and the venue operator/rink in respect of any expenses, losses, or costs incurred because of the offending team's actions. For EIH to support any such financial claim(s) from a non-offending team, supporting documentation must be provided on request and approved by EIH as outlined in section *Satisfactory supporting documentation*.

Should a team be removed from a competition, the results of all of their games shall be expunged from the record of any competition that the team has taken part in.

8.10.1 Satisfactory supporting documentation

EIH reserves the right to request evidence to support the rescheduling, postponement or abandonment of any fixture, including but not limited to confirmation of an ice facility failure from the rink, evidence of traffic issues, evidence of breakdown and/or evidence of severe weather. Evidence must be provided within five working days of the request.

In the event satisfactory documentation is not provided, and the fixture is unfulfilled, the fixture may be awarded as the fault of the team failing to provide the required documentation.

In addition, to support a claim for any incidental costs to be recovered by a non-offending club from the offending club, they will require supporting documentation to be provided, including but limited to, a copy of an invoice for venue hire, a copy of the ice rink's cancellation policy and ice-time contract with the team, a copy of the invoice for transportation and associated cancellation policy. In the event documentation is not deemed satisfactory by EIH, the claim for reimbursement of costs will not be supported.

EIH reserve the right to confirm what is and what is not deemed as satisfactory documentation.

8.11 Match-day personnel requirements

The match-day personnel requirements outlined below apply to all EIH sanctioned competitions, including challenge games. Failure to meet any of the standards outlined in this section may result in disciplinary action under EIH DOPS Policy.

8.11.1 Minimum bench strength: players

To be eligible for EIH-sanctioned competitions, players must be registered with EIH to the club and team they are playing for prior to the day of the fixture.

The minimum bench strength for junior teams is 11 skaters plus 1 netminder, unless dispensation has been granted as per *section 8.4*. The exception to this is at U12, where teams must ice a minimum of 15 skaters (and a maximum of 17) plus 1 netminder.

In the event of players arriving late, a game can be started with six players, but the full minimum bench strength as defined in the above table must be reached by the start of the second period. These players must be dressed and at the team bench ready to participate at the start of the second period.

Failure to meet the minimum bench requirements will be classified as a *failure to fulfil the fixture*: any breaches of the required number of players will result in the game automatically being awarded 5-0 to the non-offending team. Where both teams are in breach, the match will be awarded as 0-0 with no points for either team.

The match may go ahead as a Challenge game should this be deemed safe by the L2 Team Coaches and IHUK officials.

Should any game be called off due to insufficient players, the players registered to the responsible team shall not be allowed to participate in any other domestic fixture that day in any other section.

There is no limit on icing non-British trained players in junior competitions.

8.11.2 Minimum bench strength: Coaches and Managers

All bench staff, including player-coaches, must be named on the team list and the appropriate license number provided. Registered coaches and managers must display their licenses for the duration of the game. No person under the age of 18 can take control of the bench.

At the start of each game, each team must delegate a person in charge of the bench who is at least a L2 Team Coach, qualified and licensed by EIH. In addition, each bench must also have a (non-playing) L1 Assistant Coach or above, or a Team Manager, qualified and licensed by EIH.

If the L2 coach in charge of the bench is ejected from or leaves the game, another L2 must take charge. Where there are no alternative options, should the team have a suitably qualified L2 player coach, they are permitted to take over the bench, provided they do not return to the ice as a player for the remainder of the game and they are denoted on the team list as a player coach prior to the start of the game. L1 coaches and team managers are not permitted to take charge of the bench under any circumstances.

Failure to meet the minimum match-day team official requirements will be classified as a *failure to fulfil the fixture*.

Should any game be called off due to insufficient team bench officials, those registered to the responsible team shall not be allowed to participate in any other domestic fixture that day in any other section.

8.11.3 Off-Ice Officials

It is mandatory for all matches to have the following off-ice officials, qualified and licensed through EIH*.

- One scorekeeper (with up to two assistants)
- One timekeeper
- One announcer if there is a suitable PA system at the venue
- Two penalty box attendants over the age of 18
- Two goal judges ideally over the age of 18

It is *recommended* that each team has an equipment manager and a trained and EIH registered medical professional on the bench at all times. This is not a mandatory requirement.

Off-ice officials should, where possible, aim to arrive 30 minutes prior to game time to commence their duties.

*In the circumstance whereby the game cannot go ahead with licensed off-ice officials, EIH will permit the one-off use of emergency volunteers not licensed with EIH. This should only be used in exceptional circumstance and any off-ice official regularly undertaking duties as identified above must register directly with EIH.

8.11.4 On-Ice Officials (Referees)

On-ice officials (commonly referred to as referees) are assigned by IHUK Referee section based on EIH fixtures list. EIH communicate directly with IHUK Referee section to facilitate this.

If the referees fail to arrive for a fixture, the home club must contact EIH and EIH referee section at fixtures@ihukreferee.co.uk for permission for the game to go ahead. An EIH registered L2 Team or L1 Assistant Coach from each team must take responsibility for the officiating of the game. In this circumstance, the coaches can still be counted towards bench strength.

Referees are required to check minimum bench strength and coach registrations before all games. If there are insufficient players or coaching staff on the bench as outlined in the previous section, the game will be abandoned; referees cannot and must not allow a game to start or continue where the minimum bench coaching requirement is not fulfilled.

8.11.4.1 Payment of On-Ice Officials

Referees are reimbursed according to the schedule outlined in *Appendix 8f*.

For junior matches, referee payments are administered by each team and must be paid in advance of face off in cash on the day of the fixture.

The match-day protocols apply for any EIH sanctioned competition, including league games, cup games, Challenge matches and tournaments, camps or exhibitions held under the jurisdiction of EIH.

Failure to pay will mean that all EIH and IHUK Referee services, including provision of referees, are revoked until payment is received. Any fixture that falls within this period will be cancelled and deemed as a *failure to fulfil a fixture*, with the non-paying team at fault.

8.12 Match-day protocols

The match-day protocols outlined below apply to all EIH sanctioned competitions, including challenge games. Failure to meet any of the standards outlined in this section may result in disciplinary action under EIH DOPS Policy.

8.12.1 Changing rooms

It is mandatory that all venues provide players with a suitably equipped changing area. Where possible, these facilities should be separate from those used by members of the public.

8.12.2 Risk assessment and Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

All clubs must undertake a risk assessment of the venue, ensuring compliance within their terms and conditions of hire from their respective facility, to ensure that recommended guidance is followed in relation to the provision of a safe environment for attendees of matches including all players, staff, volunteers and spectators. The risk assessment will determine the appropriate level of cover required and should be in line with guidance issued by the Health and Safety Executive for the safe operation of sports events. All venues also require an emergency action plan (EAP).

Such documents must be shared with the visiting team and supplied to EIH in request.

8.12.3 Medical standards

The following minimum standards are required for all EIH fixtures:

- First aider
- First aid kit (checked before each game)
- Risk assessment (shared with visiting team)
- Emergency action plan (shared with visiting team)
- A telephone to summon the emergency services

It is recommended that a professional medical practitioner is available for supporting the medical requirements of participants within any EIH competition. This person must be registered with EIH and the club and must be named on the gameday team list.

To be considered a professional practitioner by EIH, the individual must:

- Be a graduate in an appropriate discipline
- Be a registered member of an appropriate professional body
- Possess professional indemnity insurance
- Hold a NQF Level 3 or higher first aid qualification

Persons in the following categories who also have appropriate experience and training in immediate care (as represented by a NQF Level 3 first aid qualification) are likely to meet the requirement:

- Doctor registered with the GMC
- Nurse registered with the NMC
- Physiotherapist registered with the HCPC
- Paramedic registered with the HCPC
- Sports rehabilitator registered with BASRaT
- Sports therapist registered with the Society of Sports Therapists
- Sports massage therapist registered with the Sports Massage Association
- Osteopath registered with the GOC
- Chiropractor registered with the GCC

An ambulance is not required to be on-standby at the venue, although the necessity for this should be determined by the team's risk assessment and emergency action plan, taking into account the proximity of the venue to local advanced medical services.

It is considered acceptable that medical cover may be used to provide for both spectators and participants, dependent on event guidance published by the HSE, however the number

of individuals capable of emergency and advanced first aid will take into account the specific risk factors of the venue, its capacity and its history of incidents.

Medical risk assessments should be reviewed after any major incident to identify improvements required for future events and activities.

8.12.4 PA system

It is recommended that all EIH sanctioned competitions should have an adequate PA system where possible to ensure game announcements can be made accordingly. This is not mandatory.

8.12.5 Stewarding standards

All EIH sanctioned competitions must be effectively stewarded in line with [HSE guidance for the delivery of running events safely](#). Junior clubs are expected to apply common sense where official stewarding is not necessary and should follow the guidance below as appropriate and realistic.

Ice hockey specific guidance from EIH is as follows:

- Game night stewards should be prominent to everyone by wearing bright coloured jackets or sweaters in order that they are recognised as stewards.
- Players entering or leaving the ice or their dressing rooms should have a clear passageway to do so without interference from the general public.
- Game officials should be provided with adequate stewarding while entering or leaving the ice or dressing room before, during and after games.
- Team benches should be protected from the general public.
- The penalty area should be protected from the general public.

In areas where netting is used, members of the public must not be allowed to manhandle players or officials at any time. Adequate stewarding should be made available to ensure this does not occur.

Off-ice game officials: goal judges, timekeepers etc., should not be interfered with during the course of the game.

- It is advised that in all arenas, an advertisement in the programme, announcement over the public address system or a warning on the wall is used to advise the general public of the dangers of being struck by the puck or sticks.
- It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that all events are effectively stewarded, and that spectators and participants have appropriate protection and where necessary segmentation to support a safe environment.
- Briefings and supporting documentation should be provided to stewards to ensure that they are clear on their roles and the lines of responsibility that exist in the venue. All events will ordinarily have a lead steward or person that has overall responsibility for the safe operation of the event. This may be within a club, part of the event management team or a member of venue staff.

The roles and responsibilities should be in line with [HSE guidance on managing crowds safely](#).

Where an incident occurs, a club should review its guidance for stewarding to ensure that lessons are applied to future events and activities.

Where reports of incidents are made to the league, an investigation may take place to ensure that preventative actions are put in place. Where a club fails to do so or has not put any measures in place to ensure the safety of those attending events, a disciplinary panel may take action under bringing the game into disrepute.

8.12.6 Equipment and kit

The IIHF rules apply, with the following amendments as confirmed in *section 4 Skaters' Equipment*.

Shirts must be worn in accordance with the jersey numbers identified on the official team list.

Any EIH registered player on the bench, regardless of whether they are playing, must be dressed in full kit, including helmet.

Coaches and bench team officials must adhere to the kit requirements outlined in the section *Coaching Protocols*.

8.12.7 Kit clash

In the event of a colour-clash between uniforms, it is the home team's responsibility to resolve the clash by wearing an alternative colour.

If the clash cannot be resolved, the match will be classified as *failure to fulfil the fixture*: any breaches of the required number of players will result in the game automatically being awarded 5-0 to the non-offending (visiting) team.

The game can be completed as challenge game.

8.12.8 Arrival procedure

Relevant representatives of each team must arrive at the game venue a minimum of 60 minute to the face of time of that fixture. Relevant representatives shall be the team coaches or manager.

The relevant representatives of both teams should, where possible, attend a meeting in the officials' changing room if required, which shall take place 40 minutes before Face Off, where the officials and both teams will have the opportunity to discuss the upcoming game raise any concerns.

The scorer for a game should initiate a game countdown as outlined within the IIHF Rulebook.

The countdown will run from prior to warm-up through to the start of the game in line with the game timings that may be adjusted by the home club or age group as needed to accommodate agreed activities.

The game countdown will not be stopped except with the express permission of the on-ice officials due to exceptional circumstances with a penalty for a late face off as outlined within the rules of competition.

8.12.9 National anthems

EIH shall only recognise the playing of the national anthem of the country of the host club, though it is recommended that all anthems be treated with respect. The playing of the anthem is the option of the home club.

Please note, a club may only play the national anthem if the game is likely to face off on time. All players in the junior age groups (U18 and below) or any mascots for any age bracket must wear their helmet at all times.

Players are required to stand still during the playing of any national anthem. The scraping of skates during the national anthem is unacceptable. Players may not skate away until the completion of the national anthem and until they have replaced their helmets.

For any breaches of the above, the referee may assess the offending player a *Misconduct Penalty*.

8.12.10 Late start

If the game does not face off within 10 minutes of the published face off time, if a team is responsible for the delay, it will be assessed a *Bench Minor Penalty for Delay of Game*. Below are some examples of where penalties should and should not be considered.

Situations where a penalty should be considered:

- The home team submitted the incorrect or unrealistic face off time in the referee's opinion.
- No appropriately qualified coach or manager is available to start the game.
- Face off is delayed due to home or away team not getting off the warm-up.
- Repairing of goal net. It is the home team's responsibility to ensure the nets are fit for purpose after the warm-up.

Situations where a penalty should not be considered:

- Excessive fan attendance queues and the away team agree to delay the face off time.
- There is an issue with the public session such as an injury, the ice surface or rink facilities, which requires the rink staff to carry out remedial work. This issue must be brought to the attention of the referee as soon as possible.
- A player was injured in a previous game that needed medical treatment. A player is injured during the warm-up that needed medical treatment.
- Fog or mist in building.
- The goalkeeper of either team or the coach of the away team is late due to traffic delays, and they have informed the opposition.
- Late face off due to late arrivals of referees.

If the game cannot be completed due to limited ice time it will be assessed under *Abandonment of a Fixture*.

8.13 Match-day administration

The match-day administration requirements outlined below apply to all EIH sanctioned competitions, including challenge games. Failure to meet any of the standards outlined in this section may result in disciplinary action under EIH DOPS Policy.

8.13.1 Contacting the opponent

The home team must contact the visiting team at least three working days in advance of a fixture to confirm the following:

- Venue address
- Face Off time
- Jersey colours
- Key contacts for any issues on the day
- **Emergency action plan**

8.13.2 Team lists

For all fixtures, a team list must be produced in the format provided by EIH, including the details of all players and coaches/managers/off-ice team bench officials taking part. Player-coaches must be listed separately as both a player and an off-ice official.

A paper copy of the team sheet must be signed by the L2 Team Coach in charge of the bench. Both teams' team lists must be presented, signed, to the referees no later than 20 minutes prior to face-off. U12s must also include line sheets.

Failure to provide an accurate team list will mean the game is classified as *failure to fulfil a fixture*. The match may go ahead as a challenge game.

8.13.3 Icing an ineligible player

Should a team ice an ineligible player the game will be classified as *failure to fulfil a fixture*. The match may go ahead as a challenge game.

Ineligible players include, but are not limited to:

- Any player not stated on the team list.
- Any player not registered with EIH.
- Any player not registered to the team competing in the fixture, unless dispensation has been granted in writing by EIH.
- Any player who is currently suspended by EIH, IHUK or IIHF.

8.13.4 Ineligible Coaches, Managers and Off-Ice Team Bench Officials

Should a team list an ineligible team bench official, the game will be classified as *failure to fulfil a fixture*. The match may go ahead as a Challenge game.

Ineligible coaches, managers and off-ice team bench officials include, but are not limited to:

- Any coach, manager or off-ice team bench official not stated on the team list.
- Any coach, manager or off-ice team bench official not registered with EIH.
- Any coach, manager or off-ice team bench official without the correct EIH licence / qualification.
- Any coach, manager or off-ice team bench official who is currently suspended by EIH, IHUK or IIHF.

Note: Coaches, managers and off-ice team bench officials can be borrowed from other clubs without the need for prior approval from EIH, provided they are suitably qualified to meet the minimum team official bench requirements. However, in the case of a fixture clash, priority must be given to the team bench official's primary registered team.

8.13.5 Game sheets

It is the home team's responsibility to complete a game sheet in the format stipulated by EIH. It is recommended that a paper game sheet also be available for completion in case of any failures with the electronic gameday system.

The completed game sheet must be presented to the match referee at the end of the game for sign-off. At U12, a line sheet must also be completed and submitted to EIH.

It is the collective responsibility of both teams and the match officials to check that the game sheet is accurate.

The signed-off game sheet, whether paper or digital, must be provided to EIH no later than 23:59 on the day the fixture was played. EIH must be informed if there is any reason for a delay of submission.

Teams must retain associated paperwork such as the team sheets and shots on goal records for the remainder of the season and make them available to EIH if requested.

It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that all league fixtures are recorded for player safety and discipline purposes. Any failure to record the game must be notified to EIH by email to info@eiha.co.uk with an explanation of the reason why.

Failure to provide the required game sheet will result in the fixture being classed as *failure to fulfil a fixture*.

8.13.6 Mercy rule

Under the Mercy Rule, the following applies:

- Recording of goals and shots on goal will cease – both on the game sheet and the scoreboard.
- Penalties must continue to be served and recorded on the game sheet.
- From this point, the game becomes a challenge and teams may agree to swap goalies, mix players, or continue as they are.
- The game must continue to the end, and match officials' fees met as usual.

At U12: The 'Mercy Rule' is triggered if a team takes a lead of 8 goals (e.g. 8-0, 9-1, etc).

At U14, U16 and U18: The 'Mercy Rule' is triggered if a team takes a lead of 12 goals. (e.g. 12-0, 13-1, etc).

8.13.7 Objection to results

A club wishing to object to the result of a match shall:

- Send an email to EIH Office within two working days of the conclusion of the match, stating the full grounds on which the objection is made.
- Send, within two working days, a non-refundable administration fee of £40.00 to EIH.

For the avoidance of doubt, a club shall not be entitled to object to a result on the ground of a referee's decision(s), and the imposition of a fine or other penalty on a club pursuant to these rules.

8.13.8 Recording of matches

Every junior fixture, including challenge games, must be recorded so that recordings can be made available to DOPS panels on request. Junior teams are provided with an EIH-owned Pixellot camera system to facilitate this. It is the duty of the home team to ensure the game is adequately filmed.

All recording must also take place in conjunction with EIH's Filming and Photography Policy as outlined in the *Safeguarding* section.

Failure to record games and upload them within 48 hours will be assessed under the sanctions outlined in the *Appendix Off-ice sanctions* unless a bona-fide reason, including but limited to hardware failure, is evidenced.

8.13.9 Injury reporting

EIH is strongly committed to ensuring the safety and integrity of ice hockey and all those who participate in the sport. To ensure the continued safety of all members, EIH require data of injuries sustained across the sport so that trends can be identified and reported to EIH Board. It is imperative that EIH collects this data in order to influence rules changes and improve the safety of the sport.

All clubs are required to complete EIH online 'Injury Report Form' following injuries sustained that require one or more of the following:

- Treatment deemed as moderate or serious by the trained First Aider or Medical Team Bench Official
- Any injury resulting in hospital treatment
- Any potential concussion
- Any injury resulting in subsequent visit(s) to a GP

In addition, all clubs have a responsibility to record any injuries using accident report forms/accident books. Accident reports should be stored for a minimum of 10 years or until the individual is 25 years old. All personal information should be processed, stored and retained in accordance with both the Club's Privacy Notice and data protection policies.

In the event of an injury, insured clubs will be liable for the actions of its members.

All clubs associated with EIH have a duty of care towards young people in the sport. It is essential that a young person's parent or guardian is informed of any injury a child sustained whilst participating in hockey activity. Clubs should ensure that the individual(s) responsible for the delivery of hockey activity have access to relevant medical information and that parent/guardian contact details are readily available in case of an emergency for all junior players and stored in accordance with all relevant data protection legislation.

EIH takes the safety of its members extremely seriously and for this reason. In the event that a member club fails to complete EIH online 'Injury Reporting Form' for any injury which meets the criteria outlined in EIH Injury Reporting Policy, or fails to comply with the terms of affiliation, EIH reserves the right to review the affiliation status of the club in question and/or consider disciplinary action under EIH DOPS policy.

8.13.10 Additional reports

In addition to any reports due pursuant to other provisions of EIH Rule Book, each referee shall ensure that they provide a full and comprehensive report of any incident which occurs before, during or after any match, including but not limited to:

- A breach of any game day protocols
- Crowd misbehaviour
- Misbehaviour of club officials
- Any other matter which may bring the game into disrepute

Any such reports must be provided by 12:00 noon on the first Monday following the fixture.

8.14 Discipline

For all matters under this section please refer to the separate EIH DOPS document which is available on EIH website (www.EIH.co.uk).

It is the responsibility of all clubs to maintain their own records of disciplinary points accrued by team members and coaching staff.

Any player or coach receiving a suspension in any game will be suspended from all hockey they are eligible to participate in until the suspension is served at the level at which it was received. Where this a player/coach, they are suspended from both roles until the suspension is served.

If a team withdraws from a fixture and that fixture is awarded then the game will count towards any suspensions in the opposing team, but not the withdrawing team's.

Teams will be subject to further penalty for not adhering to sanctions and suspensions imposed by the disciplinary system

Appendix 8a: Junior league structures 2023/2024

The following league structures apply in 2023/2024.

Age group: U18 Leagues

Division	U18 North 1	U18 North 2	U18 South 1	U18 South 2
Games	16	20	18	14
Format	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams
Start date	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023
End date	28 April 2024	28 April 2024	28 April 2024	28 April 2024
National Finals	Top team	Top team	Top team	Top team
Nation Finals date	19 May 2024	19 May 2024	19 May 2024	19 May 2024
Teams	Bradford Bulldogs IHC Kingston JIHC Leeds Junior Knights Manchester Storm Academy Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Telford JIHC Widnes Wild Academy	Billingham JIHC Coventry Blaze IHA Deeside Dragons JIC Grimsby IHC Leeds Junior Knights 2 Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Solihull Junior Barons Sutton Sting IHA Whitley Bay Widnes Wild Academy 2	Basingstoke IHDC Cardiff Junior Devils Chelmsford IHA Guildford JIHC Haringey JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Romford Slough Jets JIHC Streatham Storm Swindon Wildcats IHA	Bristol Academy Cardiff Junior Devils 2 Haringey JIHC 2 Invicta JIHC MK Storm JIHC Oxford Junior Stars Solent Junior Devils Swindon Wildcats IHA 2

Age group: U16 Leagues

Division	U16 North 1	U16 North 2	U16 South 1	U16 South 2
Games	14	18	18	12
Format	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams
Start date	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023
End date	28 April 2024	28 April 2024	28 April 2024	28 April 2024
National Finals	Top team	Top team	Top team	Top team
Nation Finals date	19 May 2024	19 May 2024	19 May 2024	19 May 2024
Clubs	Bradford Bulldogs IHC Kingston IHC Leeds Junior Knights Manchester Storm Academy Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Telford JIHC Whitley Bay	Billingham JIHC Coventry Blaze IHA Deeside Dragons JIH Leeds Junior Knights 2 Manchester Storm Academy 2 Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Solihull Junior Barons Sutton Sting IHA Widnes Wild Academy	Basingstoke IHDC Cardiff Junior Devils Chelmsford IHA Guildford JIHC Haringey JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Romford Slough Jets JIHC Streatham Storm Swindon Wildcats IHA	Bristol Academy Haringey JIHC 2 Invicta JIHC MK Storm JIHC Oxford Junior Stars Solent Junior Devils Swindon Wildcats IHA 2

Age group: U14 Leagues

Division	U14 North 1	U14 North 2	U14 South 1	U14 South 2
Games	16	20	18	14
Format	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams
Start date	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023
End date	28 April 2024	28 April 2024	28 April 2024	28 April 2024
National Final	Top team	Top team	Top team	Top team
Nation Final date	19 May 2024	19 May 2024	19 May 2024	19 May 2024
Clubs	Bradford Bulldogs IHC Leeds Junior Knights Manchester Storm Academy Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Solihull Junior Barons Sutton Sting IHA Telford JIHC Whitley Bay	Billingham JIHC Blackburn Hawks Coventry Blaze IHA Deeside Dragons JIH Kingston IHC Leeds Junior Knights 2 Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Solihull Junior Barons 2 Sutton Sting IHA 2 Widnes Wild Academy	Basingstoke IHDC Chelmsford IHA Guildford JIHC Haringey JIHC Invicta JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Romford Slough Jets JIHC Streatham Storm Swindon Wildcats IHA	Cambridge Grizzlies JIHC Chelmsford IHA 2 Cardiff Junior Devils Haringey JIHC 2 Invicta JIHC 2 MK Storm JIHC Oxford Junior Stars Solent Junior Devils

Age group: U12 Leagues

Division	U12 North East	U12 North West	Under 12 South East	U12 South West
Games	12	16	14	12
Format	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams
Start date	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023
End date	28 April 2024	28 April 2024	28 April 2024	28 April 2024
National Final	Top 2 teams	Top 2 teams	Top 2 teams	Top 2 teams
Nation Final date	18 May 2024	18 May 2024	18 May 2024	18 May 2024
Clubs	Billingham JIHC Bradford Bulldogs IHC Kingston IHC Leeds Junior Knights Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Whitley Bay	Blackburn Hawks Coventry Blaze IHA Deeside Dragons JIH Manchester Storm Academy Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Solihull Junior Barons Telford JIHC Widnes Wild Academy	Cambridge Grizzlies JIHC Chelmsford IHC Haringey JIHC Invicta JIHC MK Storm JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Romford Streatham Storm	Basingstoke IHDC Cardiff Junior Devils Guildford JIHC Oxford Junior Stars Slough Jets JIHC Solent Junior Devils Swindon Wildcats IHA

Age group: U10 Leagues

Division	U10 North East	U10 North West	Under 10 West Midlands	U10 East Midlands
Start date	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023
End date	31 May 2024	31 May 2024	31 May 2024	31 May 2024
Clubs	Billingham JIHC Kingston IHC Leeds Junior Knights Whitley Bay	Blackburn Hawks Deeside Dragons JIH Manchester Storm Academy Widnes Wild Academy	Coventry Blaze IHA Solihull Junior Barons Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Telford JOHC	Billingham JIHC 2 Bradford Bulldogs IHC Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Sutton Sting IHA

Division	U10 South East	U10 South West	Under 10 South	U10 London
Start date	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023	2 September 2023
End date	31 May 2024	31 May 2024	31 May 2024	31 May 2024
Clubs	Cambridge Grizzlies JIHC Chelmsford IHA MK Storm JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Peterborough Phantoms 2	Bristol Academy Cardiff Junior Devils Oxford Junior Stars Swindon Wildcats IHA	Basingstoke IHDC Guildford JIHC Slough Jets JIHC Solent Junior Devils Streatham Storm	Haringey JIHC Invicta JIHC Romford Chelmsford IHA 2 Streatham Storm 2

Appendix 8b: Junior National Finals 2023/2024

All games will be played in accordance with the normal domestic rules as outlined in EIH Rule Book, with the following exceptions.

8b.1 Attendance and format

Attendance at the National Junior Finals is mandatory as follows:

- The top placed teams from U18 Division 1 and 2, North and South
- The top placed teams from U16 Division 1 and 2, North and South
- The top placed teams from U14 Division 1 and 2, North and South
- The top placed teams from each regional division at U12

Any team failing to attend the Junior National Finals will start the following season with a 10-point deduction.

Matches will be played at a neutral venue to be determined by EIH over one weekend. The schedule will be as follows:

Day 1				
Group 1	U12s	1st NE	v	1st NW
Group 2	U12s	1st SW	v	1st SE
Group 1	U12s	1st NE	v	1st SE
Group 2	U12s	1st SW	v	1st NW
Group 1	U12s	1st NW	v	1st SE
Group 2	U12s	1st SW	v	1st SE
Group 1	U12s	2nd Group 1	v	2nd Group 2
Grand Final	U12s	1st Group 1	v	1st Group 2
Day 2				
Div 2	U14s	1st North	v	1st South
Div 1	U14s	1st North	v	1st South
Div 2	U16s	1st North	v	1st South
Div 1	U16s	1st North	v	1st South
Div 2	U18s	1st North	v	1st South
Div 1	U18s	1st North	v	1st South

In 2023/2024 playoffs will take place at iceSheffield on 18 and 19 May 2024.

8b.2 Team eligibility

Teams who have had to borrow players to meet the minimum squad requirements of registered players at the start of the season will not be eligible to attend National Junior Finals. Should they qualify, their place will revert to the highest placed eligible team. This does not refer to teams that have used dispensation to meet matchday requirements.

8b.3 Player eligibility

Only players who are deemed to be eligible for the Junior National Finals are able to be listed on the team list in any fixture that is called a 'finals' game by EIH.

To be eligible for the Junior National Finals the following criteria shall apply:

- A player may only play for their primary registered club.
- A player must have played a minimum of 25% of the league fixtures for the team participating in the finals.
- Players who have transferred mid-season from another team must meet the 25% criteria as with any other player. The 25% is from the start of the season NOT from when the player signs for the club.

Should a team ice an ineligible player, they team will be expelled from the finals and all results awarded 5-0 to the non-offending team(s) (8-0 at U12).

8b.4 Dispensation

Under the following circumstances, EIH may grant dispensation for a player to compete in the finals:

- Where a team can provide medical evidence that a player missed games solely due to injury and would have reached the 25% had they played in those games.
- Where a player missed games due to an ENTP commitment (including camps) and would have reached the 25% if they had played in those games.
- Where a team can provide evidence of a cancelled fixture that a player would have competed in and would have reached the 25% had they played in those games.
- A team may request dispensation to use players from the player pool in exceptional circumstances, including but limited to last-minute bona-fide illness or injury. In such scenarios, age eligible players should be utilised internally from the parent club before any player pool request will be considered.

All dispensations must be approved by EIH in accordance with the normal dispensation procedure. EIH have the right to refuse any dispensation request.

8b.5 Match-day protocols and administration

The normal match-day procedures as outlined in this document apply with the following addition(s):

Team lists

Team lists must be submitted to the EHIA prior to the tournament weekend and by the deadline outlined in the tournament invitation. At U12, a line sheet must also be submitted and cannot be changed throughout the finals. Team lists and line sheets must be printed in the official format, signed and handed to EIH official when the team registers on arrival at the venue.

Timings

Teams must be ready to go on the ice five minutes prior to the start of each game.

All games will include a warmup which will begin when both teams' netminders enter the ice surface. No pucks are allowed on the ice during the warmup.

Period breaks will be two minutes, to be taken at the team bench, except at U18 Division 1, where the second period break will include an ice resurface* and players may return to their dressing room.

*This is at the discretion of tournament officials, dependant on time available. If an ice cut will not take place, both benches will be advised before the start of the second period.

Should an ineligible player be listed on the official EIH team list, the game shall result in the offending team, or teams being expelled from the championship weekend.

Tied scores

At U14-U18, if the score is tied after three periods, teams will play a five-minute sudden victory overtime period. This period will be played 3-v-3. If there is no score after overtime, a best-of-five penalty shootout will take place. Each team must name five initial players in the order they will take a penalty shot. If the scores remain tied after each team has taken five penalty shots, a sudden death penalty shootout will follow using any players on the bench until there is a winner.

At U12, if the bronze medal game or final score is tied after three periods, a three-minute sudden death overtime will be played (one further shift for each line). If at the end of overtime the scores are still tied then each team will take five penalty shots starting with all players from Line One. If the score is still tied, the shootout will continue in a sudden death format with players from Line Two, and if needed then Line Three. If the score remains tied after each team has taken 15 penalty shots then a sudden death shootout will take place, starting with Line One players again. Each team may only take five penalty shots on each line, even if they have additional players rotating on that line.

At the U12 round-robin stage, if teams are tied on points then standings will be decided by:

1. Results between the teams tied
2. Penalty minutes from the competition so far (team with fewest places higher)
3. Goal difference in the competition so far (team with smallest goal difference places higher)
4. Goals against (team with fewest goals against places higher)

Discipline

Penalty points and suspensions incurred during National Finals will carry over to the following season. Match reports will be produced for any major offence.

Inappropriate or abusive behaviour, including that likely to cause damage to property or facilities, will not be tolerated. Disciplinary matters will be dealt with on the day by an EIH DOPS Committee, and may result in players being ejected from the event and/or banned from participation in future EIH events. Players causing damage to property or facilities will be liable for costs incurred.

Appendix 8c: Summary of minimum squads

League	No. of teams	Squad size by 31 August of playing season
Juniors	1	Min: 11 + 1
	2	Min: 22 + 2

Appendix 8d: Summary or minimum bench strength on match day

League	Players	Bench officials
Junior*	Min: 11 + 1 [^] Max 20 + 2 Min U12: 15 + 1 Max U12: 17 + 2	L2 Team Coach and non-playing L1 Assistant Coach and/or Team Manager

*In the event of players arriving late, a game can be started with six players, but the full minimum bench strength as defined in the above table must be reached by the start of the second period. These players must be dressed and at the team bench ready to participate at the start of the second period. If the required number of players have not joined by this time, the game will be classified as *failure to fulfil a fixture*.

[^]Unless dispensation has been granted as per *section 8.5*.

Appendix 8e: U12 format and related administration

U12 line setting

Coaches must set the lines for a fixture no later than 30 minutes before the face-off, using the team sheet template provided.

Maximum team strength is 17 skaters + 2 netminders.

Players must be allocated to lines in accordance with the following principles:

- Line 1: The strongest line consisting of the most able players, maximum of 5 players (best 3 forwards and 2 defencemen)
- Line 2: An intermediate line of experienced players who are more physically capable in their abilities, maximum of 5 players (forwards ranked 4-6, defencemen ranked 3-4)
- Line 3: The least experienced and able players. A maximum of 7 players can be named (forwards ranked 7+, defencemen ranked 5+ in team depth) and rotated into the game.

Coaches are advised to record data on assessments of player ability for the benefit of EIHF should any dispute arise.

In order to denote the different lines, teams can:

- Wear line numbered jerseys (line 1: 10-10, line 2: 20-29, line 3: 30-39), or
- Coloured armbands (line 1: red, line 2: yellow, line 3: blue), or
- Skull caps/helmet tape in the same colours described above, or
- Any other means with the agreement of both teams and the on-ice officials

Lines will change on the buzzer every 60 seconds, as set out in the shift schedule.

A player can only appear on the line to which they are assigned, except in the instance of an injury in which case a player from the line below can move up a line.

If a player ices on a line outside of the above conditions, a penalty will be awarded against that player on the line on which they were incorrectly iced.

Persistent infringements of this rule will be considered a breach of the EIHF Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action against the offending team's coach and a points deduction.

Line 1 starts each period of the game.

The integrity of U12 competition is determined by the approach adopted by the coaches and administrators of the game at club level. The role of match officials is to administer the game on the ice. It is the role of coaches to allocate players to the correct line based on their ability and to maintain the integrity of the competition. Where a coach or administrator seeks to gain advantage by rotating players across lines or playing stronger players against the opposition's weaker players then this should be brought to the attention of the match officials by the opposition coach.

U12 game format

Faceoffs

To start the game and new periods, line 1 will face-off at centre ice.

After a goal, play does not stop. The second official will retrieve the puck from the net whilst the first official will skate to centre ice and will drop the puck once two opposing players are in the face-off circle. The official will drop the puck in the general location of the two players, ensuring one does not gain an advantage over the other.

Line changes

Lines will change on the fly at the sound of the buzzer, every 60 seconds of rolling clock time.

A buzzer will sound to indicate each line change.

When the buzzer sounds, the puck must be left where it is without intervention from any player or official.

Players who gain an advantage or appear to deliberately move the puck to gain an advantage will be warned by the match official. Should this behaviour continue, a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct should be awarded against the offending player.

Offsides & dead/frozen pucks

Play will not stop for offsides or dead pucks, i.e when the netminder covers the puck. In the event of these happening, the match official will blow his whistle and shout eg "reds OUT, reds OUT". The attacking team must clear the attacking zone. Once all attacking players leave the attacking zone, they can re-enter and resume play.

If the attacking team does not retreat into the neutral zone as quickly as possible, and is considered to be deliberately doing so, the match official may award a delay of game penalty against the offending player.

A netminder who is considered to be freezing the puck excessively may be awarded a delay of game penalty by the match official.

Icing

There will be no icing calls.

Netminders

Netminders will not change ends at the end of each period. Teams will defend the same net for the duration of the game, and the home team has the choice of which net to defend.

If a team has two netminders, they can choose to:

Change the netminder against different shifts. In this case, the netminder should stand in the corner of the rink nearest their goal and must not interfere with play. When the line changes on the buzzer, he or she will skate to the goal. The first netminder should not leave the net until the replacement is in position.

OR

Change the netminder intermittently. In which case, they should be on the team bench and be the first player to leave the bench on the buzzer. The first netminder will not leave the net until the replacement is in position.

Penalties

The administration and management of penalties awarded by the match officials is the responsibility of the home team. The administration of penalties is as important in terms of the game itself as it is to player development. Players need to be able to sit out penalties in a penalty box as far as this is practicable. Clubs must make adequate provision within their game day procedures to be able to administer and manage penalties and support match officials.

Any penalty incurred is to be served by the offending player. Any outstanding time will be carried over to their next 60 second shift. The game scorer will keep a record of the time and advise when a penalty is completed.

Any penalties awarded will be half the usual duration.

Penalty box officials should take the opportunity to explain to the player why the penalty was given.

Play will not stop when a penalty is awarded. The second official will escort the offending player to the penalty box. The penalty time starts as soon as the player enters the box and during this time, the first official will ensure play continues.

A 2 minute minor penalty is served as 1 minute

A 10 minute penalty is served as 5 minutes

A 2+1-0 penalty is served as 1+5 minutes, etc

A 5+game penalty or match penalty will lead to the player being immediately ejected from the game. No player is required to serve the 5 minutes, and a reserve player may take the ejected players place in the line up without altering any lines.

Co-incidental penalties are not feasible.

Appendix 8f: On-ice official fees

The following fees are in place for 2023-2024.

League	Total fee (without mileage)	Max mileage	Max mileage fee	TOTAL	Referee fee	Linesman fee	2 Man System
U18 / WNIHL 1 & 2	£73.00	250	£112.50	£185.50	£31.00	£21.00	£36.50
U16 / WNIHL U16	£63.00	200	£90.00	£153.00	£27.00	£18.00	£31.50
U14	£52.00	150	£67.50	£119.50	£22.00	£15.00	£26.00
U12	£39.00	150	£67.50	£106.50	£17.00	£11.00	£19.50

Appendix 8g: Contacts

EIH Director in charge of juniors
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Regional Lead (South West)
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General Manager for junior events
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Operational support, registrations and general enquiries
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