

DOPS DEPARTMENT OF PLAYER SAFETY

Rules and Procedures

2023-24



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of the following document is to provide a clear and concise overview of the Department of Player Safety (DOPS) Rules and Procedures of the England Ice Hockey (EIH). This information is intended for all stakeholders of the EIH to promote a fair, orderly, and consistent application of DOPS measures across England Ice Hockey.
- 1.2. To ensure a streamlined and efficient process, please refer to this document for any queries related to DOPS matters before contacting the appropriate DOPS department, as listed below.

2. Mission Statement

The mission of the EIH Department of Player Safety (DOPS) Team is to promote integrity, fairness, and safety within the sport of ice hockey. Our mission is to enforce the rules and regulations outlined in the IIHF Rule Book and the EIH DOPS Policy, ensuring a respectful and enjoyable experience for all participants.

We are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of sportsmanship, fostering a culture of accountability, and maintaining a safe playing environment. Through transparent and thorough investigations, fair adjudication of DOPS hearings, and efficient management of appeals, we aim to instil trust and confidence in our DOPS process.

Our mission is not only to address incidents and enforce penalties but also to educate and raise awareness about the importance of responsible conduct both on and off the ice. We strive to foster positive relationships and open lines of communication, collaborating with relevant stakeholders to continuously improve our processes and align with the evolving needs of the ice hockey community.

We are committed to operating in a transparent manner, engaging in effective communication internally and externally, and embracing necessary changes to enhance player accountability and conduct enforcement. Together, we uphold the values of sportsmanship, integrity, and respect, ensuring a thriving and enjoyable ice hockey environment for all.

3. Jurisdiction

- 3.1. These rules shall apply to all individuals within the jurisdiction of the England Ice Hockey (EIH), including players, coaches, clubs, and teams.
- 3.2. The EIH shall establish a DOPS Committee and an Appeals Panel with the delegated power to determine DOPS matters on behalf of the organisation.
- 3.3. In certain circumstances, as detailed in the Appeals section, Sports Resolutions may handle DOPS matters and other disputes.

4. DOPS Departments & Associates

- 4.1. To ensure efficient and effective communication, the DOPS associates shall be the designated point of contact for all DOPS matters. Requests and inquiries must be submitted via email and only by the club/team Associate to the relevant DOPS department. Correspondence from other sources will not be considered.

- 4.2. Email is the preferred method of communication for DOPS matters, as it provides a clear record of all correspondence and helps to minimise any potential misunderstandings. To ensure that all communications are accurately recorded, please refrain from contacting the DOPS associates through any other means, except for in exceptional circumstances as agreed upon in advance.

5. The DOPS Committee

- 5.1. The DOPS Committee is a sub-committee of the EIHF responsible for handling ice hockey-related and general discipline matters. The committee has the authority to impose any sanctions specified in the rules and appendices.
- 5.2. The DOPS Committee shall be composed of a minimum of three individuals aged 18 or over, who are members of the EIHF's discipline section. DOPS General Manager shall have the discretion to convene the Committee when necessary to address ice hockey-related and general DOPS matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.
- 5.3. A quorum of three shall be sufficient to convene a meeting/hearing of the DOPS Committee.
- 5.4. The DOPS Committee may delegate any of its functions to one member of the committee.
- 5.5. The DOPS Committee, appointed to consider a DOPS matter, will make decisions based on a simple majority vote (more than 50%) of the members present.
- 5.6. If there are serious grounds to question the impartiality of any member of the DOPS Committee, such as having a direct or indirect interest in the outcome of the proceedings, they must decline to participate in the consideration of the DOPS matter.
- 5.7. The DOPS Committee shall have the power to regulate its own procedures and determine any matter arising under or in connection with the rules. This includes the power to waive any requirement or extend any time period provided for in the rules, except in relation to appeals when the Appeals Panel shall be entitled to exercise such powers.
- 5.8. The DOPS Committee may impose DOPS action on a player, coach, person, club/team for an offense that is different from the original offense, provided that such offense is related to the same incident(s) as described in the game sheet/referee's report. The DOPS Committee shall ensure that such action does not unfairly prejudice the player, person, or club/team.
- 5.9. Unless the DOPS Committee or the Executive Committee decides otherwise in its sole discretion, the DOPS Committee will be convened in the following circumstances
 - 5.9.1. The DOPS Committee shall be convened when a referee calls a penalty based on offenses described in the current IIHF Official Rule Book, IIHF Case Book, EIHF Code of Conduct, and EIHF In-House Rules that incur an automatic suspension.
 - 5.9.2. The DOPS Committee shall be convened when any person or team commits an act of misconduct, which is defined as any illegal or unsporting behavior by a player, club, team, or supporter during a game or outside of it that may potentially harm the reputation of ice hockey, EIHF, or its commercial partners. This includes

any violation of the Code of Conduct.

5.9.3. While it is not feasible to create an all-encompassing list of behaviors that may qualify as misconduct under the rules, Appendix A provides examples of misconduct, which includes each type of behavior exhibited by a club/team and/or its players, its persons or supporters.

5.10. The mechanism for convening the DOPS Committee is as follows when a penalty is called:

5.10.1. The member responsible for DOPS matters within the appropriate league will receive and review the game sheet and referee's report, documenting any penalties, offences, and corresponding penalty points for the specific violation.

5.10.2. If there are instances of misconduct that are not related to a penalty, the head of the relevant section shall conduct an investigation into the allegations and create a Misconduct Report to be presented to the DOPS Committee.

5.10.3. If there are incidents of misconduct that are not related to a penalty, the section head will conduct an investigation into the allegation and create a Misconduct Report for the DOPS Committee.

5.10.4. While the above procedure is recommended, the Executive Committee, EIH, and the DOPS Committee hold the right to modify it if they consider it necessary. The full supplementary discipline process can be found in Appendix I.

5.10.5. To ensure an efficient and effective DOPS Procedure, all clubs/teams must submit electronic game sheets on the game management system (formerly fixtures live) by midnight on the day of the relevant game. In cases where there is no access to the game management system, manual game sheets must be submitted to info@englandicehockey.com by midnight on the day of the game. Referees' reports must be received by the DOPS Associate no later than midnight of the Monday following the weekend's games, or within 24 hours of a game being played if the game is played during mid-week.

6. Penalty points

6.1. The EIH has established a system of penalty points for both players and teams. This system involves the accumulation of penalty points for committing offences and receiving penalties during games.

6.2. The EIH employs a penalty points system that awards points to players and teams for committing offenses and receiving penalties. The recommended penalty points tariff for players is provided in Appendix D; however, the DOPS Committee retains the discretion to decide the level of penalty points.

6.3. All clubs/teams have the responsibility to keep track of their players' penalty points and make sure that any player who has received enough points for a suspension does not participate in any games, in any capacity (playing or otherwise), during the suspension period.

7. Accumulated penalty points and automatic suspension

- 7.1. Any player who accumulates a requisite number of penalty points in a single league/division will be automatically suspended.
- 7.2. The table set out at Appendix E sets out the recommended tariff for automatic suspensions.

8. Additional sanctions for playing a suspended player

- 8.1. In the event a team plays a suspended player the following additional sanctions will apply:
 - 8.1.1. The individuals responsible for the offense, such as the team coach and senior-level player, will each be suspended two games.
 - 8.1.2. 10 penalty points will be added to the team's penalty points total.
 - 8.1.3. A team that lists an ineligible player on the Official EIH Team List shall result in that game being awarded as 5-0 to the non-offending side.

9. Penalty points for coaches/managers and bench officials

- 9.1. The EIH has a penalty points system for coaches, managers, and bench officials who are considered as "persons" under the above definition. It should be noted that penalties for player-coaches are addressed in clause 11.
- 9.2. The recommended penalty points sanctions for all offenses committed by coaches, managers, and bench officials are listed in Appendix F.
- 9.3. It is important to note that penalties for coaches, managers, and bench officials will primarily rely on the game sheet and referee's report. However, the DOPS Committee reserves the right to modify the punishment as they see fit, either reducing or increasing the severity of the penalty.
- 9.4. For coaches, managers, and bench officials at the junior level, any game misconduct penalty received will lead to a minimum suspension of two games. At the senior level, the minimum suspension for a game misconduct penalty incurred by a coach, manager, or bench official is three games.
- 9.5. The DOPS Committee may apply additional DOPS measures for repeated offenses, such as extending the suspension to all levels and/or reporting the incident to the Coaching Program. Please note that these sanctions are not limited to the ones mentioned above.
- 9.6. If a team accumulates 50 or more DOPS points during a season, any coach identified by the DOPS associates as having responsibility for that team will receive an automatic two-game suspension.

- 9.7. The DOPS team can initiate disciplinary proceedings against any coach found to be in violation of the code of conduct.
- 9.8. If a team accumulates 100 DOPS points or more in a season, any coach deemed to be the head coach will be automatically suspended and required to appear at a DOPS committee meeting to explain their team's conduct before being allowed to continue coaching. It is important to note that the head coach is not necessarily the coach in charge of the team bench during a game.

10. Game video footage

- 10.1. Every NIHL game, including challenge games, should be video recorded and uploaded onto the NIHL Video Library/Instat by 10pm on the Monday following the fixture so these can be made available to discipline panels. Should a NIHL game is played midweek, the video recording should be uploaded within 24 hours of the game. It is the duty of the home team to ensure the game is adequately filmed.
- 10.2. Video footage from all EIH sanctioned junior games must be uploaded to Pixellot within 48 hours of the fixture being completed. Should this not be viable due to exceptional circumstances, the club submitting the footage must inform info@englandicehockey.com within the 48-hour window to request an extension to the timeline.
- 10.3. All recording must also take place in conjunction with EIH's Filming and Photography Policy as outlined in the Safeguarding section.
- 10.4. A team who fails to adequately record a game and upload to the NIHL Video Library/Instat by the set times above, the team will be fined as per the tariffs detailed below.

Tiers	No. of failures	Fine
Tier 1	1 or 2 failures	£100 per failure
Tier 2	3 or 4 failures	£150 per failure plus 5 team penalty points
Tier 3	5 or more failures	£250 per failure, 5 team penalty points & 2 point deduction from the respected league/cup table per offence

All video footage after 31 days will be removed subject to any active investigations.

- 10.5. All junior levels will follow the same penalty scale as above, but fines will be reduced by 50%.

11. Sanctions for player-coaches

- 11.1. A player registered as a player-coach who receives a suspension is also suspended as a coach. The coaching suspension is for the same length as the playing suspension.
- 11.2. A coach registered as a player-coach who receives a suspension is also suspended as a player. The playing suspension is for the same length as the coaching suspension.

11.3. Please note that penalty points for the coaching offence will not be applied to the player's individual total but will be added to the team total.

12. Sanctions for coaching whilst suspended

12.1. The suspension of a coach by the DOPS Committee will extend across all levels and age groups.

12.2. A suspended coach will not be permitted to undertake any coaching duties whatsoever on match days until the allocated suspension is served at the level the suspension is issued.

Example:

Coach A, who coaches both the U15 and U18 teams, has received a two-match suspension following a U15 game. As a result, he is prohibited from any coaching duties until the end of the suspension period for the U15 game. Even if there is an U18 game scheduled during the suspension period for the U15 game, Coach A will still not be allowed to perform any coaching duties for the U18 team. A coach who is serving a suspension must not be within the vicinity of his team's bench. Vicinity means a 20-metre radius from bench.

12.3. A suspended coach may not coach or have any team communication at all whilst in attendance at the ice rink during a game that falls within the suspension.

12.4. A suspended coach may not visit his team's dressing room during the period breaks or any other break in play.

12.5. The following sanctions will be applied in respect of a coach who is serving a suspension and breaches this rule:

12.5.1. The offending coach may at the discretion of the DOPS Committee receive a further two game suspension.

12.5.2. The offending team (i.e. the team which has allowed the suspended coach to coach) may at the discretion of the DOPS Committee receive a further 10 penalty points.

12.5.3. If a coach is found in breach of suspension conditions, it shall result in that game being awarded as 5-0 to the non-offending side.

13. The penalty point fines system for teams

When a team accumulates penalty points (including penalty points accrued by players, persons, coaches, managers, and bench officials), they will incur the following team fines when each milestone is reached:

League	20 penalty points	50 penalty points	75 penalty points	100 penalty points
U10	£25	£50	£100	£300
U12	£25	£50	£100	£300
U14	£25	£50	£100	£300
U16	£25	£50	£100	£300
U18	£30	£50	£100	£300
WNIHL	£30	£50	£100	£350
NIHL 2	£30	£75	£125	£500
NIHL 1	£35	£100	£200	£500
NIHL National	£35	£100	£200	£500

14. Team failing to fulfil a fixture

14.1. Failure to fulfil a fixture by a team is a serious offence and the EIH, the Executive Committee, and the DOPS Committee adopts a zero-tolerance approach in this respect.

14.2. Any team failing to start or complete a fixture in any circumstances:

14.2.1. May be charged with misconduct and bringing the game into disrepute.

14.2.2. If a team is found to be at fault for a game cancellation, they will forfeit the game with a 5-0 score in favor of the non-offending team. If both teams are at fault, the game will be recorded as a 0-0 draw without any points awarded. If neither team is responsible for the cancellation, the game will be recorded as a 0-0 draw with one point awarded to each team.

14.2.3. May be fined up to £5,000.

14.2.4. If a team is found to be responsible for any actions that result in a game being abandoned or postponed, they may be required to compensate the non-offending team as well as the venue operator/rink for any losses, expenses, or costs incurred.

14.2.5. May be expelled from the league to which the offending team is affiliated.

14.3. Any persons (whether players, officials, coaches or any other connected party) involved may also be charged with misconduct and bringing the game into disrepute.

15. Social Media Policy for EIH Affiliates: Safeguarding the Integrity of the Game

The purpose of this Social Media Policy is to provide guidelines for responsible social media usage for all players, coaches, officials, and administrators affiliated with the EIH. The aim is to prevent actions that may bring the game of ice hockey into disrepute.

Scope:

This policy applies to all individuals involved with EIH-sanctioned activities, leagues, and events. It encompasses all forms of social media, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, YouTube, blogs, and forums.

Policy Statement:

All affiliated individuals are considered representatives of the EIH and the sport of ice hockey as a whole. Actions or statements made on social media platforms that could be considered damaging to the reputation, integrity, or public perception of the sport will be treated as "bringing the game into disrepute."

Guidelines:

1. **Conduct:** Maintain a respectful and professional tone. Refrain from posting content that is discriminatory, hateful, or harassing towards individuals or groups based on race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, etc.
2. **Confidentiality:** Do not share confidential information pertaining to the EIH, its activities, or its members. This includes internal communications, unpublished statistics, and team strategies.
3. **Endorsements:** Be cautious when endorsing products, causes, or political views as it may imply an endorsement on behalf of the EIH.
4. **Game Integrity:** Do not post content that compromises the integrity of games, such as rumours about match-fixing or the health status of players.
5. **Media Relations:** Do not publicly criticise officiating, management, or EIH policy. Channels exist within the EIH structure for airing grievances or offering suggestions.

Reporting and Enforcement:

1. **Reporting:** Violations of this policy should be reported to the DOPS within 72 hours of the discovery of the offense.
2. **Enforcement:** Violations will be investigated by the DOPS, and consequences will align with the "Policy on Bringing the Game into Disrepute," ranging from suspensions and fines to mandatory training or expulsion from league activities.

Appeals:

Appeals against disciplinary action related to this social media policy must be submitted in writing to the DOPS General Manager within 7 working days of the action.

Revision:

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains up-to-date and relevant.

By adhering to these guidelines, EIH affiliates contribute to maintaining the reputation and integrity of the sport, ensuring that the focus remains on the positive aspects of ice hockey.

16. Failure to comply with DOPS team requests

- 16.1. Teams are expected to fully cooperate with the DOPS team during investigations. Failure to comply with requests for statements, witness accounts, video evidence, or clarification of a person of interest (player/coach/off-ice staff) will result in team

sanctions. These sanctions may include team penalty points, fines, points deductions, or even expulsion from the league.

17. Payment of fines

- 17.1. Payments for fines, penalties or approved expenses, losses, or costs incurred by a non-offending team. imposed under the EIH DOPS Policy must be made within 28 days of the invoice. Invoices not paid within the 28-day period will incur an administration fee of £20.00 and a final reminder will be sent to the member.
- 17.2. Failure to pay within a further five working days will mean that all privileges exercisable by the member of England Ice Hockey shall be immediately suspended until the outstanding payment is settled.
 - 17.2.1. This may include a team's fixture(s) being withdrawn until the outstanding payment is settled. Any fixture withdrawn as a result of non-payment of fines will be treated in accordance with failure to fulfil a fixture.
 - 17.2.2. This may include an individual being temporarily suspended from playing, coaching or managing, until which time as outstanding fees are settled.
- 17.3. In the event of a member being suspended, resigning their membership or England Ice Hockey 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 England Ice Hockey.
- 17.4. A team may not be able to enter the next season's league whilst any payments remain outstanding outside of the above payment terms.
- 17.5. An individual may not be able to re-register with the EIH whilst any payments remain outstanding outside of the above payment terms.

APPEALS

18. Mission statement

- 18.1. The EIH has always understood the importance of providing a process for individuals who receive significant penalties under the rules to appeal against the DOPS Committee's decision. This is done as part of a broader effort to ensure that justice is served.
- 18.2. The Appeals Panel is authorised to establish a procedure it deems appropriate in each case. However, in general, it must follow the procedures stated in the rules, and it must ensure that a party who appeals a decision of a DOPS panel receives a proper notification of the hearing of the appeal;
 - 18.2.1. Has the opportunity to be heard in support of the appeal;

18.2.2. Has the right to have the appeal determined by a fair and impartial panel.

19. Circumstances of appeal

19.1. Appeals are restricted to specific situations due to the nature of ice hockey and the associated costs and resources. Therefore, appeals can only be made in the following circumstances:

19.1.1. An appeal is permitted in the circumstance where the DOPS Committee has ordered a suspension for a single offense, and the suspension is for more than the recommended starting tariff of games for the appropriate league.

19.1.2. Where an exclusion order has been made in relation to an ice hockey arena/venue;

19.1.3. Where the sanction amounts to an expulsion from the membership of/affiliation to the EIH;

19.1.4. Where a suspension is classed as a tariff 2 offence or higher.

19.1.5. Where the sanction amounts to the removal of a person's/team's licence/registration.

20. Make-up of the appeals panel

20.1. The Appeals Panel will be headed by the EIH independent Discipline Appeal Chair, George Ellison. Two other individuals, appointed by the EIH Company Associate, will also sit on the panel. They must be independent of the appellant, any teams or persons involved in the incident, and otherwise unrelated. The Company Associate will select the Chairman of the Appeals Panel.

21. Suspension appeals procedure

21.1. Any individual or team who wishes to appeal a decision made by the DOPS Committee must send a Notice of Appeal via email to discipline at discipline@englandicehockey.com. The Company Associate will then be notified to convene an appeal panel which will be chaired by the independent discipline appeal chair.

21.2. The Notice of Appeal must be in writing and filed within 7 working days of the date on which the decision of the DOPS Panel is notified to the club/team/person/player.

21.3. When filing a Notice of Appeal against a decision of the DOPS Committee, a club, team, person, or player must also submit a BACS payment or cheque amounting to £500 as a deposit for the costs of the hearing. However, the costs may exceed this amount, and the appellant must be prepared to pay for the reasonable travel expenses of the Appeals Panel convened for the hearing. Please note that all costs incurred are non-refundable.

21.4. The Notice of Appeal shall state:

21.4.1. The name of the appellant;

21.4.2. The decision appealed against;

21.4.3. The grounds upon which the appeal is based, in sufficient detail so that the Appeals Panel has a full understanding of what the appellant intends to raise;

21.5. Except as provided in the rules, no specific form or notice is required.

21.6. A re-hearing of the case or admission of new evidence, not previously considered, will only be allowed at the discretion of the Independent Appeals Chair, and upon the appellant showing sufficient cause for doing so.

21.7. The Appeals Panel may consider video evidence if it is collected by approved means agreed at the section meetings. However, the admission of such evidence is subject to the discretion of the Appeals Panel and a £50 administration fee must be paid.

21.8. The appellant has the right to be present during the appeal hearing. However, they may choose not to attend, in which case the Appeals Panel will still consider their appeal. If the appellant chooses not to attend, they can submit written statements before the hearing.

21.9. Appellants appealing to a sports governing body are typically not allowed to have legal representation. However, if an appellant wishes to be represented by a legal representative, the decision is at the discretion of the Appeals Chairman.

21.10. Any expenses incurred by the appellant, including the cost of legal representation, are not refundable. In case a legal representative is allowed by the Chair of the Appeal Panel, the appellant will be responsible for covering all the costs related to it, regardless of the outcome of the hearing.

21.11. Appeals Panel hearings shall be conducted in private.

21.12. Deliberations of the Appeals Panel shall be conducted in private.

21.13. Having heard such evidence considered appropriate by the Appeals Panel and any submissions made by or on behalf of the appellant, the Appeals Panel may decide to:

21.13.1. Allow the appeal, in which case all sanctions against the appellant shall be removed; or

21.13.2. Dismiss an appeal, in which case all sanctions against the appellant shall remain in effect; or

21.13.3. Determine that a different sanction is appropriate and impose such a sanction.

21.13.4. Take any step which in the exercise of its discretion, the Appeals Panel considers it would be appropriate to take to deal justly with the appeal.

- 21.14. The Appeals Panel will inform the appellant of their decision as soon as possible after the hearing. If appropriate, the Panel may provide an immediate decision at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 21.15. Hearings of the Appeals Panel will be recorded by taking minutes, using any appropriate means as determined by the Appeals Panel. The minutes will be stored in accordance with the EIH data protection policy. After the hearing, the DOPS General Manager will be notified of the decision to make any necessary amendments to paperwork, and to flag points on the discipline management system (formerly fixtures live).
- 21.16. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding on all parties, subject to clause 19 below.

22. Sports Resolutions final appeal arbitration

- 22.1. If the decision of the Appeals Panel relates to a suspension of 30 games or more, or to an exclusion order, expulsion, license or registration removal, the decision can be challenged. Any challenge will be referred to Sports Resolutions for final and binding arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Act 1996 and Sports Resolutions' Arbitration Rules, which are deemed to be incorporated by reference to this clause.
- 22.2. The challenge shall be limited to a review of the legality of the procedures used and the decisions made by the DOPS Committee and Appeals Panel.
- 22.3. No team, club or person under the jurisdiction of the EIH and the Rules may issue court proceedings in relation to a clause 19.1 challenge in any court, in any jurisdiction.
- 22.4. For the avoidance of doubt, any suspension for less than 30 games falls outside of this arbitration clause and the decision of the Appeals Panel is final and binding in that respect.

23. Sports Resolutions mediation/arbitration

- 23.1. Members, affiliates, associates, participants, clubs, teams, persons, and the EIH acknowledge that any other disputes between them that are not addressed by the Rules shall be submitted to Sports Resolutions for mediation according to Sports Resolutions (UK)'s mediation process. This process is considered incorporated by reference to this clause.
- 23.2. In case of any disputes between members, affiliates, associates, participants, clubs, teams, and persons that are not covered by the Rules, they agree to refer the dispute to Sports Resolutions for resolution through mediation in accordance with Sports Resolutions (UK)'s mediation procedure. This procedure is incorporated by reference to this clause. If the dispute is not settled within 21 days of the mediation being initiated or within a period agreed upon by the parties in writing, the dispute(s) will be finally resolved by arbitration under the Arbitration Act 1996 and Sports Resolutions (UK)'s Arbitration Rules, which are also deemed to be incorporated by reference to this clause.

23.3. The costs of the Sports Resolutions Mediation and Arbitration shall be borne equally by the appellant and the EIH.

23.4. For more details on Sports Resolutions, please refer to www.sportsresolutions.com

24. Decision Review System (DRS) Policy

Introduction

We are pleased to introduce a significant upgrade in the scope of the EIH Department of Player Safety (DOPS): the Decision Review System (DRS). This innovative feature is designed to standardise and enhance the handling of game-related incidents for the purpose of fair play, transparency, and consistency across all EIH leagues.

DRS Applicability

Initially confined to the senior leagues, DRS has now been expanded to include teams across all levels. This wider scope underscores our dedication to conforming with industry best practices in sports administration. Note that the DRS is intended solely for reviewing major penalties that were not originally called during gameplay and is not a channel for appealing suspensions. For information on suspension appeals, please consult Section 17.

Personnel and Duties

To manage this system, a new role has been created: the DOPS DRS Liaison Officer. This individual will be tasked with collecting and collating all review-related materials before forwarding them to the Ice Hockey UK senior management committee for evaluation. The implementation of DRS is intended to maintain uniformity and fairness in reviewing all types of game incidents.

Process and Constraints

- Senior Teams: Allocated an initial quota of 3 review opportunities at the beginning of the season.
- Junior Teams: Start off the season with a quota of 2 review opportunities.
- Successful reviews do not deplete the team's review quota; unsuccessful ones will.
- Quotas will be reset only at the beginning of each new season.
- DRS is active for all EIH sanctioned games.
- All submissions for review must be made by 10 p.m. each Tuesday for games the previous weekend; any submissions made after the deadline will automatically be disregarded.
- Review requests must be submitted via the EIH Cognito form. Email submissions will automatically be disregarded.

25. General principles applicable to all DOPS matters

- 25.1. The EIH, Executive Committee, DOPS Panel, and Appeals Panel shall operate in good faith and adhere to the principles of natural justice and the rules set out in this document. They shall also comply with the EIH rules, the current IIHF Rule Book, IIHF Case Book, the Coach Manager Code of Conduct, and the EIH in-house rules.
- 25.2. Procedures or proceedings under these rules or any decision of the DOPS Committee or Appeals Panel shall not be deemed invalid solely due to any defects, irregularities, omissions, or technicalities, unless such issues raise reasonable doubts about the accuracy of the findings or decisions made by the DOPS Committee or Appeals Panel or result in a miscarriage of justice.
- 25.3. Subject to Clause 25, any DOPS Proceedings (or Appeal Proceedings) shall not be adjourned by reason only that the person or player involved is, or is likely to be, subject to civil or criminal proceedings arising from the same circumstances which are the subject of the proceedings. Any decision as to whether to adjourn is at the discretion of the DOPS Committee (or the Appeals Panel).
- 25.4. In respect of any matter not provided for in the rules, the decision of the DOPS Panel or the Appeals Panel shall be taken in accordance with the principles of fairness and justice.
- 25.5. The DOPS and Appeal proceedings, and hearings referred to in the rules are proceedings and hearings of a sport's governing body and not of a court and are designed to deal with sporting matters and specific to the sport of ice hockey.

26. Application of suspensions

- 26.1. Any suspension issued to a player, club, team, or individual will apply to all games. A player who has been suspended must serve the entirety of their suspension in the same league or level in which it was issued and may not participate in any games until the suspension has been served. The DOPS Committee has the authority under the rules to extend the suspension to include all games and leagues as necessary, over the duration of the suspension.
- 26.2. Suspensions must be served during the period set out in the league's rules of competition and any EIH sanctioned event. If a suspension is not completed by the end of the season, it will carry forward until it is served in full.
- 26.3. Suspensions issued by other governing bodies will be fully upheld by the EIH.
- 26.3.1. Players new to the EIH league structure will be required to serve the duration of their suspension at their new club.
- 26.3.2. Two-way contracted players will be required to serve duration of the suspension at the level it was issued before they will be eligible to play for their EIH club. Full information can be found in Appendix C.
- 26.4. While a player is suspended, they are not allowed to approach their team's players' bench, the scorer's bench, or the penalty box during games they would have played if

not for the suspension. Failure to comply with this rule may result in further sanctions from the DOPS team.

27. Publicity

27.1. The decisions and proceedings taken under the rules cannot be made public without the consent of the parties involved and a formal response from the EIH. If this rule is violated, additional sanctions may be imposed.

28. Proof

28.1. The DOPS Committee and Appeals Panel shall make decisions based on the balance of probabilities, meaning that the incident(s) in question were more likely than not to have occurred.

29. Young people (less than 18 years of age)

29.1. Any person or player, less than 18 years of age shall be accompanied by his/her guardian or parent at any hearing that may be convened.

29.2. Any person or player under 18 years of age who is subject to DOPS or appeals proceedings is obliged to be present at any hearing, unless at the discretion of the DOPS Committee or Appeals Panel it is determined to be unnecessary.

29.3. Any person or player under 18 years of age who is present at any hearing as party or witness to the proceedings shall be obliged to;

- a) give evidence either in writing or in person at the hearing, depending upon the circumstances, and by discretion of the DOPS Committee or Appeals Panel
- b) give evidence by Skype or video link by discretion of the DOPS Committee or Appeals Panel.

30. Criminal charges/investigations

30.1. The DOPS Committee reserves the right to suspend all parties where a person or player is subject to a criminal allegation.

The non-offending person will be subject to a risk assessment in relation to returning to play.

30.2. Once the matter has been dealt with by the statutory authorities, the EIH and DOPS Committee reserves the right to take further action in accordance with the Rules.

30.3. If a player or person is facing criminal charges related to their alleged misconduct, they may be suspended while the charges are pending and the matter is referred to the statutory authorities. After the statutory authorities have dealt with the matter, the EIH may review the circumstances in accordance with the rules and decide to continue the suspension or expel the player or person if it deems it necessary in the interests of the EIH or the sport of ice hockey as a whole.

31. Suspension pending hearing

- 31.1. The DOPS Committee has the authority to impose an instant suspension on a player, person, team or club if the alleged misconduct is severe enough to justify an immediate suspension until the DOPS matter is resolved.
- 31.2. Any player who is alleged to have made racist or sexist slurs will be suspended immediately, pending an investigation. The DOPS Committee will work with the Safeguarding team to investigate the matter and provide updates to the EIH every 7 days to ensure a prompt investigation. If the allegation is found to be false, the person making the accusation will receive an equivalent supplementary suspension.

32. Communication

- 32.1. All communications between parties related to the rules shall be conducted primarily via email. Any email sent will be considered received within 24 hours of being sent, unless evidence is provided to the contrary. It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure that emails are sent to the correct league email account.

33. Notification

- 33.1. The Board of the EIH must be notified if a player or person is suspended, stepped down from a position or expelled from a club/team at any stage. Notification should be received in writing from the person or committee within the club/team imposing the sanction stating the sanction imposed, the outcome and their authority in the process.

APPENDIX A:

Non-Exhaustive List of Misconduct Offences

1. Behaviour that includes violence, intimidation, or threats of such actions, as well as threatening behaviour, is strictly prohibited within the game venue. This includes, but is not limited to, the tunnel, changing rooms, and warm-up areas;
2. Any behaviour that is abusive, insulting, intimidating or offensive towards any person, including referees, assistant referees, other officials, spectators, or any other person in attendance at the game;
3. Any acts, statements, or conduct that discriminate based on religion, race, sex, sexual orientation, colour, national, or ethnic origin;
4. Attempting to influence or fixing the outcome of a match or series of matches by accepting bribes or other benefits, or engaging in any behaviour that improperly affects the outcome or any aspect of the game;
5. Entering any wager, bet or form of financial speculation, directly or indirectly as to the result of any other dimension or aspect of any match or series of matches in which the person is directly or indirectly involved and/or connected with;
6. Providing inaccurate and/or misleading information about previous DOPS records in any proceedings under these rules or other DOPS proceedings and/or misleading information concerning the player's future playing intentions;
7. Comments and/or conduct in connection with current and/or anticipated DOPS proceedings and/or match officiating (or any respect thereof) which may be prejudicial to and/or impact upon current and/or anticipated DOPS proceedings and/or which are prejudicial to the interests of the game of ice hockey and/or any person connected to the game of ice hockey;
8. Any breaches of the Codes of Conduct;
9. Failure, delay or refusal to aid the DOPS Secretaries, the DOPS Committee or the Appeals Panel in connection with a Complaint brought, or which may be brought before the DOPS Committee or the Appeals Panel;
10. Failure, delay or refusal to comply with an order made under the rules;
11. Failure or refusal by a club/team to exercise reasonable and proper control over its players, persons and supporters of the club, on or off the playing enclosure, including, but not limited to when the team is travelling to or from a game and always when its players, persons and/or supporters are present at the venue of a game;
12. Failure by a club/team to ensure the laws of the game of ice hockey are observed and upheld through the persistent offending of its players and/or persons (irrespective of whether DOPS proceedings have been taken against those players and/or persons individually);
13. Failure or refusal (a) by a person or club/team to cooperate fully with any investigations conducted by any person with authority to undertake anti-doping investigations pursuant to the Ice Hockey UK's Anti-Doping Program and (b) by or on behalf of a club/team to

ensure that a player has been properly informed of the contents of Ice Hockey UK's Anti-Doping Program.

14. Failure or refusal by a club/team to fulfil a fixture in any EIH competition.

APPENDIX B:

Non-Exhaustive List of Misconduct Sanctions

1. A caution, warning as to future conduct, reprimand;
2. A fine;
3. A suspension for a specified number of matches or period of time;
4. Exclusion orders from ice hockey arenas/venues;
5. Suspension from involvement in ice hockey officiating and/or administration;
6. Suspension or expulsion from participation in any competition;
7. Expulsion from membership of/affiliation to the EIHF;
8. Any combination of the above.

APPENDIX C:

Guide To Suspensions and Sanctions

The EIH tariff system aims to ensure fairness and consistency in the application of suspensions across all leagues. When assessing Supplementary Discipline for On-Ice Conduct, the following factors will be considered:

- The type of conduct, including intentional or reckless violations of League Playing Rules, and the use of excessive and unnecessary force. Players are responsible for the consequences of their actions.
- The injury suffered by the opposing player(s) involved in the incident.
- The offender's history of being subject to Supplementary Discipline for On-Ice Conduct, with repeat offenders facing more severe punishment for each new violation.
- The context of the game, such as the time remaining, the score, and any prior incidents.
- Any other relevant factors that may be appropriate in the given circumstances.
- Mandatory suspensions are not cumulative with upgraded tariff suspensions. Instead, the term of the upgraded tariff suspension supersedes the mandatory suspension period.

Example of Suspension Tariff for Abuse of an Official:

(Note: The following is an illustrative example and not a definitive guideline. Actual suspensions may vary based on the specific circumstances of each case.)

- Verbal abuse with non-foul language: 2 Games (tariff 1)
- Verbal abuse with foul language: 4 Games (tariff 2)
- Verbal abuse with threats: 10 Games (tariff 3)

Note: Foul Language constitutes the use of abusive expressions, which encompasses swearing. Racial, sexual, and homophobic abuses are addressed in separate sections of the DOPS tariff.

Junior Leagues U10/U12/U14/U18/Girls U16/U18

5 + Game Penalty List	Minimum Suspension (# of games) Based on Tariff					
	Mandatory	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4	Tariff 5
Abuse of official – physical (Note: This is a personal penalty of GM – Tariff applies)	1	6	10	15	1 Season	2 Seasons
Abuse of official – verbal (Note: This is a personal penalty of GM – Tariff applies)	1	3	5	10	1 Season	
Blood Smearing	1	6	10	15	1 Season	2 Seasons
Boarding	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Butt Ending	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Charging	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Checking from behind	1	3	5	10	1 Season	2 Seasons
Checking to the head	1	3	5	10	1 Season	2 Seasons
Cross checking	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Elbows	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Fighting – off playing surface	1	6	10	15	1 Season	2 Seasons
Fighting – punching downed opponent	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Fighting – third player in	1	2	4	6	10	
Fighting – unwilling combatant	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Head Butt	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
High sticks	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Holding face-cage	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Hooking	1	2	4	6		

Icing an illegal player (suspension for player)	1	2	4	6		
Interference	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Kicking	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Kneeing	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Leaving the bench or penalty box during an altercation	1	2	4	6		
Netminder using blocker to punch	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Obscene gesture linked to racist abuse	1					1 Season
Obscene gesture towards the crowd	1	2	4	6		
Obscene gesture towards/at an opposing player, official or off ice official	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Persists to challenge or dispute officials ruling	1	2	4	6		
Playing Suspended Players (suspension for player)	1	2	4	6		
Racial or sexual slur by inappropriate language rather than with malicious intent	1					10
Racial or sexual slur to any member of the crowd	1					2 Year Ban
Racial or sexual slur with malicious intent to any player/official or off ice official	1					2 Year Ban
Refusing to start a game	1	3				
Resisting Official	1	2	6	12	1 Season	2 Seasons
Slashing	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Slew footing	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Spearing	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season

Spitting towards/at an opposing player, official or off ice official	1	6	10	15	1 Season	2 Seasons
Throwing equipment (off the playing surface)	1	2	6	12	1 Season	2 Season
Throwing equipment (on the playing surface)	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season
Tripping	1	2	4	6		
Unsportsmanlike conduct	1	2	4	6	10	1 Season

Senior Leagues National/NIHL 1/NIHL 2/WNIHL

5 + Game Penalty List	Minimum Suspension (# of games) Based on Tariff					
	Mandatory	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4	Tariff 5
Abuse of official – physical (Note: This is a personal penalty of GM – Tariff applies)	1	10	20	30	2 Season	4 Seasons
Abuse of official – verbal (Note: This is a personal penalty of GM – Tariff applies)	1	2	4	10	20	1 Season
Blood Smearing	1	10	20	30	1 Season	2 Seasons
Boarding	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Butt Ending	1	3	6	12	20	1 Season
Charging	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Checking from behind	1	6	10	20	1 Season	2 Seasons
Checking to the head	1	6	10	20	1 Season	2 Seasons
Cross checking	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Elbows	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Fighting – off playing surface	1	10	20	30	1 Season	2 Seasons

Fighting – punching downed opponent	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Fighting – third player in	1	3	6	12		
Fighting – unwilling combatant	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Head Butt	1	4	8	15	20	1 Season
High sticks	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Holding face-cage	1	2	4	6		
Hooking	1	2	4	8		
Icing an illegal player (suspension for player)	1	2	4	6		
Interference	1	2	6	12	20	1 Season
Kicking	1	3	6	12	20	1 Season
Kneeing	1	3	6	12	20	1 Season
Leaving the bench or penalty box during an altercation	1	2	4	8		
Netminder using blocker to punch	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Obscene gesture linked to racist abuse	1					2 Season
Obscene gesture towards the crowd	1	4	8	12		
Obscene gesture towards/at an opposing player, official or off ice official	1	2	4	8		
Persists to challenge or dispute officials ruling	1	2	4	6		
Playing Suspended Players (suspension for player)	1	2	4	6		
Racial or sexual slur by inappropriate language rather than with malicious intent	1			10	1 Season	2 Seasons
Racial or sexual slur to any member of the crowd	1					4-10 Years
Racial or sexual slur with malicious intent to any	1					4-10 Years

player/official or off ice official						
Refusing to start a game	1	5				
Resisting Official	1	4	8	16	30	1 Season
Slashing	1	3	6	12	20	1 Season
Slew footing	1	4	8	16	30	1 Season
Spearing	1	4	8	12	20	1 Season
Spitting towards/at an opposing player, official or off ice official	1	10	20	30	1 Season	2 Seasons
Throwing equipment (off the playing surface)	1	2	8	15	1 Season	2 Season
Throwing equipment (on the playing surface)	1	2	4	8	12	1 Season
Tripping	1	2	4	6		
Unsportsmanlike conduct	1	2	6	10	20	1 Season

All are subject to the discretion of the DOPS Associate.

Please note:

1. Any major penalty with a game misconduct as detailed in the above table, the recommended starting suspensions are subject to change at any time. Refer to Section 5.7 for more information.
2. All major penalties with a game misconduct will result in the player being suspended for a minimum of one game. The level of suspension for penalties over and above one game will be based on the referee's report/game sheet. See appendix I for more information.
3. Any player receiving a suspension will serve the suspension at the league level it has been given, only once this suspension is served at the league level it was received will they be permitted to recommence play in other leagues.

Example: A 16-year-old player plays U18, NIHL 1, NIHL 2, and National, and received a suspension from play at NIHL 2 level. They are not permitted to play in any league until the suspension has been served at NIHL 2. Should there be insufficient games in the season to complete the suspension this will continue into the next season.

4. All players receiving a major penalty with a game misconduct highlighted above will wait for notification from their DOPS associate before resuming any participation in games. A

red flag will be raised against their name on the discipline management system (formerly Fixtures Live) and will be amended for the length of suspension once assessed.

5. Any changes to the guide to suspensions and sanctions for match penalties or game misconduct penalties will be notified through the EIH website, and all persons, teams/clubs are expected to regularly check the DOPS section of the website.
6. The DOPS Committee may apply supplementary, or alternative, sanctions at its discretion including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) Further match suspensions;
 - b) Suspended suspensions for a period to be identified and notified by the DOPS Committee to the club/team/person;
 - c) Suspension from all ice hockey for a period to be identified and notified by the DOPS Committee to the club/team/person;
 - d) Suspension of a coaching or playing license and/or registration.
7. During the identified league season, only league games will count towards a suspension. The following types of games will not count towards a suspension and do not qualify as games played:
 - a) Challenge/charity games whatever the circumstances of authorisation;
 - b) Double point games (only count as one game for the suspension);
 - c) Forfeited league games;
 - d) Awarded league games.
8. Suspensions will be deemed to carry over to the next age group should the individual not have served the full suspension in the previous age group.
9. Suspensions will carry over to the next season, should the suspension not have been served in full during the previous season.
10. Two-way players facing suspension will be obligated to complete their entire suspension period within the NIHL league for which it was imposed. Moreover, the suspension will be extended to the Elite League, resulting in the player being barred from competing for an equal number of game days across both their EIHL and NIHL teams. Equally, a suspension issued in the Elite League will also apply to a player registered with an NIHL team for the same number of games in NIHL competition.

For instance, if a player receives a 6-game suspension at the NIHL National level, they will be unavailable to play at Elite League level for 6 game days (combining both the EIHL and NIHL leagues). In cases where both teams have matches on the same day, it will be counted as a single game day. EIHL games will not be counted towards their EIH suspension.

Example:

	NIHL Game Day	EIHL Game Day	Game Day Count	
Sat	Game Day	Game Day	1	
Sun	Game Day	Game Day	2	
Wed		Game Day	3	
Sat	Game Day	Game Day	4	
Sun	Game Day	Game Day	5	
Wed		Game Day	6	EIHL Suspension Served – Player
Sat	Game Day			
Sun	Game Day			NIHL Suspension Served – Player
Wed				
Sat	Game Day			
Sun	Game Day			

APPENDIX D:

Penalty Points for Players

The tariff below should be considered as the usual Penalty Points Sanction for players for all offences, although the level of sanction remains at the discretion of the DOPS Committee.

Penalty	Penalty Point Sanction
Minor penalty:	Team penalty of 2 minutes of game time served by the offending player in the penalty box.
5-minute penalty:	5-minute penalty served by the offending player in the penalty box. 1 point
10-minute misconduct penalty:	Personal penalty of 10 minutes of game time served by the offending player in the penalty box. 2 points
Game misconduct penalty:	Personal penalty and game expulsion for the remainder of the game. 4 points
5 + game misconduct penalty:	Major penalty and game expulsion for the remainder of the game. 5 points (all offences)

APPENDIX E:

Accumulated Penalty Points for Players

Any player reaching the following accumulated penalty points is automatically suspended in line with the tariff set out in the table below:

Penalty Points	Suspension
10 points	2 games
15 points	3 games
20 points	4 games
25 points	5 games
30 points	Full suspension for rest of the season

There is no appeal against any accumulated point suspension.

APPENDIX F:

Penalty Points for Coaches/Managers/Bench Officials

Game Misconduct Penalty

5 penalty points plus an automatic 1 game suspension

Note: The above-mentioned sanctions will serve as a starting point and will be subject to further review on a case-by-case basis.

In certain circumstances, the penalties outlined above may be increased based on the severity of the offense. Additionally, coaches, managers, and bench officials will be held to the same standards as players and may also face increased sanctions based on the specific circumstances of the incident. Please refer to Appendix C for further information on DOPS procedures.

APPENDIX G: Failure to Fulfil a Fixture

In addition to the automatic forfeit results imposed, the following sanctions will also be applied.

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 DOPS Committee.

Age Group	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4
U10	N/A	£50	£200	Expelled
U12	N/A	£50	£200	Expelled
U14	N/A	£100	£400	Expelled
U16	N/A	£125	£500	Expelled
U18	N/A	£125	£500	Expelled
WNIHL	N/A	£125	£500	Expelled
NIHL 2	£150	£750	£3,000	Expelled
NIHL 1	£250	£1,000	£4,000	Expelled
NIHL	£500	£1,000	£5,000	Expelled

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 DOPS 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 may 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 the EIH to support any such financial claim(s) from a non-offending team, supporting documentation must be provided on request and approved by the EIH as outlined in the EIH Rule Book under 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.

APPENDIX H:

Supplementary notes on the implementation of suspensions and the DOPS process for the 2023-24 season.

Procedures

All suspensions for match penalties will initially be reviewed and assessed by the relevant DOPS department. In the case of extreme or unusual incidents considered to require a longer or shorter suspension than would usually be assessed the DOPS associate will make a recommendation and refer the matter to two other members of the DOPS committee for approval. The usual appeal procedures will apply if any suspension assessed is of sufficient severity to be open to appeal under the DOPS rules.

Note: A match referee or any PSA representative may initiate action under this policy

Attempts to circumvent DOPS procedures

If any club official or player tries to bypass these procedures by contacting an EIH official who is not involved in the relevant stage of the DOPS process to influence the outcome, they will be subject to DOPS action (or additional DOPS action). In the case of parents or guardians of junior players, the incident will be reported to the player's club(s) to take necessary action.

Publicity/transparency

For the 2023-24 season NIHL/WNIHL suspensions will be shown on the EIH website as soon as possible after they have been assessed.

APPENDIX I:

EIH DOPS Supplementary Discipline Process

1. **Initial Suspension:** A player receiving a major penalty with game misconduct automatically receives a 1-game suspension.
2. **Evidence Collection:** The game sheet and match officials' reports are submitted to the EIH DOPS team.
3. **Incident Review:** The relevant DOPS official for the league reviews the incident, and the 1-game suspension may be increased depending on severity.
4. **Preliminary Decision:** A decision is made based on the officials' statements, their on-ice positions, and this is supplemented by video evidence (if available).
5. **Escalation (if needed):** Tier 2 offences or higher are escalated to the DOPS GM for panel review.
6. **Incorrect Decision Handling:** If video shows a clear and obvious incorrect on-ice call, the EIH DOPS Liaison Officer will contact IHUK for further review. In the event an incorrect call has been made, IHUK will meet with the match night officials to discuss the incident, review the video footage, provide feedback on why the decision has been reached and the footage can then be used for future training camps.
7. **DOPS Penalty Point Tracker Update:** Utilised across all 27 EIH leagues, this tool diligently monitors all major penalties throughout the season, keeping a running tally of player penalty points and combined team penalty point totals. After an update to the tracker, the DOPS team can instantly view a player's total penalty points, determining if the player has reached a specific limit that triggers an additional suspension. This streamlined process ensures that disciplinary actions are consistent and aligned with the severity of infractions.
8. **Club Notification:** The player's club is notified via an online form.
9. **Communication to DOPS GM:** The decision and reasoning are communicated to the DOPS GM.
10. **Press Release (if applicable):** For senior-level hockey, a press release is generated for release 24 hours after club notification.
11. **Public Release of Video Footage:** At the national division level, video footage of incidents leading to suspensions will be publicly released.
12. **Detailed Narrative with Video:** Videos will come with detailed narratives explaining the circumstances, rationale for offence classification, tariff level, and reasoning behind decisions.
13. **Transparency Initiative:** This includes significant suspensions within the NIHL1 and NIHL2 leagues.

This comprehensive process ensures that discipline is maintained within the EIH, with clear procedures for handling major penalties and providing transparency to clubs and the public.

APPENDIX J:

Definitions

“A player/coach” means a player who is dually registered with the EIH as a player and a coach

“Accumulated penalty points” means the DOPS points accumulated by a person or team because of misconduct penalties

“Appeal” means an appeal against the decision of the DOPS Committee within the context of the rules

“Appeals panel” means the panel established to consider appeals of DOPS Committee decisions.

“Appellant” means a player, club, team or person who has made an appeal “Awarded League Games” means league points awarded for any reason “Challenge Games” means non-league or cup competition game

“Club” means a club that is a member of the EIH

“Coach” means a person who coaches or manages an ice hockey team

“DOPS Proceedings” means proceedings relating to a DOPS matter that has come before, or will come before, the DOPS Committee

“Double point games” means points awarded for 1 game played for 2 scheduled “EIH” means the England Ice Hockey

“Executive Committee” means the committee delegated to carry out executive functions on behalf of the EIH

“Forfeited league games” means points removed from league standings for any reason

“Game misconduct penalty” means a penalty where a person is ejected and is sent to the team’s dressing room

“Game sheets” means game results document

“IIHF” means the worldwide governing body for the sport of ice hockey

“League games” means individual competitive games

“League season” means total competitive games scheduled

“Major penalty” means a penalty for a more severe infringing of the rules than a minor penalty and will lead the infringing player to remain off the ice for 5 minutes of play

“Minor penalty” means a team penalty that lasts for 2 minutes, and the offending player is sent to the penalty box

“Misconduct” means any personal act which has brought or may bring the game of ice hockey into disrepute

“Misconduct report” means a report produced by the DOPS Associate for the DOPS Committee.

“Misconduct penalty” means a personal penalty where the player will remain off the ice for 10 minutes

“NIHL” means the English National Ice Hockey League

“Penalty point fines system” means the fines system operated by the EIH for clubs and teams

“Penalty points” means the points a player receives for committing certain offences

“Penalty points sanction” means a sanction against a person as consequence of accumulating a requisite number of penalty points

“Penalty points system” means the system for the ordering of penalty points

“Penalty/penalties” means the general term for any minor penalty, major penalty, misconduct penalty, game misconduct penalty and any penalty called by a game referee based on offences described in the current IIHF Official Rule Book, IIHF Case Book, Coach/Manager Code of Conduct and the EIH In House Rules that incur an automatic suspension

“Person” means a player, member, director, official, bench official, officer, team owner, employee, worker, fan/supporter, agent or representative of a club or team and any other person involved in or connected to the game of Ice Hockey in any way on behalf of a club, team or otherwise

“Player” means a person who plays the game of ice hockey for a team or a club

“Referee” means a person who presides over a game of Ice Hockey and has full authority to enforce the laws of the game of ice hockey in connection with the match to which he has been appointed

“Referees report” means game incident report by the match officials

“Supplementary DOPS sanction” means any additional sanction ordered by the DOPS Committee at its discretion

“Suspended player” means a player who is suspended under the EIH DOPS Rules

“Team” means a team that plays the game of ice hockey

“The Coaching Program” means the Coach Education Program

“The DOPS Committee” means a sub-committee of the England Ice Hockey delegated with the task of dealing with ice hockey related and general DOPS matters

“The Executive Committee” means the Board of Directors of the England Ice Hockey

“The Referee in Chief” means head of all referees and communication point for DOPS Committee and Executive Committee for refereeing matters

“The rules” means the England Ice Hockey DOPS Rules and Procedures.

“Sports Resolutions” means Sports Resolutions (UK) Limited, of 1 Salisbury Square, LONDON, EC4Y 8AE, a trading name of the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Ltd (Company No: 3351039)



England Ice Hockey
Ice Sheffield, Coleridge Road, Sheffield S9
5DA
info@englandicehockey.com
Englandicehockey.com