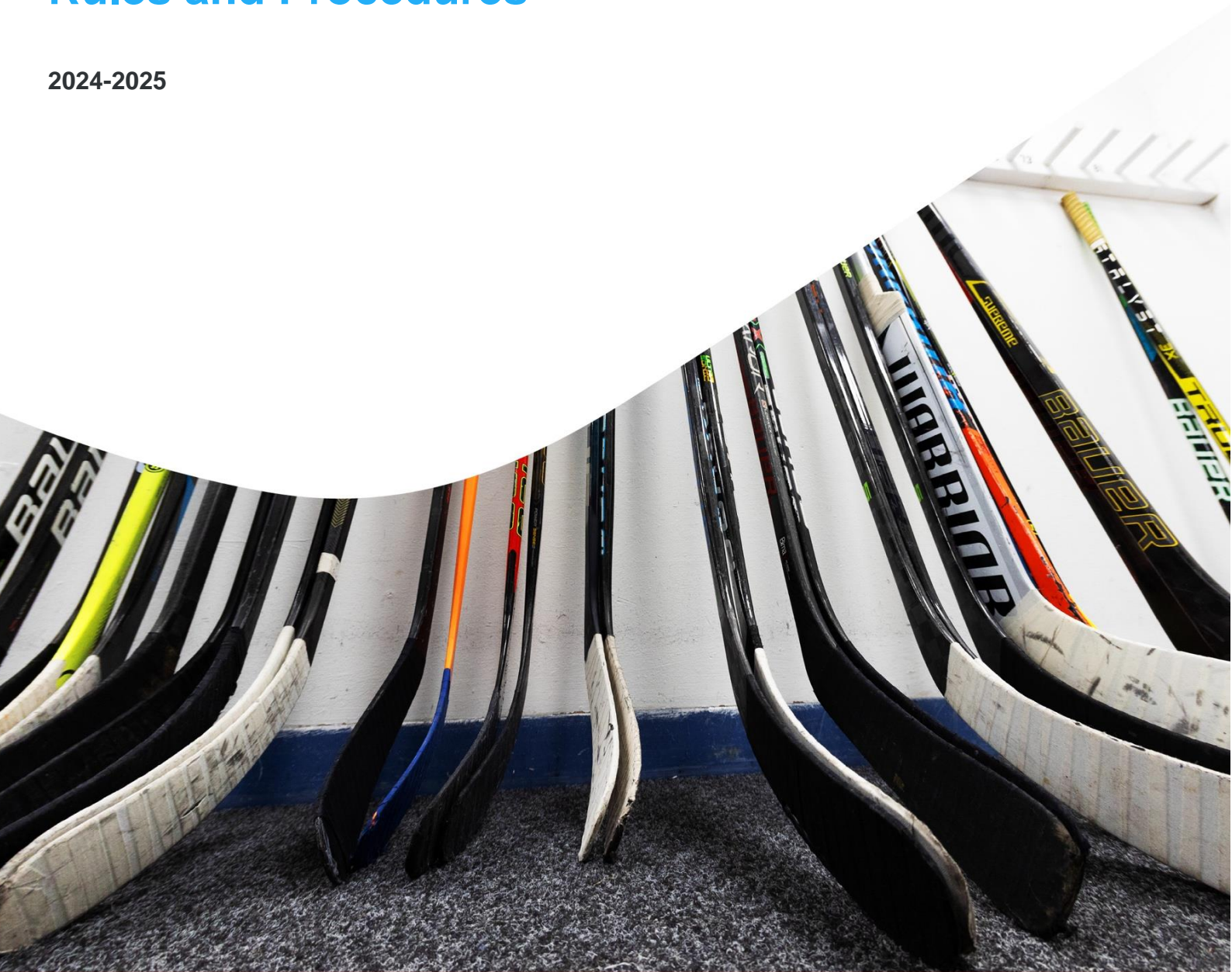


DOPS

Department of Player Safety

Rules and Procedures

2024-2025



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of the following document is to provide a clear and concise overview of the England Ice Hockey (EIH) Department of Player Safety (DOPS) Rules and Procedures. This information is intended for all EIH stakeholders to promote fair, orderly, and consistent application of all 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 any DOPS matter before contacting DOPS as per section 4.

2. Mission Statement

- 2.1. The mission of the EIH Department of Player Safety (DOPS) is to promote integrity, fairness, and safety within the sport of ice hockey. We aim to enforce the rules and regulations outlined in the IIHF Rule Book, EIH in-house rules and the EIH DOPS Policy, ensuring a respectful and enjoyable experience for all participants.
- 2.2. 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 appeals management, we aim to instil trust and confidence in our DOPS process.
- 2.3. 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, building collaborative relationships with relevant stakeholders to continuously improve our processes and align with the evolving needs of the ice hockey community.
- 2.4. We are committed to operating transparently, engaging in effective internal and external communication, 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 all DOPS matters shall be raised to the DOPS inbox only (discipline@englandicehockey.com) The DOPS Coordinator will confirm receipt and the steps that will be taken to investigate and resolve the matter.
- 4.2. Requests & Inquiries must be submitted via email by the club/team associate only. Correspondence from other sources will not be considered, nor responded to.
- 4.3. Email is the preferred method of communication for DOPS matters. It provides a clear record of all correspondence and helps to minimise any potential misunderstandings.
- 4.4. To ensure that all communications are accurately recorded, please refrain from contacting the DOPS associates through any other means or directly. If reaching out directly DOPS will not be held responsible for any delayed response or matters resulting from lack of response in this scenario. Only reach out directly to a DOPS associate in exceptional circumstances as agreed upon in advance.

5. Department of Player Safety

- 5.1. DOPS is a sub-department of the EIH responsible for handling ice hockey-related and general discipline matters. The department has the authority to impose any sanctions specified in the rules and appendices.
- 5.2. DOPS shall be composed of a minimum of three individuals aged 18 or over, who are members of the EIH's discipline section. DOPS General Manager(s) 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 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. DOPS 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 EIH Appeals Panel shall be entitled to exercise such powers.
- 5.8. DOPS may impose an 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. DOPS shall ensure that such action does not unfairly prejudice the player, person, or club/team.
- 5.9. Unless DOPS or the EIH Executive Committee decides otherwise in its sole discretion, a DOPS Committee will be convened in the following circumstances
- 5.10. 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, EIH/NIHL Code of Conduct, and EIH/NIHL In-House Rules that incur an automatic suspension.
- 5.11. The DOPS Committee shall be convened when any person or team commits an act of misconduct, which is defined as any illegal or unsporting behaviour by a player, club, team, or supporter during a game or outside of it that may potentially harm the reputation of ice hockey, EIH, or its commercial partners. This includes any violation of the Code(s) of Conduct.
- 5.12. While it is not feasible to create an all-encompassing list of behaviours that may qualify as misconduct under the rules, Appendix A provides examples of misconduct, which includes each type of behaviour exhibited by a club/team and/or its players, its persons or supporters.
- 5.13. The mechanism for convening the DOPS Committee is as follows when a penalty is called:
 - 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.
 - If there are instances/ incidents of misconduct that are not related to a penalty, the head of the relevant section shall investigate the allegations and create a report to be presented to the DOPS Committee.
- 5.14. While the above procedure is recommended, the EIH Executive Committee and DOPS hold the right to modify it if they consider it necessary. The full supplementary discipline process can be found in Appendix I.
- 5.15. To ensure an efficient and effective DOPS Procedure, all clubs/teams must submit all game related paperwork via a Cognito Form by 10pm Monday after a Friday/ weekend game or within 24 hours of a midweek game.
<https://www.cognitoforms.com/englishicehockeyassociation/eihgamesheetsubmission>.

- 5.16. 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 mid-week.

6. Penalty Points

- 6.1. The EIH has established a system of penalty points for both players, coaches and teams. This system involves the accumulation of penalty points for committing offences and receiving penalties prior, during and after games.
- 6.2. The EIH employs a penalty points system that awards points to players, coaches and teams for committing offenses and receiving penalties. The penalty points tariff for players is provided in Appendix D; however, DOPS 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, coaching in any form, present on the bench 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 tariff for automatic suspensions.

8. Additional Sanctions for Playing a Suspended Player

- 8.1. In the event a team plays a suspended player additional sanctions will apply.
- 8.2. The individuals responsible for the offence, such as the Team Coach and/or Head Coach, will each be suspended for two games.
- 8.3. 10 penalty points will be added to the team's penalty points total.
- 8.4. A team that plays an ineligible player 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 Section 11.

- 9.2. The penalty points sanctions for all offenses committed by coaches, managers, equipment staff 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, DOPS 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 ALL levels, any game misconduct penalty received will lead to a suspension of up to 3 games.
- 9.5. DOPS may apply additional 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 Penalty points during a season, any coach identified by the DOPS GM(s) & Coaches GM as having responsibility for that team will receive an automatic two-game suspension.
- 9.7. DOPS can initiate disciplinary proceedings against any coach found to be in violation of the code of conduct.
- 9.8. If a team accumulates 100 Penalty points or more in a season, any coach identified by DOPS GM(s) & Coaches GM will be automatically suspended and required to appear at a Coaches GM & DOPS panel 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 an NIHL game be 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. All recording must also take place in conjunction with EIH's Filming and Photography Policy as outlined in the Safeguarding section.
- 10.3. 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
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11. Sanctions for Player-Coaches

- 11.1. A player registered as a player-coach or a coach registered as a player-coach, who receives a suspension in either role is suspended. The coaching/player suspension is for the same length as the playing/coaching suspension.
- 11.2. 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 already suspended by DOPS who then partakes again in another game at that level and or age group whilst suspended, then DOPS will extend his subsequent suspension 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 U16 and U19 teams, has received a two-match suspension following a U16 game. As a result, he is prohibited from any coaching duties until the end of the suspension period for the U16 game. Even if there is an U19 game scheduled during the suspension period for the U19 game, Coach A will still not be allowed to perform any coaching duties for the U19 team.

- 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. They should remain 20 metres or more from the bench.
- 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. Sanctions will be applied in respect of a coach who is serving a suspension, and breaches rule 12.3 or 12.4.
- 12.6. The offending coach may at the discretion of DOPS receive a further two game suspension.
- 12.7. The offending team (i.e. the team which has allowed the suspended coach to coach) may at the discretion of DOPS receive a further 10 penalty points.

12.8. 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 Points Fine System for Teams

13.1. When a team accumulates penalty points (including penalty points accrued by players, persons, coaches, managers, equipment staff 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
U19	£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 Executive Committee, and DOPS adopts a zero-tolerance approach in this respect.

14.2. Sanctions may be applied when any team fails to start or complete a fixture in any circumstances.

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

14.4. If a team is found to be at fault for a game cancellation, they will forfeit the game with a 5-0 score in favour of the non-offending team.

14.5. If both teams are at fault, the game will be recorded as a 0-0 draw without any points awarded.

14.6. 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.

14.7. NIHL Clubs may be fined up to £5,000.

14.8. Junior and WNIHL clubs, including U16 Girls, may be fined up to £2500

- 14.9. 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 opposing team. This included the ice time bill. (This is for the game only not any training sessions), On-Ice Official Fees at the current season rate (if attended), Travel for away team (this is only if a coach is booked and the coach company can provide evidence of the cost and that it could not be cancelled)
- 14.10. The EIH will not support the claiming of any additional costs or out of pocket expenses due to difficulties in verification. If clubs wish to claim these, this will have to be arranged without EIH Intervention.
- 14.11. The offending team may be expelled from the league to which they are affiliated.
- 14.12. 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

- 15.1. 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.
- 15.2. 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, X (formally known as Twitter), Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, Threads, YouTube, blogs, podcasts and forums.
- 15.3. 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.
- 15.4. 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.
- 15.5. Confidentiality: Do not share confidential information pertaining to the EIH, its activities, or its members. This includes internal communications, unpublished statistics, and team strategies.
- 15.6. Endorsements: Be cautious when endorsing products, causes, or political views as it may imply an endorsement on behalf of the EIH.

- 15.7. **Game Integrity:** Do not post content that compromises the integrity of games, such as rumours about match-fixing or the health statuses of players.
- 15.8. **Media Relations:** Do not publicly criticise officiating, management, any EIH department or EIH policy. Channels exist within the EIH structure for airing grievances or offering suggestions.
- 15.9. **Reporting:** Violations of this policy should be reported to the DOPS within 72 hours of the discovery of the offense. Please include screenshots when you are able to. This will be forwarded to the GM of EIH Safeguarding for consideration and report findings.
- 15.10. **Enforcement:** Further to report findings, any violations will be actioned, 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.
- 15.11. **Appeals against disciplinary action related to this social media policy must be submitted in writing to the DOPS General Manager(s) within 7 working days of the action. Upon receipt of this will be forwarded to the EIH Appeals Panel.**
- 15.12. 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 Information Requests

- 16.1. Teams are expected to fully cooperate with DOPS 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) within the required time period on the request will result in team sanctions.
- 16.2. 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 receipt. 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.

- 17.3. This may include a team's fixture(s) being withdrawn until the outstanding payment is settled. Any fixture withdrawn due to non-payment of fines will be treated in accordance with failure to fulfil a fixture.
- 17.4. This may include an individual being suspended from playing, coaching or managing, until which time as outstanding fees are settled.
- 17.5. 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.
- 17.6. A team may not be able to enter the next season's league whilst any payments remain outstanding outside of the above payment terms.
- 17.7. An individual may not be able to re-register with the EIH whilst any payments remain outstanding outside of the above payment terms.

18. EIH Appeals

- 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;
- 18.3. Has the opportunity to be heard in support of the appeal;
- 18.4. 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:
- 19.2. 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.

- 19.3. Where an exclusion order has been made in relation to an ice hockey arena/venue.
- 19.4. Where the sanction amounts to an expulsion from the membership of/affiliation to the EIH.
- 19.5. Where a suspension is classed as a tariff 2 offence or higher.
- 19.6. 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 and 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@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 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 deposit amount is £400 for all NIHL Teams.
- 21.5. The deposit amount is £250 for all WNIHL Teams and Junior Teams
- 21.6. The Notice of Appeal shall state: The name of the appellant, The decision appealed against, 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.
- 21.7. Except as provided in the rules, no specific form or notice is required.

- 21.8. 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.
- 21.9. 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.
- 21.10. 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.
- 21.11. 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.
- 21.12. 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.
- 21.13. Appeals Panel hearings shall be conducted in private.
- 21.14. Deliberations of the Appeals Panel shall be conducted in private.
- 21.15. 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 one of four decisions.
- 21.16. Allow the appeal, in which case all sanctions against the appellant shall be removed.
- 21.17. Dismiss an appeal, in which case all sanctions against the appellant shall remain in effect.
- 21.18. Determine that a different sanction is appropriate and impose such a sanction.
- 21.19. 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.
- 21.20. 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.
- 21.21. 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 GDPR Policy.

- 21.22. After the hearing, the DOPS General Manager(s) will be notified of the decision to make any necessary amendments to paperwork, and to Gameday.
- 21.23. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding on all parties, subject to clause 22 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 22.1 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 <https://www.sportresolutions.com/>

24. Decision Review System (DRS) Policy

- 24.1. The Decision Review System is available to be used by teams in NIHL1, NIHL 2, all WNIHL teams and all Junior teams.
- 24.2. The PINIHL manage their own video review process. An game reviewer will review all major penalties assessed and communicate any decisions to DOPS via a Cognito form. No team in this league are eligible to use this process.
- 24.3. All teams are permitted 3 reviews per season. A review will either be refuted (disagreed with), upheld (agreed with), deemed there is no outcome (a decision could not be made due to poor video or any other mitigating circumstance)
- 24.4. If a review is refuted the team will lose one review.
- 24.5. If a review is upheld no review is lost.
- 24.6. No review will be lost for a no outcome response to the review.
- 24.7. NIHL 1, NIHL 2 and WNIHL clubs can request further reviews. However, if the club have used their permitted 3 reviews and the additional review is refuted a £100 fine will be issued. The fine will be managed as per section 17 of this procedures guide.
- 24.8. NIHL 1, NIHL 2 and WNIHL clubs can request a review in the case of misjustice, reviewing major penalties that were not originally called during gameplay or on the grounds of player safety.
- 24.9. Junior and U16 Girls clubs can request a review in the case of misjustice only. No other calls can be reviewed, and the request can only be submitted by the player's club. The review cannot be used to penalise a player.
- 24.10. All requests to be submitted via Cognito only. Email requests will be disregarded and not reviewed.
<https://www.cognitoforms.com/EnglishIceHockeyAssociation/DRSVideoReviewRequest>
- 24.11. This should be submitted by 10pm, Tuesday after a Friday or weekend face off.
- 24.12. If the review is related to a midweek game, this should be received by 10pm, 2 days after the game. i.e. a 7pm faceoff on a Wednesday, the latest a review can be submitted is 10pm Friday.
- 24.13. Whole game footage will be not be reviewed and should not be supplied.

- 24.14. The incident should be snipped from the footage including 1 minute either side of the incident. This should be uploaded to a private YouTube channel or sent on a file transfer service that can be downloaded easily without requesting permissions (such as WeTransfer.)
- 24.15. Only club recorded footage should be used. Fan recorded footage should not be used.
- 24.16. If the home team do not upload video in time to allow a submission, the visiting team can request an extension.
- 24.17. This should be flagged by 10pm Tuesday or within 48 hours of a mid-week game, to discipline@englandicehockey.com confirming that there is a delay as the club are waiting for video to be uploaded.
- 24.18. No reviews will be considered under this process unless the extension is requested.
- 24.19. The review should be submitted within 24 hours of the video being available.
- 24.20. The video upload date and time will be checked to confirm that the request has been submitted within 24 hours.
- 24.21. All footage will be reviewed by a DOPS committee after the Tuesday deadline.
- 24.22. A response will be issued within 48 hours. This will be issued via Cognito.
- 24.23. The review is based purely on the video upload and context provided on the request. No appeal will be considered for the review outcome.
- 24.24. Please refer to Section 18 for the appeals process if further supplementary discipline is issued based on the review outcome and you wish to appeal.
- 24.25. Any video reviews completed by the review process managed by the PNIHL must be submitted on a Cognito form to flag to DOPS to flag that the review has taken place and if any DOPS action is required including highlighting any penalty downgrade.

25. General Principles Applicable to all DOPS Matters

- 25.1. The EIH Executive Committee, DOPS, 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/NIHL, Juniors & WNIHL in-house rules.

- 25.2. Procedures or proceedings under these rules or any decision of DOPS 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 DOPS (or the Appeals Panel).
- 25.4. In respect of any matter not provided for in the rules, the decision of DOPS 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.
- 26.2. A player, who only plays at one level, 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. DOPS has the authority under the rules to extend the suspension to include all games and leagues as necessary, over the duration of the suspension.
- 26.3. A player who plays at multiple levels such as a junior player who may play at U14 and U16 for example will require to sit their suspension at both levels allowing an earlier return to play. Please refer to Appendix K for further guidance.
- 26.4. 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.
- 26.5. Suspensions issued by other governing bodies will be fully upheld by the EIH.
- 26.6. Players new to the EIH league structure will be required to serve the duration of their suspension at their new club.
- 26.7. 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.

- 26.8. 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. There must be no participation in any capacity (playing, coaching in any form, present on the bench or otherwise) Failure to comply with this rule may result in further sanctions from DOPS.

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 EIHC. 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 Old)

- 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 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.

30. Criminal Charges/Investigations

- 30.1. DOPS reserves the right to suspend all parties where a person or player is subject to a criminal allegation.
- 30.2. Once the matter has been dealt with by the statutory authorities, the EIHC and DOPS reserves the right to take further action in accordance with the Rules.
- 30.3. The non-offending person will be subject to a risk assessment in relation to returning to play.

- 30.4. 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.

31. Suspension Pending Hearing

- 31.1. DOPS 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. DOPS 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 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 email account.

33. Notification

- 33.1. The EIH Board 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.

34. Injury Notification

- 34.1. Any form of injury during a game should be notified via Cognito.
<https://www.cognitoforms.com/EnglishIceHockeyAssociation/InjuryReportForm>
- 34.2. DOPS reserve the right to only consider the impact of an injury when deciding a suspension, when a form is completed.

APPENDIX A

Non-Exhaustive List of Misconduct Offences

- 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.
- 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.
- Any acts, statements, or conduct that discriminate based on religion, race, sex, sexual orientation, colour, national, or ethnic origin.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Any breaches of the Codes of Conduct.
- 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.
- Failure, delay or refusal to comply with an order made under the rule.
- 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.

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

APPENDIX B

Non-Exhaustive List of Misconduct Sanctions

- A caution, warning as to future conduct, reprimand.
- A fine.
- A suspension for a specified number of matches or period of time.
- Exclusion orders from ice hockey arenas/venues.
- Suspension from involvement in ice hockey officiating and/or administration.
- Suspension or expulsion from participation in any competition.
- Expulsion from membership of/affiliation to the EIH.
- Any Coach and or Team Official may be required to attend an Educational Course.
- 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.

Those Offences that do have a Mandatory suspension, 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: Tariff 1 up to 3 Games
- Verbal abuse with foul language: Tariff 2 up to 6 Games
- Verbal abuse with threats: Tariff 3 up to 10 Games
- 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- All Age Groups

Penalty	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4	Tariff 5
Boarding	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Checking from Behind	Up to 4	Up to 8	Up to 12	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Checking to Head or Neck (Head Butt)	Up to 4	Up to 8	Up to 12	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Charging	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Clipping	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Cross Checking	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Hooking	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Kneeing	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Tripping	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Elbows	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Spearing	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Butt Ending	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Kicking	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Slashing	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Slew Footing	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
High Sticking	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting – Punching Downed Opponent	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting - 3rd Player In	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting – Unwilling Combatant	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting off the playing surface	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting in the last 5 Minutes of a game (plus any other penalty)	Mandatory 1 game				

Penalty	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4	Tariff 5
Obscene Gesture – towards Player, Official, Off Ice Official	Up to 3	Up to 6	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Obscene Gesture linked to Racist abuse	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Obscene Gesture towards Spectators	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Racial or Sexual Slur by/with Inappropriate Language rather than with Malicious Intent	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Racial or Sexual Slur with Malicious Intent.	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Blood Smearing/Spitting at or on an opponent/Official/Off Ice Official or Spectator	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Verbal Abuse of Official – Profane/Obscene/Racist & Sexual Slur.	Up to 3	Up to 6	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Physical Abuse of Official	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Interference	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Holding Face Cage Altercation	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Throwing Equipment	Up to 3	Up to 7	Up to 12	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Netminder using Blocker or Catcher	Up to 3	Up to 7	Up to 12	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Refusing to Start or Continue game (Coach)	Mandatory 5 game - Coach				
Playing Suspended Players	Mandatory 3 game - Coach				

All are subject to the discretion of the DOPS Associate irrespective of tariff or age group.

Senior Leagues- PINHL/ NIHL 1/ NIHL 2/ WNIHL

Penalty	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4	Tariff 5
Boarding	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Checking from Behind	Up to 4	Up to 8	Up to 12	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Checking to Head or Neck (Head Butt)	Up to 4	Up to 8	Up to 12	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Charging	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Clipping	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Cross Checking	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Hooking	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Kneeing	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Tripping	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Elbows	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Spearing	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Butt Ending	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Kicking	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Slashing	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Slew Footing	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
High Sticking	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting – Punching Downed Opponent	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting - 3rd player In	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting – Unwilling Combatant	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 7	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting off the playing surface	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Fighting in the last 5 Minutes of a game (plus any other penalty)	Mandatory 1 game				

Penalty	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4	Tariff 5
Obscene Gesture – towards Player, Official, Off Ice Official	Up to 3	Up to 6	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Obscene Gesture linked to Racist abuse	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Obscene Gesture towards Spectators	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Racial or Sexual Slur by/with Inappropriate Language rather than with Malicious Intent	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Racial or Sexual Slur with Malicious Intent.	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Blood Smearing/Spitting at or on an opponent/Official/Off Ice Official or Spectator	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Verbal Abuse of Official – Profane/Obscene/Racist & Sexual Slur.	Up to 3	Up to 6	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Physical Abuse of Official	Up to 6	Up to 8	Up to 10	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Interference	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Holding Face cage Altercation	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 6	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Throwing Equip	Up to 3	Up to 7	Up to 12	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Netminder using Blocker or Catcher	Up to 3	Up to 7	Up to 12	Up to 1 Season	1 Season plus
Refusing to Start or Continue Game (Coach)	Mandatory 5 game - Coach				
Playing Suspended players	Mandatory 3 game - Coach				

All are subject to the discretion of the DOPS Associate irrespective of tariff or age group.

Please note:

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. For any suspension issued to a player, club, team, or individual, please refer to Section 26.

All players receiving major penalties will be monitored. Any consistent reoffenders may receive additional supplementary discipline. This is at DOPS discretion.

The DOPS Committee may apply supplementary, or alternative, sanctions at its discretion including, but not limited to, the following:

- Further match suspensions.
- Suspended suspensions for a period to be identified and notified by the DOPS Committee to the club/team/person.
- Suspension from all ice hockey for a period to be identified and notified by the DOPS Committee to the club/team/person.
- Suspension of a coaching or playing license and/or registration.
- Any Coach and or Team Official may be required to attend an Educational Course.

During the identified league season, only league games will count towards a suspension.

For suspensions at any Junior Level, games at Showcase and Junior National Finals do count towards a suspension.

The following types of games will not count towards a suspension and do not qualify as games played:

- Challenge/charity games whatever the circumstances of authorisation.
- Double point games (only count as one game for the suspension);
- Forfeited league games.
- Awarded league games.
- Sanctions Tournaments

Suspensions will carry over to the next season, should the suspension not have been served in full during the previous season.

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 EIHL 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	
Sat	Game Day			<hr/> EIHL Suspension Served – Player
Sun	Game Day			<hr/> 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.

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/Team Officials

Game Misconduct Penalty: 5 team 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
U19	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 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 2024-25 Season.

Procedures

All suspensions for Game Misconduct (Coach/Team Official) & 5+Game Misconduct penalties will initially be reviewed and assessed by the relevant DOPS associate. 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 IHUK 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.

APPENDIX I

DOPS Supplementary Discipline Process

1. Initial Suspension: A player receiving a major penalty with game misconduct which does not have a mandatory suspension will be subject to a review.
2. Evidence Collection: The game sheet and match officials' reports are submitted to the DOPS team.
3. Incident Review: The relevant DOPS official for the league reviews the incident and depending on severity of the offence, the appropriate Tariff & Suspension will be applied.
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): Tariff 2 offences or higher are escalated to 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 liaise 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 EIH leagues, this tool diligently monitors all major & misconduct 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, the suspension will be published on the EIH website within 36 hours of the club being made aware.
11. 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: a player who is dually registered with the EIHC as a player and a coach

Accumulated penalty points: the DOPS points accumulated by a person or team because of misconduct penalties

Appeal: an appeal against the decision of the DOPS Committee within the context of the rules

Appeals panel: the panel established to consider appeals of DOPS Committee decisions.

Appellant: a player, club, team or person who has made an appeal

Awarded League Games: means league points awarded for any reason

Challenge Games: non-league or cup competition game

Club: a club that is a member of the EIHC

Coach: a person who coaches or manages an ice hockey team

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

Double point games: points awarded for 1 game played for 2 scheduled

EIHC: means the England Ice Hockey

Executive Committee: the committee delegated to carry out executive functions on behalf of the EIHC

Forfeited league games: points removed from league standings for any reason

Game misconduct penalty: a penalty where a person is ejected and is sent to the team's dressing room

Game sheets: game results document

IIHF: the worldwide governing body for the sport of ice hockey

League games: individual competitive games

League season: total competitive games scheduled

Major penalty: 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: a team penalty that lasts for 2 minutes, and the offending player is sent to the penalty box

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

Misconduct report: a report produced by the DOPS Associate for the DOPS Committee.

Misconduct penalty: a personal penalty where the player will remain off the ice for 10 minutes

NIHL: the English National Ice Hockey League

Penalty point fines system: the fines system operated by the EIH for clubs and teams

Penalty points: the points a player receives for committing certain offences

Penalty points sanction: 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: 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: 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: a person who plays the game of ice hockey for a team or a club

Referee: 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: a game incident report by the match officials

Supplementary DOPS sanction: any additional sanction ordered by the DOPS Committee at its discretion

Suspended player: a player who is suspended under the EIH DOPS Rules

Team: a team that plays the game of ice hockey

The Coaching Program: the Coach Education Program

The DOPS Committee: 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: the Board of Directors of the England Ice Hockey

The Referee in Chief: IHUK representative responsible for Referees in the UK and communication point for DOPS Committee and Executive Committee for refereeing matters

The Rules: the England Ice Hockey DOPS Rules and Procedures.

Sports Resolutions: Sports Resolutions (UK) Limited, of 1 Salisbury Square, LONDON, EC4Y 8AE, a trading name of the Sports Dispute Resolution Pa

APPENDIX K

Suspensions at Multiple Levels

To allow the continued development of players who play at multiple levels of the support, suspensions will now be sat at all levels that the player participates in. This should allow a quicker return to play.

A Player plays for Basingstokes U16, U18s & NIHL

Received a 2 game suspension at U18s prior to October

Under Season 23-24 Rules.

He would miss a total of 11 games and wouldn't return until November 9th

Under proposed Season 24-25 Rules.

He would miss a total of 6 games, but returns for the U16s & NIHL on the 27th October & 19th October respectively

Whilst this means he serves 6 games in total, it will allow him to return for each level at the earliest possibility.

October								
	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun
Level	5th	6th	12th	13th	19th	20th	26th	27th
U16	XXXXX				XXXXX			XXXXX
U18		XXXXX					XXXXX	
NIHL	XXXXX		XXXXX		XXXXX		XXXXX	

November									
Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun
2nd	3rd	9th	10th	16th	17th	23rd	24th	30th	
	XXXXX		XXXXX					XXXXX	
		XXXXX				XXXXX			
XXXXX				XXXXX					

KEY	
XXXXX	Suspended from Playing
XXXXX	Free to play, having served his suspension



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