

Junior Section

Rules of Competition

2024-2025



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

1. Team Eligibility

- 1.1. To be eligible for any EIH competition, each team must:
 - Complete EIH affiliation prior to entering EIH competition in the following season.
 - Provide email and telephone details of a lead contact and fixtures secretary who will be the primary liaison for EIH.
 - Submit an expression of interest to enter a competition by 15 May prior to the start of the following season.
 - Make available sufficient home ice dates to fulfil their home league fixtures and must provide home ice dates to EIH within five working days of being asked. This number is defined annually and detailed in appendix A for each league.
 - Settle any outstanding club or team fines owed to EIH or EIH affiliated clubs.
 - Meet the minimum squad requirements outlined below:
 - Junior teams must have a minimum of 13 registered players within the appropriate age category, including a netminder (12 + 1).
 - To enter two teams in the league, teams must have a minimum of 24 registered players including 2 netminders (24 + 2). There is no maximum number of players for a team.
- 1.2. The minimum number of players, coaches and managers to enter a team in a league must be registered by 30th of August of the playing season. Failure to have the required numbers by this deadline may result in the team being removed from EIH competitions for that season.
- 1.3. Entering a second or third team into the league is at the discretion of EIH.
- 1.4. Junior clubs must have an EIH registered and qualified L2 (Team) Coach, L1 Assistant Coach and Team Manager available for teams on match days.
- 1.5. Team manager does not count towards bench strength, assistant managers are not permitted on the bench.
- 1.6. All clubs are strongly recommended to have a registered and qualified medical practitioner. Coaches can be registered elsewhere or shared with another team within the same club.
- 1.7. Please note that the minimum requirements for 2025/2026 will increase by +1 player.

2. Player Eligibility

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

3. Junior Age Eligibility

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

Age as of 31/12/2024	Year of Birth	League 2024/2025	Abbrev. 2024/2025
9 or below	2015-2021	Under 10	U10
10	2014	Under 12	U12
11	2013	Under 12	U12
12	2012	Under 14	U14
13	2011	Under 14	U14
14	2010	Under 16	U16
15	2009	Under 16	U16
16	2008	Under 18	U18
17	2007	Under 18	U18
18	2006	Under 19	U19*

*Div 2 Only

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

4. Movement of Players

- 4.1. Player movement between clubs and teams during the season can occur in the form of:
- Registering for more than one club (dual registration in Gameday)
 - Transfer between clubs or teams (permanent transfer in Gameday)
 - Emergency transfers (emergency transfer in Gameday)

- Dispensation to play-up an age group or division
- 4.2. The following regulations apply:
- All parties involved (primary club, secondary club, player and parent/guardian of the player) must agree to the terms of any agreement or transfer.
 - Applications must have been agreed in writing; e-mails between designated club officials are accepted and between all parties including parents/guardians where applicable.
 - Clubs must submit an official transfer request to EIH on the Gameday platform.
 - A minimum five days prior to the fixture being played must be given for the application to be considered for non-ITC card holders.
 - EIH eligibility rules still apply.
- 4.3. EIH must approve any movement of players between teams. EIH reserves the right to refuse any movement between teams at their sole discretion.
- 4.4. Emergency transfers will need to complete the [Player Pool Request form](#). No Emergency transfers will be approved unless this form is submitted.
- 4.5. No ENTP player or triallist (selected player) is eligible to register with or join a second team in their respective age group, unless agreed by the Junior Section GM.
- 4.6. Failure to comply with the above will mean the player is ineligible to play in all EIH competitions.
- 4.7. Should they do so, the team will be deemed as icing an ineligible player and the appropriate off-ice sanction will be applied by the Department of Player Safety.

5. ITC Restrictions

- 5.1. A limited ITC card holder may only register with one club.
- 5.2. An unlimited ITC holder will be entitled to some of the movement opportunities detailed in Rule 4 Movement of Players.
- 5.3. This is assessed by EIH in accordance with IHUK rules.

6. Registering for More than One Club

- 6.1. A player may register with multiple clubs in the following circumstances:
- 6.2. A junior player playing up to a senior league whereby their primary club does not have a team in the senior division, or an available opportunity for them to play.
- 6.3. This applies for NIHL and WNIHL divisions.
- 6.4. The primary club only retains priority over the player in the event of a fixture clash where the minimum bench-strength would not be met, and the fixture would be forfeited as a result.
- 6.5. Players will be able to register for more than one club only in the case where there is only one team in the player's age group for the primary club, e.g. for Division 2 players to sign for another team to play in Division 1.
- 6.6. Players will not be able to register for more than one club where there are two teams (Division 1 and 2) for their age group in their primary club.
- 6.7. In the event of a fixture clash, the player's primary team will take priority unless there is a written agreement to play for the secondary team.
- 6.8. The agreement must outline which club retains priority over the player in the event of a fixture clash and which club is the primary club for the purposes of playoff qualification.
- 6.9. This must be agreed by both clubs and the parent / guardian at the beginning of each season. The primary team will not be able to borrow an additional player from the player pool if the player is playing for the secondary team.
- 6.10. Two-way players can only play across from Division 2 to Division 1. They are not approved to play up an age group for the secondary team.

- 6.11. Players signing for two teams can only sign with a secondary team in the same age division as their primary team. Any registration granted with multiple clubs will last until the end of the season in which it was issued. This excludes short term and emergency loans. All dual registrations will be reviewed by 31 January 2025.
- 6.12. All registrations to be completed via Gameday. Clubs will can access their personalised link to allow registrations via Gameday.
- 6.13. In all instances, the 2. Player Eligibility rules apply including adhering to the minimum age restrictions.
- 6.14. Please see section 9. Dispensation: Playing Up for additional stipulations.

Example:

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

7. Transfers

- 7.1. During the season, a player may transfer between clubs (or teams) with permission from both the releasing club (team) and the club (team) to which they are transferring, along with the parent / guardian.
- 7.2. The transfer will be valid until the end of the season unless otherwise stipulated.
- 7.3. The deadline for players to transfer between clubs or teams within a club is 31 January of the playing season.
- 7.4. Players transferring after this date will not be eligible for league competition but may take part in challenge games and tournaments.
- 7.5. Once a transfer has been approved, it is locked for 28 days. No new dispensation or transfer request can be made by the player until this period has expired.
- 7.6. For international transfers, IIHF deadlines must be followed.

8. Emergency Transfers

- 8.1. Emergency transfer requests allow dispensation for players to play for another club or team on a temporary basis (one game) due to unforeseen circumstances. Such dispensations cannot be utilised where EIH deems an unfair advantage will be gained.
- 8.2. Emergency transfers are normally granted for standalone matches and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and are not confirmed until approved by EIH.
- 8.3. The following rules apply:
 - A team may only request a maximum of three players for any one fixture or enough to reach minimum bench requirements.
 - Junior players enrolled in the England National Team Programme in the current playing season or immediately preceding season, including reserves, are not permitted to be utilised for emergency transfers in the same age group.
 - Any player granted dispensation must be from the Division or age group below the borrowing team. For example, U14 Division 1 teams can borrow from U14 Division 2 or Under 12 teams.
 - Only in exceptional circumstances where no other players are available would a player be considered from the same division as the borrowing team. This will be review by EIH.
 - This arrangement will apply only to players registered within the appropriate age category with EIH, or those eligible to play up as defined in the following section.
 - All emergency transfer requests are assessed and approved on an individual basis. EIH reserves the right to refuse any emergency dispensation request at their discretion.
- 8.4. All Dispensations to be requested via Cognito Form: [Player Pool Request form](#)

9. Dispensation: Playing Up

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

- 9.3. Clubs must demonstrate that due diligence has been done to ensure their responsibility to duty of care is fulfilled.
- 9.4. Due diligence is necessary to ensure the player is safe and capable both physically and mentally of playing up an age group.
- 9.5. This should always be agreed between club coaches and parents prior to a player playing up an age group.

10. Dispensation: Playing Up a Division

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

11. Dispensation: Playing Down a Division

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

12. Playing up an Age Group

- 12.1. Junior players may play up one age group. Junior players may not play down an age group. The following rules also apply:
- 12.2. At U12, only a player who is aged 7 on the date of the fixture may play up to U12s.
- 12.3. A female player who is aged 10 (or 9 if a netminder) on the date of the fixture may play up to any division in the girls' U16 division.

- 12.4. A female player who is aged 14 on the date of the fixture of the playing season may play up to any division in the WNIHL.
- 12.5. Players who are aged 16 or over on the date of the fixture may play up to any division in the NIHL.
- 12.6. Under 18 and U19 Division 2 players must fulfil their responsibility to the teams in their age group unless a club agreement has been reached. However, such club agreements will be void where a scheduled U18 league game will not take place due to lack of players. In such circumstances the junior player must fulfil their responsibilities to the age grade team.
- 12.7. All junior players playing up to a senior team or across to another section (for example, WNIHL) must be registered with each section on Gameday.
- 12.8. Failure to register in both sections may result in the player being classed as ineligible.

13. Dispensation from Minimum Bench Strength

- 13.1. A team may request exemption from minimum bench strength for an individual fixture. The following will be considered:
 - U12: No dispensation
 - U14, U16, U18/U19: 10+1nm
- 13.2. All dispensation from minimum bench strength requests must be made in writing to EIH at least two days prior to the fixture concerned. Approval must be received from EIH in writing.
- 13.3. Teams are permitted to borrow Bench Team Officials from other teams but must meet the minimum bench strength as outlined in the Match Day Protocols in the EIH Rules and Regulations. Priority must be given to the Bench Team Official's primary club in the event of a fixture clash.
- 13.4. Failure to obtain permission will result in the match being played as a challenge game and the match assessed under rule 24. Failure to Fulfil a Fixture.

14. Junior Competitions

- 14.1. All EIH sanctioned games and tournaments must abide by the Rules of Ice Hockey as described by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). Rules can be found at: <https://www.iihf.com/en/statichub/4719/rules-and-regulations>
- 14.2. EIH specifies some amendments as outlined in this section. Where this section contradicts IIHF rules, EIH rules will take precedence.
- 14.3. EIH participants are only insured through EIH insurance when the game or tournament has been sanctioned or approved by EIH.

15. League Identity and Structure

- 15.1. All EIH leagues are solely owned and operated by EIH.
- 15.2. Junior hockey leagues are regionally based competitions determined on a season basis pending league applications.
- 15.3. The season runs from 31st August 2024 to 11th May 2025.
- 15.4. League games are permitted to begin on 31st August as long as clubs have the ice and player availability. This must be agreed by both teams.
- 15.5. League formats aim to be finalised by 31 May prior to the beginning of the new season to ensure the optimal development structure for all teams.
- 15.6. The total number and distribution of home and away matches played by each team will be defined on an annual basis for each section and identified in Appendix A.
- 15.7. U10- Regional divisions as advised at the beginning of each season, based on entries. Matches at U10 are played cross-ice in a non-league format. All other matches are played on full ice.
- 15.8. The 2024-2025 league structure is outlined below.

U18/U19 Leagues	U16 Leagues	U14 Leagues	U12 Leagues
U18 North Division 1	U16 North Division 1	U14 North Division 1	U12 North-East Division
U18 South Division 1	U16 South Division 1	U14 South Division 1	U12 North-West Division
U19 North Division 2	U16 North Division 2	U14 North Division 2	U12 South-East Division
U19 South Division 2	U16 South Division 2	U14 South Division 2	U12 South-West Division

16. U19 Division 2

- 16.1. If a player was an U18 Division 2 player in 2023-24 season, and is due to age out of junior competition, they can continue to play U19 Division 2 for a season regardless of how many times they have played up to NIHL 1 or 2.
- 16.2. If a player was an Under 18 Division 1 player last year, they can move to a new team in U19 Division 2 if they haven't played more than 10 NIHL games in the previous season.
- 16.3. This is not a standalone league - Under 18 is classed as Division 1, Under 19 is Division 2. No player born in 2006 is eligible to play up to a Division 1 team.
- 16.4. The following rules apply:
- No players who are part of the ENTP/GB programmes are eligible to move to U19 Division 2 from Under 18 Division 1.
 - All players (Division 1 & 2) must continue to wear full face cages, regardless of turning 18.
 - No alcohol is to be consumed by players 18 or above, as this is still classed as a junior league.

17. Junior National Finals

- 17.1. Once all regular season games have been completed, qualifying teams will compete in Junior National Finals contested at all age groups with the exception of U10s.
- 17.2. The top teams from each league will qualify for the finals which take place in the form of a playoff style competition played across one weekend at a neutral venue.
- 17.3. The top two teams will qualify for U14, U16, and U18 Division 1.

17.4. The top team for U14s, U16s & U19 Division 2.

17.5. The top two teams from each region will qualify for the U12 Finals.

17.6. The full format of the Junior Nationals Finals can be found in Appendix B.

18. Promotion and Relegation

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

19. Acceptance of New Clubs and Teams into the Junior League Structure

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

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

19.3. New teams wishing to join a junior league must apply in writing to EIH and must have an ice time agreement in place to be able to fulfil their fixtures.

19.4. When a new team is accepted, that team must complete the affiliation process as required by EIH for them to have full membership status of the association.

20. Junior Game Length and Format

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

Age group	Length	Format
U10	TBC- Guidance to be issued ASAP	Cross-ice jamboree, non-checking
U12	3 x 18-minute periods	Full ice, non-checking, running clock
U14	3 x 15-minute periods	Full ice, checking, stop clock
U16	3 x 15 or 3 x 20-minute periods*	Full ice, checking, stop clock
U18/U19s	3 x 15 or 3 x 20-minute periods*	Full ice, checking, stop clock

20.2. U16 and U18/19s teams must notify the fixtures secretary of the length of their matches which must be consistent throughout the season. This cannot be changed once the season has started.

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

21. League Administration

21.1. Prior to each new season, clubs must apply to enter teams into the leagues by 15th of May for the following season.

21.2. By so applying, clubs agree to abide by EIH Rule Book and all other rules and regulations set by the IIHF, IHUK and EIH.

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

21.4. Any team that withdraws from a league after the season has begun is liable for a fine of up to £500 at the discretion of EIH, alongside payment of any other fines and outstanding fees.

21.5. Withdrawal from the league must be made in writing to info@englandicehockey.com by the authorised signatory of the affiliated club.

22. Awarding of Points

22.1. Points will be awarded as follows:

- Two points for a regulation win.
 - One point for a regulation draw.
 - Zero points for a regulation loss
- 22.2. There will be no games played for double points in any competition, unless a formal request is made by a team due to exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to a non-fault failure to fulfil a fixture which cannot be rescheduled.
- 22.3. In such instance, a team must obtain agreement from the opposing team in writing, submitting this alongside a formal request and reasoning to EIH for approval. EIH reserve the right to refuse any such request.
- 22.4. If there is no remaining fixture to play for double points in a no-fault circumstance then a score of 0-0 and 1 point each will be given.
- 22.5. All games that not fulfilled will be reviewed by the EIH.

23. League Standings

- 23.1. The placing of teams in the league table shall be determined using the following criteria in the order below:
- Points
 - Points in the games between the tied teams
 - Overall goal difference in the regular league season
 - Overall goals scored in the regular league season
 - Number of regulations wins
 - Overall goal difference in matches between the tied teams
 - Fewer penalty points
 - Fewer penalty minutes

24. Failure to Fulfil a Fixture

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

- Where one team is at fault, they will forfeit the fixture with the match being awarded in line with the mercy rule for that age group (e.g. 8-0 at U12) to the non-offending team. The offending team will be liable to pay a fine as outlined in EIH DOPS Policy as well as reimbursement of incidental costs of the non-offending team.
- Where both teams are at fault, the fixture will be recorded as a 0-0 draw with no points awarded to either team. Both teams will be liable to pay a fine as outlined EIH DOPS Policy.
- Where both teams are deemed not to be at fault, the fixture will be recorded as a 0-0 draw with one point awarded to each team.

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

Age group	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4
U10	N/A	£50	£200	Expulsion
U12	N/A	£50	£200	Expulsion
U14	N/A	£100	£400	Expulsion
U16	N/A	£125	£500	Expulsion
U18/U19	N/A	£125	£500	Expulsion

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

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

24.6. 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 not limited to, cancellation of a fixture within 24 hours of the match, cancellation of a high-profile fixture or failure to attend without notice.

24.7. In addition to the above, the offending team will be held liable to indemnify the non-offending team and the venue operator/rink in respect of any game ice costs and any officials expenses.

24.8. For EIH to support any such financial claim(s) from a non-offending team, supporting documentation must be provided on request and approved by EIH as

outlined in rule 25: Satisfactory Supporting Documentation. Further guidance can be found in the DOPS rules and procedures.

- 24.9. 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.

25. Satisfactory Supporting Documentation

- 25.1. EIH reserves the right to request evidence to support the rescheduling, postponement or abandonment of any fixture, including but not limited to confirmation of an ice facility failure from the rink, evidence of traffic issues, evidence of breakdown and/or evidence of severe weather.
- 25.2. Evidence must be provided within five working days of the request.
- 25.3. In the event satisfactory documentation is not provided, and the fixture is unfulfilled, the fixture may be awarded as the fault of the team failing to provide the required documentation.
- 25.4. In addition, to support a claim for any incidental costs to be recovered by a non-offending club from the offending club, they will require supporting documentation to be provided, including but limited to, a copy of an invoice for venue hire, a copy of the ice rink's cancellation policy and ice-time contract with the team, a copy of the invoice for transportation and associated cancellation policy.
- 25.5. In the event documentation is not deemed satisfactory by EIH, the claim for reimbursement of costs will not be supported.
- 25.6. EIH reserves the right to confirm what is and what is not deemed as satisfactory documentation.

26. Match-Day Personnel Requirements

- 26.1. The match-day personnel requirements outlined below apply to all EIH sanctioned competitions, including challenge games.
- 26.2. Further guidance can be found in the EIH Rules and Regulations.

26.3. Failure to meet any of the standards outlined in this section may result in disciplinary action under EIH DOPS Policy.

27. Minimum Bench Strength: Players

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

27.2. The minimum bench strength for junior teams is 12 skaters plus 1 netminder, unless dispensation has been granted as per section 8.4. The exception to this is at U12, where teams must ice a minimum of 15 skaters (and a maximum of 17) plus 1 netminder.

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

27.4. Failure to meet the minimum bench requirements will be classified as a failure to fulfil the fixture.

27.5. Any breaches of the required number of players will result in the game automatically being awarded in line with the mercy rule for that age group (e.g., 8-0 at U12, 12-0 for U14-U19) to the non-offending team.

27.6. Where both teams are in breach, the match will be awarded as 0-0 with no points for either team.

27.7. The match may go ahead as a Challenge game should this be deemed safe by the L2 Team Coaches and EIH Junior Regional Lead approval.

27.8. The game must be clearly marked as a Challenge game on the Game sheet to prevent an unnecessary DOPS investigation into the fixture.

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

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

28. Payment of On-Ice Officials

28.1. Referees are reimbursed according to the schedule outlined in Appendix F.

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

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

28.4. Failure to pay will mean that all EIH and IHUK Referee services, including provision of referees, are revoked until payment is received.

28.5. Any fixture that falls within this period will be cancelled and deemed as a failure to fulfil a fixture, with the non-paying team at fault.

29. Equipment and Kit

29.1. The IIHF rules apply, with the following amendments as confirmed the EIH Rules and Regulations- Skaters' Equipment.

- All EIH registered players must wear full kit at all times during the games, even when serving a penalty.
- Face cages and neck guards are mandatory.
- Neck guards are to be unaltered.
- Face cages are to be worn and connect with the chin of the player.
- Failure to meet any of these requirements relating to a face cage or neck guard will result in a penalty for illegal equipment.
- Shirts must be worn in accordance with the jersey numbers identified on the official team list.
- Any EIH registered player on the bench, regardless of whether they are playing, must be dressed in full kit, including helmet and neck guard.
- Players in U19 Division 2 must wear a helmet with a full cage at all times during a game, in line with junior hockey requirements.

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

30. Mercy Rule

30.1. Under the Mercy Rule, the following applies:

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

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

30.3. At U14, U16 and U18/U19: The 'Mercy Rule' is triggered if a team takes a lead of 12 goals. (e.g. 12-0, 13-1, etc.)

31. Department of Player Safety

31.1. For all matters relating to discipline please refer to the separate EIH DOPS document which is available on EIH website (www.EIH.co.uk).

Appendix A

Junior League Structures 2024/2025

The following league structures apply in 2024/2025

Age Group: U18 & U19 Leagues

Division	U18 North 1	U19 North 2	U18 South 1	U19 South 2
Games	16	16	18	16
Format	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams
Start date	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024
End date	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025
National Finals	Top team	Top team	Top team	Top team
Teams	Bradford Bulldogs IHC Kingston JIHC Leeds Junior Knights Manchester Storm Academy Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Telford JIHC Whitley Bay Widnes Wild Academy	Billingham JIHC Coventry Blaze IHA Deeside Dragons JIC Leeds Junior Knights 2 Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Solihull Junior Barons Sutton Sting IHA Widnes Wild Academy 2	Cardiff Junior Devils Chelmsford IHA Guildford JIHC Haringey JIHC Invicta JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Romford Slough Jets JIHC Swindon Wildcats IHA Oxford Junior Stars	Bristol Academy Cardiff Junior Devils 2 Haringey JIHC 2 Invicta JIHC 2 Oxford Junior Stars 2 MK Storm JIHC Solent Junior Devils Swindon Wildcats IHA 2 Streatham IHA

Age Group: U16 Leagues

Division	U16 North 1	U16 North 2	U16 South 1	U16 South 2
Games	16	18	18	14
Format	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams
Start date	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024
End date	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025
National Finals	Top team	Top team	Top team	Top team
Clubs	Bradford Bulldogs IHC Kingston IHC Leeds Junior Knights Manchester Storm Academy Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Solihull Junior Barons Telford JIHC Whitley Bay	Billingham JIHC Blackburn Coventry Blaze IHA Deeside Dragons JIH Leeds Junior Knights 2 Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Solihull Junior Barons 2 Sutton Sting IHA Widnes Wild Academy	Cardiff Junior Devils Chelmsford IHA Guildford JIHC Haringey JIHC Invicta IHC Peterborough Phantoms Romford Slough Jets JIHC Streatham Storm Swindon Wildcats IHA	Bristol Academy Haringey JIHC 2 Invicta JIHC 2 MK Storm JIHC Oxford Junior Stars Solent Junior Devils Swindon Wildcats IHA 2 Lee Valley

Age Group: U14 Leagues

Division	U14 North 1	U14 North 2	U14 South 1	U14 South 2
Games	16	20	16	16
Format	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams
Start date	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024
End date	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025	18th of May 2025
National Final	Top team	Top team	Top team	Top team
Nation Final date	31st May – 1st June 2024	31st May – 1st June 2024	31st May – 1st June 2024	31st May – 1st June 2024
Clubs	Bradford Bulldogs IHC Deeside Dragons JIH Leeds Junior Knights Manchester Storm Academy Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Solihull Junior Barons Whitley Bay Widnes Wild Academy	Billingham JIHC Blackburn Hawks Coventry Blaze IHA Deeside Dragons JIH Kingston IHC Leeds Junior Knights 2 Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Solihull Junior Barons 2 Sutton Sting IHA Telford JIHC	Chelmsford IHA Cardiff Junior Devils Guildford JIHC Haringey JIHC Invicta JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Slough Jets JIHC Streatham Storm Swindon Wildcats IHA	Bristol Academy Cambridge Grizzlies JIHC Chelmsford IHA 2 Haringey JIHC 2 Invicta JIHC 2 MK Storm JIHC Oxford Junior Stars Romford Solent Junior Devils

Age Group: U12 Leagues

Division	U12 North East	U12 North West	U12 South East	U12 South West
Games	16	18	16	14
Format	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams	1H & 1A against all teams
Start date	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024
End date	4th of May 2025	4th of May 2025	4th of May 2025	4th of May 2025
National Final	Top 2 teams	Top 2 teams	Top 2 teams	Top 2 teams
Nation Final date	17-18th May 2025	17-18th May 2025	17-18th May 2025	17-18th May 2025
Clubs	Billingham JIHC Bradford Bulldogs IHC Kingston IHC Leeds Junior Knights Leeds Junior Knights 2 Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Solihull Junior Barons 2 Whitley Bay	Blackburn Hawks Coventry Blaze IHA Deeside Dragons JIH Manchester Storm Academy Nottingham IHC 2 Sheffield IHA 2 Solihull Junior Barons 1 Telford JIHC Widnes Wild Academy	Cambridge Grizzlies JIHC Chelmsford IHC Haringey JIHC Invicta JIHC MK Storm JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Romford Streatham Storm Slough Jets JIHC	Bristol Academy Cardiff Junior Devils Chelmsford IHC 2 Guildford JIHC Oxford Junior Stars Slough Jets JIHC Solent Junior Devils Swindon Wildcats IHA

Age Group: U10 Leagues

Division	U10 North East	U10 North West	U10 West Midlands	U10 East Midlands
Start date	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024
End date	31st May 2025	31st May 2025	31st May 2025	31st May 2025
Clubs	<p>Billingham JIHC Kingston IHC Leeds Junior Knights Whitley Bay</p>	<p>Blackburn Hawks Deeside Dragons JIH Manchester Storm Academy Widnes Wild Academy Sheffield IHA 2</p>	<p>Coventry Blaze IHA Solihull Junior Barons Nottingham IHC 2 Telford JOHC Deeside Dragons JIH 2</p>	<p>Billingham JIHC 2 Bradford Bulldogs IHC Nottingham IHC Sheffield IHA Sutton Sting IHA</p>

Division	U10 South East	U10 South West	Under 10 South	U10 London
Start date	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024	7th of September 2024
End date	31st May 2025	31st May 2025	31st May 2025	31st May 2025
Clubs	<p>Cambridge Grizzlies JIHC Chelmsford IHA MK Storm JIHC Peterborough Phantoms Peterborough Phantoms 2</p>	<p>Bristol Academy Cardiff Junior Devils Oxford Junior Stars Swindon Wildcats IHA Slough Jets JIHC 2</p>	<p>Guildford JIHC Slough Jets JIHC Solent Junior Devils Streatham Storm</p>	<p>Haringey JIHC Invicta JIHC Romford Chelmsford IHA 2 Streatham Storm 2</p>

Appendix B

Junior National Finals 2024/2025

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

Attendance and Format

- Attendance at the National Junior Finals is mandatory as follows:
- The top placed teams from U19 Division 2 North & South
- The top placed teams from U18 Division 1, North and South.
- The top placed teams from U16 Division 1, North and South.
- The top placed team from U16 Division 2.
- The top placed teams from U14 Division 1, North and South.
- The top placed team from U14 Division 2.
- The top two placed teams from each regional division at U12.

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

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

U12'S JUNIOR NATIONALS					
SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025			SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025		
Faceoff	Age Group	Fixture	Faceoff	Age Group	Fixture
09:00	U12's Group 1	NE1 v NW2	09:00	U12's Group 2	NW1 v SE1
10:30	U12's Group 2	NW1 v NE2	10:30	U12's Group 1	SW1 v NE1
12:00	U12's Group 2	SE1 v SW2	12:00	U12's Group 2	NE2 v SE2
13:30	U12's Group 1	SW1 v SE2	13:30	U12's Group 1	SW2 v NE2
15:00	U12's Group 2	NE2 v SE1	15:00	U12's Semi Final 1	1st GP 1 v 2nd GP 2
16:30	U12's Group 1	NE1 v SE2	16:30	U12's Semi Final 2	1st GP 2 v 2nd GP 1
18:00	U12's Group 2	NW1 v SW2	18:00	U12's Grand Final	SF 1 v SF 2
19:30	U12's Group 1	SW1 v NW2			

U14-19'S JUNIOR NATIONALS					
SATURDAY 31st MAY 2025			SUNDAY 1st JUNE 2025		
Faceoff	Age Group	Fixture	Faceoff	Age Group	Fixture
09:00	U16's Semi Final 1	North 1 v South 2	08:00	U16's Div 2 Final	North v South
10:45	U16's Semi Final 2	South 1 v North 2	09:45	U16's Div 1 Final	SF 1 v SF 2
12:30	U14's Semi Final 1	North 1 v South 2	11:30	U19's Div 2 Final	North v South
14:15	U14's Semi Final 2	South 1 v North 2	14:00	U18's Div 1 Final	SF 1 v SF 2
16:00	U18's Semi Final 1	North 1 v South 2	16:30	U14's Div 2 Final	North v South
18:30	U18's Semi Final 2	South 1 v North 2	18:15	U14's Div 1 Final	SF 1 v SF 2

Junior National Finals 2025 will be held at Ice Sheffield.

Team Eligibility

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

Player Eligibility

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

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

- A player may only play for their primary registered club.
- A player must have played a minimum of 25% of the league fixtures for the team participating in the finals, excluding players playing up from a younger age group.
- Players who have transferred mid-season from another team must meet the 25% criteria as with any other player. The 25% is from the start of the season NOT from when the player signs for the club.
- Should a team ice an ineligible player, the team will be expelled from the finals and all results awarded in line with the mercy rule for the age group to the non-offending team(s) (8-0 at U12). 12-0 U14-U19.

Dispensation

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

- Where a team can provide medical evidence that a player missed games solely due to injury and would have reached the required 25% had they played in those games.
- Where a player missed games due to an ENTP commitment (including camps) and would have reached the required 25% if they had played in those games.
- Where a team can provide evidence of a cancelled fixture that a player would have competed in and would have reached the 25% had they played in those games.

- A team may request dispensation to use players from the player pool in exceptional circumstances, including but limited to last-minute bona-fide illness or injury. In such scenarios, age eligible players should be utilised internally from the parent club before any player pool request will be considered.

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

Match-day Protocols and Administration

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

Team Lists

Team lists must be submitted to the EIH Event Team prior to the tournament weekend and by the deadline outlined in the tournament invitation. At U12, a line sheet must also be submitted and cannot be changed throughout the finals. Team lists and line sheets must be printed in the official format, signed and handed to EIH official when the team registers on arrival at the venue. If there are any concerns around U12 line sheets, both head coaches for any game will be asked to attend a meeting with the Junior GM or Event Team GM to discuss.

Timings

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

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

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

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

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

Tied Scores

At U14-U19, if the score is tied after three periods, teams will play a five-minute sudden victory overtime period. This period will be played 3-v-3. If there is no score after overtime, a best-of-five penalty shootout will take place.

Each team must name five initial players in the order they will take a penalty shot. If the scores remain tied after each team has taken five penalty shots, a sudden death penalty shootout will follow using any players on the bench until there is a winner.

At U12, if the bronze medal game or final score is tied after three periods, a three-minute sudden death overtime will be played (one further shift for each line). If at the end of overtime, the scores are still tied then each team will take five penalty shots starting with all players

from Line One. If the score is still tied, the shootout will continue in a sudden death format with players from Line Two, and if needed then Line Three. If the score remains tied after each team has taken 15 penalty shots, then a sudden death shootout will take place, starting with Line One players again. Each team may only take five penalty shots on each line, even if they have additional players rotating on that line.

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

Results between the teams tied

Penalty minutes from the competition so far (team with fewest places higher)

Goal difference in the competition so far (team with smallest goal difference places higher)

Goals against (team with fewest goals against places higher)

Discipline

Penalty points and suspensions incurred during National Finals will carry over to the following season. Match reports will be produced for any major offence and reviewed by EIH DOPS as per normal procedures. If any suspensions are issued these will likely impact the player in the following season.

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

Players causing damage to property or facilities will be liable for costs incurred.

Appendix C

Summary of Minimum Squads

League	No. of teams	Squad size by 31 August of playing season
Juniors	1	Min: 12 + 1
	2	Min: 24 + 2

Appendix D

Summary or Minimum Bench Strength on Match Day

League	Players	Bench officials
Junior*	Min: 12 + 1^ Max 20 + 2 Min U12: 15 + 1 Max U12: 18 + 2	L2 Team Coach and non-playing L1 Assistant Coach. Team Manager- does not count towards bench strength).

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

^Unless dispensation has been granted as per section 8.5.

Appendix E

U12 Format and Related Administration

U12 Line Setting

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

Maximum team strength is 18 (17) skaters + 2 netminders.

Exception – 2 teams willing to play 4 lines, then 20 + 2 netminders. (officials must be informed prior to the game) this must be in agreement with both teams.

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

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

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

To denote the different lines, teams can:

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

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

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

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

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

Line 1 starts each period of the game.

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

U12 Game Format

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

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

Line Changes

Lines will change on the fly at the sound of the buzzer, every 60 seconds of rolling clock time. A buzzer will sound to indicate each line change.

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

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

Offsides & Dead/Frozen Pucks

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

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

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

Icing

There will be no icing calls.

Netminders

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

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

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

Penalties

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

- Any penalties awarded will be half the usual duration.
- A 2-minute minor penalty is served as 1 minute
- A 10-minute penalty is served as 5 minutes
- A 2+1-0 penalty is served as 1+5 minutes, etc
- A 5+game penalty or match penalty will lead to the player being immediately ejected from the game.
- No player is required to serve the 5 minutes, and a reserve player may take the ejected players place in the line up without altering any lines.

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

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

In the event of a goal being scored on the same shift that the penalised player is in the penalty box, the penalty will be classed as completed. The exception to this rule is in the case of a major penalty where they must sit out the duration of the penalty.

Co-incidental penalties are not feasible.

If a game is not able to be officiated with on ice officials, it is the responsibility of the L2 Coaches (Team) to take charge on the ice. They may also be called upon if only one on ice official is available.

Appendix F

On-Ice Official Fees

The following fees are in place for 2024-2025.

League	Total Fee Without Mileage	Max Mileage	Max Mileage Fee	Total	Referee Fee	Linesman Fee	2 Man System
U18/U19	£73.00	250	£112.50	£185.50	£31.00	£21.00	£36.50
U16	£63.00	200	£90.00	£153.00	£27.00	£18.00	£31.50
U14	£52.00	150	£67.50	£119.50	£22.00	£15.00	£26.00
U12	£39.00	150	£67.50	£106.50	£17.00	£11.00	£19.50

Appendix G

Contacts

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TBC