

EAST DISTRICT LADIES HOCKEY

OUTDOOR LEAGUE RULES – SEASON 2023-24

All games must be played in accordance with FIH Rules or as agreed by Scottish Hockey.

1. GENERAL

1. East District Ladies Outdoor League is open to women's teams from all clubs as defined in section 4.1 of the constitution of the East District of Scottish Hockey. Any club wishing to enter a Ladies team will automatically be admitted to the bottom division. East Leagues follow Scottish Hockey rules and any deviation is listed below. Where Scottish Hockey rules do not differ from East Competition rules, their rules apply and will not be repeated below.
2. THREE points will be awarded for a win and ONE for a draw. Positions will be determined on points gained. If points are equal, goal difference decides; if goal difference is equal, goals for decide, if still equal the head-to-head results will be used. If there is still a tie and promotion or relegation is affected, the Ladies Competitions Committee will arrange a play-off.
3. Any team conceding a match will forfeit the match with the score being recorded as a 0-5 defeat. Teams who concede may also be asked by the Ladies Competitions Committee to reimburse the opposition for any costs that they may have had. (Teams should try and play a friendly when a league game is not possible). **If any team concedes 4 matches during one season all their results will be void and the team will be relegated.**
4. Promotion and Relegation *should* be two up and two down throughout the Divisions. However, if the numbers of teams in the Divisions dictate otherwise, the Ladies Competitions Committee will decide. The winner of any division will always be promoted, however.

2. MATCH ARRANGEMENT

1. The Home Team **MUST** contact the opposition at least **FIVE DAYS BEFORE** a scheduled match [e.g. Monday for a Saturday match], confirming time and place. The home team should also confirm if match teas will be available and the opposition should confirm if they will be staying for teas. **N.B. Leaving a message or sending an email does not constitute 'confirmation'. Home teams must NOT assume the message has been delivered successfully and must ask the away team to return the call/email within 2 days.** Match teas are optional.
2. In the event of the Home Secretary (or agreed Sub) not contacting the visiting Secretary (or agreed Sub) despite every effort, then they should contact their Divisional Rep to report this. If the Divisional Rep cannot be contacted, then anyone on the East District Ladies Competitions Committee should be contacted to act as witness. However, the away team should also try to contact the home team if they have not heard from them.
3. All league matches will be played according to the current FIH rules of hockey or as agreed by Scottish Hockey and adopted by East District Ladies. Games must start at the agreed time and incomplete teams are obliged to start the game. (Minimum of 8 players) Clubs should note that the 15 minute delay in the start of the match should only be used in emergencies / exceptional circumstances and NOT for late players etc. If a team is not ready to start and on the pitch by the due start, their opposition may claim a one goal, which will increase by an additional goal every five minutes from the scheduled start time 12.00 and 4:30 pm. NOTE – Clubs should make every effort to play league matches on the allocated date and within these times. **However, where a team consists mainly of youth players, clubs shall agree to a later start time and the League Convenor copied into all correspondence 10 days in advance of the match.**
4. All league matches are played according to the current FIH rules of hockey or as agreed by the SHU. The match format is 4 x 17.5 minute quarters. There is a 2 minute break after quarters 1 and 3; there is a 5 minute break after quarter 2. Timings are strict and the games will recommence at the appropriate time whether teams are back on the pitch or not.
5. All fixtures must be completed by midnight on **May 11th, 2024** or they will be declared void.

3. MATCH POSTPONEMENT/REARRANGEMENT

1. If a match has to be postponed due to weather conditions then the home team should inform the visiting team as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary travelling expenses being incurred by the visiting team. As a rule of thumb, clubs should try to postpone no later than two hours before the start of the match.
2. If the weather is the cause of the postponement and the visiting team have arrived at the venue, it is up to the Ground staff, then the Umpires and then the Captains to take the decision in that order. Any decision to abandon a match once it has started should be made by the Umpires.
3. A game may be postponed if a team has two or more players / officials on District / National duties or University term dates start later than league dates. **ALL** other requests for a postponement, (other than weather conditions), **MUST** be cleared by the Ladies Competitions Committee at least 14 days prior to the scheduled match date.
4. Postponed matches should be re-arranged by the Home team contacting the Away team within 7 days of the original date. Although it is the Home team's decision, it is expected that both teams will be proactive about rearranging. The new date should be agreed within **ONE MONTH** of the original and the appropriate Divisional Rep informed by the HOME team of agreed new date immediately it is agreed. The team rearranging must offer three dates, one of which must be at the weekend and one midweek and the dates should not all be within a 7 day period. In the event of failure to agree a date the Ladies Competitions Committee will re-arrange the fixture after consultation with the Clubs concerned. **Teams MUST copy the Competitions' Convenor into any emails concerning the re-arrangement of matches.**

4. PLAYERS

1. Players taking part in league matches must be female, **14 Years old or over**, bona-fide members of the Club involved and must be registered with both East District and Scottish Hockey by that club while complying with the Named Squads.

Clubs fielding unregistered / ineligible players will forfeit the match. Unregistered players are not eligible for selection for / to participate in any District Competition. In any one season a player may only play league matches in one District and for one Club. A player may only change clubs if the club concerned intimate the name of any player involved in a change of Club to the East District Registration Secretary in writing (and copied to the Divisional Rep). They must also complete the transfer process and obtain the necessary permission to play her in remaining league matches from **BOTH** Scottish Hockey and East Ladies Competitions Committee **prior** to them playing for the new club. Players will be deemed ineligible to play for a new team until the team has received written permission from the Ladies Competitions Committee.

2. **The Ladies Competitions Committee relies on the integrity of clubs that their team selection will have the team in the highest division as the strongest team that their club can produce on that date and reserves the right to monitor player selection.** All clubs with teams involved in National or Championship leagues should submit the list of the **Named Nine** players for each of those teams, which they have provided to Scottish Hockey, to the East Competitions Convenor by 31st October. Players in the **Named Nine** are not eligible to play in East District matches. Clubs with more than one team in East District must also submit a named nine for all but the lowest team.

3. Players may only play for **ONE** team on any match day. **Also, players should not play more than ONE team down if they are not picked/available for their usual side.** Special consideration may be given for goalkeepers to play an extra game but only **playing up** provided that application is made to the Ladies Competitions Committee in advance and permission is granted. The only exception is a Development team, which may use up to FOUR players from other teams to ensure that the matches are played and the new players encouraged. Development teams cannot be promoted.

4. The full squad **MUST** be listed on the Match Report Form, with corresponding shirt numbers and handed to the umpires before the start of the match. All players must wear a numbered shirt or bib. **Any team fielding an ineligible player(s) or providing false information on the MRF will have three points deducted.**

5. As per FIH rules, there must be a minimum of 8 players on-side for a game to commence or continue. Umpires should award the match to the opposition where a team fails to comply with this rule.

6. If a club cannot raise a team for the allocated league match the team shall forfeit the match. In exceptional circumstances, this rule may be waived **with the consent of the opposition** and the Ladies Competitions Committee before the arranged fixture. Teams should, wherever possible, try to play a friendly match when a league game is not possible.

5. **UMPIRES**

1. Each team must provide a qualified umpire for the league match. In the event of a team failing to do so, the match will be awarded to the opposition. **Umpires should not be changed after the match has begun, unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed by both captains.**

2. No league match may be played unless there are two qualified umpires. Umpires must be graded "C/Level 1" or above and registered with both the East District and the SHU. However in the bottom two divisions, an umpire having passed his / her theory, **may be assessed** in a league match **with the consent of both the teams** involved **and the availability of a test panel agreed by the Umpires Committee.**

3. A list of the club umpires should be provided to the convenor by 30th September.

6. **MATCH REPORT FORM**

1. The Home Captain is responsible for the correct completion of the Match Report Form, **which should be handed to the umpire before the game.** The umpires will then be responsible for inputting the scores, cards and initialling any amendments subsequent to signing.

2. The home team should enter the result into *Pitchero* if they can or email **the** divisional rep to do it for them but if they do not, then the opposition may do so. It is important that the results are entered promptly by one or other of the teams playing. However, the home team **must send in the MRF** also. Scanned MRFs should be emailed to the Competitions' Convenor as detailed on the MRF, with the original retained. There are various scanning Apps available for phones which is preferred to a photograph.

3. If the Home Team does not send the Match Report Form within seven days of the League match to their Divisional Rep they will be warned for each non-submission by email. Any club receiving a second warning by email will lose two points and for each offence thereafter.

7. **DISCIPLINE**

1. The League is governed by the Code of Discipline, as set out in the District Constitution.

2. All disciplinary action - if a player is shown a green, yellow or red card - must be recorded on the Match Report Form and will be dealt with by the Ladies Competitions Committee.

3. In the event of a permanent suspension, the umpire concerned must report the incident to the Ladies Competitions Committee within twenty-four hours of the match.

4. As per the Scottish Directive, players are reminded of **the "clean air" policy**, in particular with regard to abusive language. Such behaviour is not in the spirit of the game and will be dealt with firmly by the Discipline Committee. This applies to both players and coaches. Teams are also responsible for the behaviour of anyone who is supporting their team and if deemed necessary umpires are entitled to stop a game and ask for the person giving the abuse to be removed and if necessary take action against the team. All incidents of this nature should be reported to the Ladies Competitions Committee immediately who will take whatever action they deem appropriate.

5. Clubs are reminded **not to post abusive tweets or comments on Social Media** about an opponent or an official. These are public forums where no abuse of the hockey family is acceptable.

8. **COMPLAINTS**

1. All complaints must be made in writing and reach the appropriate divisional representative within seven days of the match.
2. These Rules are binding, but in exceptional circumstances, an appeal may be made to the Ladies Competitions Committee who will give it due consideration. If as a result, a decision is made that a game should be replayed, the Ladies Competitions Committee will not liable for any cost incurred.

NOTE

Clubs should note that email correspondence is the preferred means of communication whenever possible and will be accepted for all references to 'in writing' in the rules.

Rules Revised September 2023