

**Manx Hockey Association (MHA) Rules and Bye-laws**  
**– following adjourned SGM December 2010**

## **Manx Hockey Association Rules (MHA) and Bye-laws 2010/2011**

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**APPENDIX 3- Mixed League Structure**

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## **A DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

### **1 Abbreviations**

ASC	- the Appeals Sub-Committee
RBSC	- the Rules and Bye-laws Sub-Committee
IOMHUA	- the Isle of Man Hockey Umpires Association
MHA	- the Manx Hockey Association.

### **2 Definitions**

“The Leagues”	Shall mean together the Mixed Leagues, the Men’s and Ladies’ Leagues formed by the Rules and Bye-laws. They shall be called “The Isle of Man Hockey Leagues” or by such title or titles as may be deemed appropriate by the Committee to reflect sponsorship of the League.
“The Mixed Leagues”	Shall mean the Mixed Leagues (Outdoor, Indoor and Junior) formed by the Rules and Bye-laws.
“The Men’s Leagues”	Shall mean the Men’s Leagues (Outdoor, Indoor and Junior) formed by the Rules and Bye-laws.
“The Ladies’ Leagues”	Shall mean the Ladies’ Leagues (Outdoor, Indoor and Junior) formed by the Rules and Bye-laws.
“The Rules”	Shall mean the rules of the MHA.
“The Bye-laws”	Shall mean the bye-laws of the MHA.
“The Executive”	Shall mean the Board created by the Rules and Bye-laws to administer the League and Club Representatives.
“The RBSC”	Shall mean the Rules and Bye-laws Sub Committee created by the Rules and Bye-laws to adjudicate on match decisions
“The ASC”	Shall mean the Appeals Sub Committee created by the Rules and Bye-laws to hear appeals on RSC decisions.
“The Chairman”	Shall mean the Chairman of the Board as elected Annually.
“The Board”	Shall mean the Board of the MHA being the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Commercial Director, Performance Director, and one Lay member as elected Annually.
“The Treasurer”	Shall mean the Treasurer of the Board as elected Annually
“The Secretary”	Shall mean the Secretary of the Board as elected Annually
“The MHA Press Officers”	Shall mean any person or persons who are appointed by the Board to receive results of League matches and to distribute them to the various media outlets used by the MHA from time to time.

“Club” Shall mean any club which has at least one team participating in the League, except where the context requires otherwise.

“Fixtures Secretary” Shall mean a duly appointed individual in charge of scheduling all fixtures in the league.

Throughout the Rules and Bye-laws, any reference to a governing body of hockey shall be taken to mean the MHA or its successor in function.

## **MANX HOCKEY ASSOCIATION RULES**

### **1 ASSOCIATION'S NAME**

The association shall be called 'THE MANX HOCKEY ASSOCIATION.'

### **2 OBJECTS**

- 2.1 To promote the game of hockey on the Isle of Man and to encourage fair play amongst all members and to strive to achieve the highest level attainable by our representative teams in UK and Inter Island tournaments.
- 2.2 The control of the game in the Island and to assist in the improvement of the standard of play of Mixed, Ladies' and Men's teams.
- 2.3 The selection and authorisation of teams to represent the Island and to support them in achieving success on and off Island.
- 2.4 The encouragement of the game of hockey amongst junior players and in the schools of the Island and providing them with the highest level of coaching and support available from the MHA resources.

### **3 MEMBERS:**

The MHA shall consist of six sections:

- 3.1 Mixed Section;
- 3.2 Ladies' Section;
- 3.3 Men's Section;
- 3.4 Junior Section
- 3.5 Hockey Development Section
- 3.6 Promotional Committee

### **4 FOUNDER MEMBERS**

The following clubs shall be founder members;

Castletown, Cushags, Fencibles, Harlequins, Ravens, Vikings, Peel, Castletown Ladies, Peel Ladies, Ramsey Scholars Ladies.

### **CURRENT MEMBERS**

The following clubs are current members and consist of mens, ladies and mixed teams;

Castletown, Harlequins, Vikings, Valkyrs, Ramsey, Bacchanalians, Saracens

### **5 NEW MEMBERS**

Other clubs provided that they are properly constituted may be admitted to the MHA at the discretion of the Committee.

## **6 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS**

At the Annual General Meeting there shall be elected the President, and any Vice-Presidents the meeting may consider desirable, provided that the number of Vice-Presidents shall not at any time exceed two.

## **7 HONOURY LIFE MEMBERS**

7.1 Persons who have served the MHA may be elected to Honorary Life Members of the MHA, such election to take place at a General Meeting, and that such Life Members shall be nominated by the Committee.

7.2 Honorary Life Members shall be entitled to attend, speak, move or second resolutions or amendments and vote at all General Meetings, and shall be entitled to attend to speak at meetings of the Committee but shall **not** be entitled to vote. Neither shall any Life Member be entitled to speak at a Committee Meeting dealing with any dispute in which the club to which he was attached when elected a Life Member or to which he may be attached at the time of the dispute is concerned.

## **8 RULES**

The rules of the MHA shall not be added to or amended except at a General Meeting and after at least a fortnight's notice of the alteration suggested has been given to all member clubs.

## **9 AMATEURISM**

9.1 All officers and players connected with the MHA or member clubs shall be amateurs who shall not receive any payment of money or kind for playing or serving as officials. This does not cover any honorarium that the individual may receive to recompense them for time spent or materials used in carrying out their position.

9.2 Clubs may, however, at their discretion, pay travelling expenses or give financial aid with gear, provided that such payments are equally available to all their members and are shown in their annual accounts.

## **10 AFFILIATION**

The MHA shall be affiliated to **England Hockey and Northern Counties Hockey Association.**

## **11 DOPING**

Doping in Hockey is prohibited and doping in hockey means the taking or use of substances or participation in doping methods prohibited by the International Olympic Committee and by the International Sports Federations. In addition, assisting or inciting others to contravene doping regulations is also considered a doping offence. All members of the MHA be subject to the methods and procedures of testing and refusal as dictated by England Hockey and may if they refuse or fail the test result in their names being entered on a list of defaulters.

## **C MANX HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BYELAWS**

### **1 STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUES**

#### **1.1 Membership and Affiliation requirements.**

- a) Any team which is debarred from playing against other teams by reason of disaffiliation will be suspended from the Leagues.
- b) All teams shall pay an annual subscription in respect of each team participating in the Leagues. This shall be paid to the League Treasurer before the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Failure to pay by the 30<sup>th</sup> September shall incur a fine; failure to pay by the 31<sup>st</sup> **October** shall incur such additional penalties under Bye-law 15.1 as the Board may decide.
- c) The members of the Leagues will be:
  - All teams which were members of the Leagues in the previous season except any team which withdrew or has been suspended or expelled from the League; and
  - ~~(i)~~ All teams whose application for admission has been accepted by the Committee.
  - ~~(ii)~~ Entry is subject to being able to prove to the Board that the club has sufficient players and funds to meet the requirements placed upon it by participating / joining the league, and if the Board does not feel that there are sufficient resources then it may turn down the club's application on this basis.
- d)
  - (i) Any club affiliated with the MHA may apply to enter a team in the Leagues subject to 1.1 (c)(ii).
  - (ii) Any application to enter a new team in the Leagues must be sent to the Secretary no later than 6 weeks prior to the first scheduled league fixture. The Committee shall determine whether to accept any such application.
- e) Any club wishing to withdraw a team from the League shall notify the League Secretary in writing, or by e-mail, no later than 4 weeks before the scheduled first day of the season, otherwise it shall be liable to pay subscriptions for the following season. Any club which withdraws a team from the League later than this may not be eligible to enter a new team into the League for two seasons (including the season in which a team has withdrawn) and may be liable to a financial penalty, at the discretion of the Board.
- f) Prior to the start of each season, each club **must** submit a list of two 'active' umpires and a designated goalkeeper for each team they are entering into the Leagues to the Committee. **Failure to do so may result in that team being refused entry into the competition for that year, this is to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of 'active' umpires to satisfy the requirements of the IOMHUA in their appointments.**
- g) No player owing monies to his previous club may play for another Club until he has paid in full or agreed an acceptable repayment plan. In the latter case, if he fails to repay the sum in full he will be barred from playing until he does so.

#### **1.2 Mixed Divisions**

- a) The Mixed League shall comprise of the Divisions as shown in Appendix 3. The Committee shall have the power to alter the divisional structure of the Mixed Leagues and shall give not less than one month's notice of its intention to exercise this power. The Committee shall have the power to increase or decrease the number of Divisions preceding any season and the exercise of that power shall not constitute alteration of the divisional structure within the Rules.
- b) The allocation of teams to Divisions at the start of each season shall be determined by:
  - (i) The make up of the Premier division shall be made up wherever possible of the top team from each club, where that club wishes to enter a team in the division, along with the next highest ranking teams from each affiliated member.

- (ii) Any team which was a member of the Mixed Leagues in the previous season will be placed in the same Division unless it was promoted or transferred or relegated in accordance with Bye-law 1.5 or subject to a realignment of the league structure; and
- (iii) Any team admitted in accordance with Bye-law 1.1(c)(ii) will be placed in the appropriate lowest ranked Division.
- c) The Board reserves the right to vary the make up of the Divisions to ensure that there are where possible of equal size but above all, competitive. This includes promoting and relegating teams to meet these criteria.

### **1.3 Men's and Ladies Divisions -**

- a) The Men's Leagues and Ladies Leagues shall comprise Divisions as shown in Appendix 1 and 2 respectively. The Committee shall have the power to alter the divisional structure of the Men's Leagues and Ladies Leagues and shall give not less than one month's notice of its intention to exercise this power. The Committee shall have the power to increase or decrease the number of Divisions preceding any season and the exercise of that power shall not constitute alteration of the divisional structure within the Rules.
- b) The allocation of teams to Divisions at the start of each season shall be determined by:
  - (i) Any team which was a member of the League in the previous season will be placed in the same Division unless it was promoted or transferred or relegated in accordance with Bye-law 1.5; and
  - (ii) Any team admitted in accordance with Bye-law 1.1(c)(ii) will be placed in the appropriate lowest ranked Division.
- c) The Board reserves the right to vary the make up of the Divisions to ensure that there are where possible of equal size but above all, competitive. This includes promoting and relegating teams to meet these criteria.

### **1.4 Teams' positions in Divisions**

- h) Points shall be awarded for each completed League match, with teams scoring two points for each match won and one point for each match drawn.
- i) The position of teams in each Division shall be determined by:  
Number of Points scored.  
In the event of a tie between two or more teams the following will decide the final positions in the following order:
  - i) Points scored in the fixtures between the tied teams
  - ii) Goal Difference from the fixtures between the tied teams
  - iii) Goals Scored against the tied teams
  - iv) Goal Difference from all fixtures
  - v) Goals Scored from all fixtures

If they are still tied, a Play Off will be arranged to decide the final positions with Penalty Strokes if necessary.

- j) The Fixtures Secretary shall update all of the League tables of the current position in all Divisions via the Fixtures Live link on the MHA website. .

### **1.5 Promotion and Relegation**

- a) At the end of each season the winner in each lower Division will be promoted to the next higher Division until they reach the Premier division and such promotion is compulsory subject to ratification by the Committee

- b) At the end of each season, the bottom placed side of each Division shall be relegated to the appropriate lower Division and such relegation is compulsory subject to ratification by the Committee or in the case of league restructure as previously stated.

### **Junior League (Under 16s) –**

Junior Leagues are run in accordance with the rules outlined in this document for the Mixed leagues:

- 1) Save for rule 2 below, participants in the Junior leagues, including Goalkeepers, must be in school years 9,10 or 11, or of an age that would put them within these school years.
- 2) Teams may play a single adult as part of the teams fielded in the Junior league matches. This adult may be selected from a list of six individuals provided to the Junior Committee prior to the start of each season. This adult may not be anyone of the players listed on the Island Core Player list.
- 3) It is permissible for players to borrow players from other clubs in the event that it becomes necessary owing to lack of available players.
- 4) At the commencement of the season teams must name at least one umpire who is either qualified or at probationary level. They do not necessarily need to play within the team.

## **2 MHA ADMINISTRATION**

### **2.1 Board/Executive**

- a) The control of the Leagues shall be vested in the MHA Board. Should any disagreement arise, it should be referred to England Hockey.
- b) The ordinary business of the MHA shall be conducted by the Board consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Commercial Director, Performance Director and Treasurer who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and a lay member. All elected officers (excluding the Auditor) shall be entitled to vote at Committee Meetings.
- c) Each member club shall be entitled to send one representative (chair or there appointed representative) to the quarterly Executive Council meetings to vote. The Board will report all relevant business to the clubs at these meetings. (Meetings to be held September, December, March, June. Additional meetings may be called as and when the need arises eg prior to AGM)
- d) Five voting members, three of whom must be club representatives, shall form a quorum at Executive Council meeting.
- e) The Board will meet every month unless so notified by the Secretary.
- f) All votes in Board meetings shall be decided by simple majority but, if voting is equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.
- g) Clubs wishing to have any general matters brought before the Board should notify the Secretary no later than 4 days prior to the meeting.

- h) The Committee shall have the power to warn or expel from the MHA any member club which it considers to have acted in a manner contrary to the best interests of the game or the reputation of the MHA.
- i) Such action shall not be taken, however, unless agreed by at least three-quarters of the Committee members present at a meeting competent to decide the matter.
- j) Any club so warned or expelled shall have the right to defend its conduct at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose and move for a reversal of the Committee's decision.
- k) Voting on this motion shall be by ballot and members of the club concerned shall not be allowed to vote. Individual players whose action in connection with the game tend to bring it into disrepute shall be dealt with in a similar matter.
- l) The MHA Press Officer(s), Fixtures Secretary and Indoor Secretary who shall be entitled to attend and speak at Committee Meetings but not vote in such capacity. However, they will be permitted to vote as their club's representative.

## **2.2 Sub-committees**

- a) The Board may at their discretion appoint sub-committees for any purpose whatsoever. The Chairman of any such sub-committee shall appointed by the Board.
- b) Sub-committees appointed under this Bye-law shall not (unless re-elected) serve after the date of the Annual General Meeting next following their appointment.

## **2.3 Annual general meetings**

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the MHA shall be held between the 1<sup>st</sup> May and the 31<sup>st</sup> July and will be notified in writing no later than 21 days prior to the meeting being held.
- b) The Committee shall meet in April, May, or at least prior to the Annual General Meeting of the MHA, and shall seek nominations for the posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, MHA Press Officer(s), Hockey Development Committee Chairman, Performance Director, Commercial Director, Indoor Secretary and Fixtures Secretary and a lay member from among its members at that meeting .
- c) The Board shall have the power to co-opt additional members for specific purposes only, such membership shall cease after completion of the purpose for which the person was co-opted.
- d) An Auditor who shall not be a member of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- e) A special General Meeting may be called by the Chairman at any time, and shall be called by the Secretary within two weeks from receipt of written requests (which shall specify the reason for the meeting) from any member club.
- f) All member clubs shall receive no less than one week's notice of a Special General Meeting called, and of the subject for discussion. No subject shall be discussed which has not appeared on the notice of convening the meeting.

- g) Voting shall be show of hands, but a ballot may be substituted for a show of hands at any time if a motion to that effect is properly put and carried.
- h) Officers of the MHA and every person who is a full member of any member club shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings. Honourary members of clubs shall not be so entitled.
- i) Should there be any doubt of a person's right to vote the Chairman of the meeting may demand from him or her proof that he or she is a paid up member of a member club.

**2.5 Club Liaison Officer**

- (a) Each participating team must appoint a Liaison Officer who must be freely available to the Board at all times by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address, postal address and telephone/fax numbers of the Liaison Officer and a second contact must be advised to the Secretary.
- (b) Any change in details of the above must be advised to the Secretary immediately.
- (c) Each team shall respond to requests for information by the Board by a due date. A fine may be levied by the Board for failure to comply with this regulation.

**2.6 Finance**

- a) All clubs shall pay an annual affiliation fee to the MHA in respect of each of its teams for participation in the League. Payment shall be made in accordance with Bye-law 1.1(b). The amount of the subscription shall be determined by the Treasurer and agreed at the Adjourned Annual General meeting.
- b) The accounts of the League shall be Reviewed by the Auditors and thereafter presented at the Adjourned AGM.
- c) A statement duly reviewed by the Auditor (who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting) shall be prepared by the Treasurer and presented to the Annual General Meeting.
- d) Surplus funds shall be invested or otherwise disposed of at the discretion of the Board.

**2.7 Bye-laws**

In accordance with the byelaws of the Association, the Board may from time to time at their discretion make or amend such Bye-Laws as they consider desirable. These must be ratified at a Special General Meeting

**2.8 Advice**

Advice on any part of the Bye-laws may be obtained from the Board by e-mailing the Vice Chairman

**3 FIXTURES.**

- 3.1 Each team shall play all other teams in its Division at least once.
- 3.2 All League matches shall be arranged to take place on such dates, which may include Sundays, as shall be determined by the Fixtures Secretary.
- 3.3 The Fixture Secretary notify each club of the details of its opponents for its Mixed League matches at least 2 weeks prior to scheduled start date.
- 3.4 The Fixture Secretary shall notify each club of the details of its opponents for its Mens and Ladies League matches at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled start date.
- 3.5 All fixtures must be completed prior to the Annual Dinner, this may mean having to play additional fixtures midweek in the weeks after Easter.

## **4 MATCH ARRANGEMENTS.**

### **4.1 Notifying opposition and umpires**

- a) Both clubs shall notify any umpires appointed (please see Bye-law 7) of the match details at least 3 days in advance of the match date. Persistent failure to do so may incur penalties.
- b) If an appointment has not been confirmed by the club by the said date and time, then responsibility for the appointment of a suitably qualified umpire ( at least Level 1) for the game shall lie with the club.
- c) Failure to confirm an appointment or supply a substitute suitably qualified umpire (at least level 1) as defined will normally be considered as failure to fulfil the fixture without prior notice and valid reason.

### **4.3 Pitch surface requirements**

All matches shall be played on the MSR Regional artificial turf pitches and at KWC

### **4.4 Pitch restrictions**

Studded astro-turf boots are banned from all pitches. All teams must comply with these restrictions and will not be permitted to postpone a game if their players do not have appropriate footwear.

## **5 PLAYER QUALIFICATION AND TRANSFERS**

### **5.1 Qualification**

- a) Only bona fide members of a club may be registered for and play for that club in League matches.
- b) Any player who has already played for another club in the League in the current season may not play for a second club unless he has transferred in accordance with Bye-law 5.2.
- c) Students who are registered with UK clubs and participate in EH sanctioned leagues in the UK may not play in Single sex League matches on the Isle of Man unless a transfer of registration has taken place. **(Clarification to be sought on whether this is all leagues or just the National Leagues and their immediate feeder leagues)**

### **5.2 Transfer**

- a) A player may transfer to a new club subject to the following conditions:
  - (i) The player shall have paid up to date any subscriptions or fees properly due to his former and new clubs for the season as signified by the officer's signatures on the transfer form.

- (ii) The player shall not play in a League match for his former or new club until the above requirements have been met.
- b) All transfers must be notified to the Board and will be subject to a transfer fee of £10 payable by the team to which the player is transferring.
- c) In those circumstances where a club has disbanded, then any player who was previously registered with that club shall be able to transfer to another club, upon submission of the transfer form as stated in a) (i)(ii)(iii) – however no transfer fee will be payable. The signature of the team from whence the player has transferred is not required in this case.

## **6 TEAM SELECTION AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

### **6.1 Suspended players**

No team shall contain a player who is suspended in accordance with the disciplinary code of England Hockey.

### **6.2 Selection**

- a) All clubs are encouraged to select their teams within the spirit of the league structure, so that the strongest available team is put out at each level, commencing with the 1<sup>st</sup> team.
- b) All clubs shall ensure that players who have represented the Island and are defined as ‘core Island players’ as drawn up by the Performance Director and ratified by the Board prior to the start of the season shall play in their highest team. Dispensation from this ruling can only be given by the Performance Director and Board and the decision must be unanimous. List of the ‘agreed core island players’ to be posted onto the website.
- c) If any of a club’s teams are not involved in a match, the club shall select its League teams as if that team were playing, save as provided in Rule 6.3.
- d) Clubs shall not strengthen a lower team with players from a higher team to gain an advantage at any time. If a team is perceived to be deliberately strengthening lower teams with higher league players then the Board will have the discretion to take action against that team
- e) If a club has a deficiency of players, it shall cancel its lowest team(s)’s match(es) first.
- f) All clubs must ensure that their 1st teams have a full compliment of players for each match. If circumstances arise where this is not possible, then they must take players from their lower teams to make up the difference. Under no circumstances should a 1st team match be called off for reasons other than those prescribed in byelaw. Exceptions to this are where club’s with only one team are experiencing difficulties in getting a full compliment of 11. They may then play with less than 11 but more than 7.
- g) If an A team match is called off or they play with less than the full 11 players and any of their lower teams play with 11 or more then penalties may be imposed.

### **6.3 Playing for more than one team**

No player may play for more than one team in scheduled League matches in the same match day, or exempted under Bye-law 6.5. A player who was an unused substitute in one match shall be deemed not to have played in that match. For the purposes of this rule, rearranged league fixtures will be deemed to be played on the match day to which they were originally scheduled to be played.

### **6.4 Specific mixed league requirements**

A mixed team shall consist of no more than 5 male players on the outfield at any one time.

## 6.5 Under 18s

- a) Players who are under 18 on the first league fixture of a season will be exempt from Bye-law 6.3 and may play in any two League matches on the same Match Day..
- b) Players who are under 18 will only be able to **drop down one team** from that team to which they normally play to support lower teams, but may be promoted up an unlimited amount of teams within that club on the same Match Day subject to the requirements of 6.5(a)

## 6.6 Goalkeepers

Designated Goalkeepers may play in goals for the teams above and that immediately below the team in which they are named. Designated goalkeepers may only play in goals for a team below the team immediately below the team in which they are named with the express prior confirmation of the Council. The Council shall bear in mind when considering such request, inter alia, the ability of the goalkeeper, the reasons why another goalkeeper cannot be used, the importance of the game etc.

## 6.7 Sex Offenders Register

The MHA takes its responsibilities in this matter very seriously. The MHA is made up of affiliated clubs and as such no players are directly members of the MHA but of those affiliated clubs. Therefore the MHA has no control or influence over the affiliated clubs with regard to their membership. Thus all players shall be aware that any decision made with regard to membership of any affiliated club rests solely with that club and that there is no right of appeal of that decision to the MHA.

However, for the period of a person's inclusion on the Sex Offenders Register the following restrictions will apply, following guidance from Social Services and the Police.

Any player registered with an affiliated club and placed on the SOR shall be ineligible to play in any game under the auspices of the MHA, or hold any position such as, but not limited to, umpire, coach, manager or captain within that club for the period they are on the SOR.

In addition, any member who is placed on the SOR shall be informed by the affiliated club that they may attend matches but can only stand in those areas designated for public use (additional restrictions may be in place at the School venues). Players who are affected by this ruling should also be aware that notification of the imposition of this ruling will be communicated to England Hockey, they may impose further sanctions at their discretion.

As all clubs affiliated to the MHA are also affiliated to England Hockey then there is an appeal process to England Hockey that may be followed by the player should they wish to challenge the imposition of the restrictions placed upon them.

*(The MHA is currently in consultation with EH to get a clear policy on this matter and the byelaw will be amended and taken to a Special General Meeting for approval when this process is complete)*

## 7 UMPIRES

The Board is not responsible for appointing umpires to League games. Umpires are appointed to League games wherever possible by IOMHUA, but for other games, particularly in the lower divisions, clubs may have to provide their own. As far as possible each umpire will be neutral to

the clubs involved in the games to which they are appointed. No authority exists for umpires to make any decision upon the Rules or Bye-laws.

### **7.1 Qualified umpires**

- a) No League match shall be played without two qualified umpires, save as provided in Bye-law 7.1(b).
- b) Umpires must be members of an appropriate Regional Umpires' Association and be qualified to at least Level 1, however, one umpire is allowed to be in the process of obtaining his/her Level 1 qualification.

### **7.2 Appointed umpires**

- a) An “appointed” umpire is an umpire appointed to a League match by the IOMHUA who may require a qualification above Level 1.
- b) It is the responsibility of clubs to notify appointed umpires of the match arrangements under Bye-law 4.1(b).

### **7.3 Where not both umpires are appointed, the following shall apply:**

- a) 1 appointed umpire: Unappointed club provides the other qualified umpire.
- b) No appointed umpire: 1<sup>st</sup> named club provides one qualified umpire and the 2<sup>nd</sup> named club provides one qualified umpire.

### **7.4 If an appointed or club umpire fails to arrive by the start time or a club umpire is not provided under Bye-law 7.3 the following shall apply:**

- a) Appointed umpire is absent Start may be delayed by 15 minutes; if still absent, a “temporary” suitably qualified umpire may take his place with the agreement of the other umpire and the two captains. If no such agreement is possible, the match shall not count as a League match. If a “temporary” suitably qualified umpire is a player from one of the teams, which thereby reduces the number of players available to it on the pitch, the other team shall withdraw one of its own players from the pitch, otherwise the player shall withdraw from the squad. Both the “temporary” suitably qualified umpire and withdrawn player may resume playing at the same time as soon as the absent suitably qualified umpire arrives and takes over from the “temporary” suitably qualified umpire.
- c) A “temporary” suitably qualified umpire must not be part of rolling substitutions with players and must not be replaced at half-time by a player who has participated in the first half of the game.

### **7.5 Penalties for breach of Bye-law 7**

- a) The lack of an appointed, or club, umpire is not grounds for postponement. Clubs are expected to have sufficient umpires to support their teams. If appointed umpires are withdrawn at short notice, then the Secretary **MUST** be consulted immediately if this causes a problem.
- b) If a match is not played for lack of an appointed or club umpire and either club is found to be at fault, the Committee may in accordance with the byelaws of the Association impose a fine, award the match, deduct points or order the match replayed under such conditions as they may deem appropriate.
- c) If a match is played with a “temporary” suitably qualified umpire and either club is found at fault for the absence of an appointed or club umpire, the Committee may impose a fine on the offending club.

## **8 CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

### **8.1 Rules of Hockey**

All League matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Hockey. The introduction of any experimental rule shall be subject to the agreement of England Hockey and the MHA.

### **8.2 Numbered shirts**

In any League match, all players shall wear shirts bearing numbers of at least 9" in height in the centre of the back of the shirt and of contrasting colour from the shirt.

### **8.3 Clash of playing colours**

If two teams have the same or similar playing colours, the 1<sup>st</sup> named team shall change its playing strip to a contrasting colour.

### **8.4 Pitch and equipment**

- a) The 1<sup>st</sup> named team captain shall be responsible for ensuring an adequate supply of match balls.
- b) The match umpires shall be responsible for ensuring the goals and nets are in good repair and the pitch clear of debris before the start of the match.

### **8.5 Team clothing and captain's arm-bands**

All players must wear a shirt and socks of the same colour(s) as the shirt and socks of the rest of the outfield players. Goalkeepers must wear clothing which contrasts with the colours of the outfield players. The playing kit must correspond to the colours notified to the Board, and should be plain excepting for the Club Crest, Sponsors name, and Numbers. 'Tour Shirts' with nicknames are not permitted in official League fixtures. Player's surname is permitted on the back of the shirt.

### **8.6 Late starts and uncompleted matches**

- a) Both teams must be ready to start at the time in compliance with Bye-law 3. If a full match cannot be completed because of the lateness of one or other team, the Board or the RBSC in accordance with the byelaws of the Association may impose a fine, deduct points, award the match, reverse the result or order the match to be replayed under such conditions as they deem appropriate.
- b) A result shall stand if at least 60 minutes' play has taken place. If not, the Board may decide that the score at early termination of a match shall stand.

### **8.7 Authority of umpires**

As soon as a League match commences, the captains of both teams shall be deemed to have passed all authority for completion of the match to the umpires, but no authority exists for umpires to make any decision upon the Rules or Bye-laws.

### **8.8 Club Sponsors**

Sponsors' advertisements are allowed on clothing, shoes, tracksuits and sports bags but not on players' sticks or goalkeeper's pads other than the manufacturer's logo.

No club shall change its name nor incorporate any part of the name of a sponsor in its title without the prior approval of the Board and England Hockey.

## **9 SPECIFIC CUP COMPETITION RULES**

- 9.1 No player may play for more than one club in any one cup competition. To be eligible they must have been registered before the first round draw was made.
- 9.2 All players are restricted to playing in one mixed cup competition and one mens/ladies cup competition each season only. .
- 9.3 A list of 11 players (10 outfield and 1 goalkeeper) is required for each team entered into cup competitions.
- 9.4 In Cup games, if the tie is unresolved after normal time then the match will be decided by penalty flicks. A draw shall take place for the opponents for each round.

## **10 SPECIFIC INDOOR COMPETITION RULES**

No player may play for a second indoor men's, ladies or mixed team without obtaining a transfer approved by the Board

## **11 POST-MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **11.1 Phoning results**

- a) Both team captains shall, on the day of the match, telephone the result of the match and the details listed in Bye-law 11.1.b as follows:

Manx Radio Sports Desk	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
Energy FM Sports Desk	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
MHA Press Officer	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
Website	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match
MHA Indoor Secretary	Within 60 minutes of the conclusion of the said match

This Bye-law 11.1.a includes matches that are league games and cup games that fall to be played on the scheduled fixture date or a re-scheduled date and may be played on a Saturday, a Sunday or in a midweek fixture.

- b) The result must be phoned in or texted stating:
- (i) the Division;
  - (ii) the half time score;
  - (iii) the Home team name, its score and the scorers; and
  - (iv) the Away team name, its score and the scorers.
- c) If a match is abandoned or not commenced for any reason, that information must be rung into the Manx Radio Sports Desk, Energy FM Sports Desk, MHA Webmaster and the MHA Press Officer(s).
- d) Matches cannot be claimed by ringing the Radio or Press Officer, Manx Radio Sports Desk, Energy FM Sports Desk, MHA Webmaster and the MHA Press Officer(s)– all such claims must be made to the Secretary in writing, or by e-mail.

## NOTES NOT FORMING PART OF THE RULES:

**Note 1: Multiple results are acceptable in one call, provided:**

- a) **The number of results being reported is stated first; and**
- b) **The results are in descending order from the highest team.**

### 11.2 Match Reports on Fixtures Live

Both team captains shall enter the result on to Fixtures Live and ensure that:

- a) both umpires' names and the venue are clearly recorded;
- b) the score and scorers are clearly recorded;
- c) that all the names of the players and teams are clearly recorded; and
- d) that the Match Report is to be entered via Fixtures Live within 96 hours of the completion of the match.
- e) A small area is available for constructive comments re the Umpires, but any defamatory comments will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Officer.

## 12 POSTPONEMENTS, ABANDONMENTS AND UNPLAYED MATCHES

### 12.1 Postponements

- a) Only the Board may authorise postponement of a match for any reason, save if the pitch is unplayable due to weather conditions. (and see Bye-law 12.2)
- b) A club may apply to the Secretary (who will bring the matter to the attention of the Board) for postponement of a match if it has players participating (as players or officials) on a scheduled League weekend:
  - (i) in a County or EHA tournament or county or higher representative trials or training (must be at least two players);
  - (ii) on Club or school hockey business (must be at least three players); and
  - (iii) With an Island representative team (must be at least two players).Postponement under this Rule must be made by the Board. Application for postponement under this Rule must be made by the club to the Secretary immediately its players' involvement is known and at least 10 days before the scheduled fixture.
- c) Applications for postponement for any other reason must be made to the Secretary as soon as the circumstances are known. However, unless there are exceptional circumstances it is unlikely the request will be granted for any team other than the lowest within the Club as to do so would disadvantage other teams.
- d) When a request is made to the Secretary for a postponement, a rearranged date must be agreed and communicated to the Secretary before the postponement can be accepted. The fixture shall be replayed on the Sunday following the scheduled date, it may be replayed outside this time scale with the express permission of the Board. Please note Bye-law 6.3

**Note: Postponements are unlikely to be granted for such reasons as: players on holiday, International Rugby weekends and reasons of personal choice making players unavailable. Delay in applying for postponements is likely to result in refusal.**

### 12.2 Bad Weather Procedure

The Umpire, Board or 1<sup>st</sup> named team should follow the following procedure.

- a) It is the responsibility of the 1<sup>st</sup> named team and/or umpires to inspect the pitch as early as possible on a fixture date if bad weather is likely to affect any fixture. A representative of the 1<sup>st</sup> named side and/or one of the scheduled umpires should do this and notify the Chairman or Vice Chairman. They will take a realistic view at this stage. If the pitch is unfit and is likely to remain so, the game should be postponed and reported as such under Bye-law 12.4(a).

- b) If there is an adverse weather forecast eg Snow or Storm force winds, the board will monitor the situation and make regular announcements via the media and the website. This will be best guess on the information and advice provided by Met Office and Emergency services.

### **12.3 Abandonments**

A match, once commenced, may only be abandoned by the decision of the umpires. The result will stand if at least 60 minutes' play has taken place (subject to Rule 8.6(a) and (b)), but otherwise at the discretion of the Board

### **12.4 Reporting postponement, abandonment or unplayed matches**

- a) Unless instructed by the Secretary, whenever a match is postponed, abandoned or is unplayed for any reason, the 1<sup>st</sup> named team must immediately inform:
  - (i) the opposition;
  - (ii) the umpires;
  - (iii) the Manx Radio Sports Desk, Energy FM Sports Desk, MHA Webmaster and the MHA Press Officer; and
  - (iv) the Secretary.
- b) In addition, if there is any dispute over the circumstances, both clubs must report the circumstances in writing, or by e-mail, to the Secretary within 7 days of the scheduled date of the match.

### **12.5 Re-scheduling postponed, abandoned or unplayed matches**

**All Rearranged games should be played on the Sunday of the following week from the original scheduled date.**

If clubs cannot, within play on this date, the Fixtures Secretary may dictate the date and venue for it to be played.

### **12.6 Slip Dates**

The Saturday immediately following the end of the scheduled dates in the first half of the season and immediately preceding the start of the scheduled dates in the second half of the season shall be deemed as official League "slip dates" for games properly postponed from the first half of the season. The Saturday immediately following the end of the scheduled dates in the second half of the season shall be deemed to be the official League "slip date" for games properly postponed during the second half of the season.

The Fixtures Secretary may also use free Sundays if he/she feels that such weekends would be more appropriate.

### **12.7 Board's powers**

If a match which has not been properly postponed under Bye-law 12.1:

- a) does not take place; or
  - b) is not completed; or
  - c) is abandoned before 60 minutes' play has been completed;
- the Board in accordance with the byelaws of the Association shall make a decision as to the outcome and, if appropriate, refer the matter to the RBSC for consideration.

## **13 MISCONDUCT**

- 13.1 Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials and supporters and any conduct, on or off the pitch, which is liable to bring the League into disrepute may be penalised under Bye-law

- 17.1. This includes any written or electronic communications published in newspapers, newsletters and websites.
- 13.2 It is the primary responsibility of clubs forming part of the MHA to regulate the behaviour of their players, officials, members and spectators. This Bye-law requires participating clubs to confirm by entering the Leagues that they have established an internal disciplinary procedure to deal with SERIOUS, DISORDERLY, ABUSIVE, OFFENSIVE OR IMPROPER behaviour by players, officials, members and spectators prior to, during and after any League, cup or friendly match involving a MHA club.
- 13.3 It shall be presumed by the MHA that each participating club has such an internal procedure as referred to above.
- 13.4 Any behaviour, as shown in Bye-law 13.1 and 13.2 above, that is reported to the Board may be considered as a disrepute offence under 13.1, above, will be dealt with by the Board.

## **14 REPRESENTATIVE ISLAND HOCKEY**

- 14.1 For each representative team the Hockey Development Committee shall appoint a manager and a coach.
- 14.2 No player may represent the Island who is not a member of an affiliate club or who is a debtor of the MHA.
- 14.4 All costs/fees incurred by a hockey player that plays representative hockey for the MHA off-Island should be repaid to the MHA within four weeks of having played the final representative match, unless dispensation is provided by the Board.
- 14.5 Players failing to comply with this byelaw will be automatically banned from playing in any competitive tournaments organised by the MHA (i.e league and cup events) until such a time that the debt has been repaid or an alternative course of action has been agreed with the Treasurer or Board.
- 14.6 The Secretary will be responsible for advising club secretaries of hockey players who are banned and the subsequent removal of those bans.

## **15 ENFORCEMENT AND INTERPRETATION**

### **15.1 Board powers**

The MHA hereby delegates to the Board, in addition to any specific provision in the Rules and Bye-laws, the following powers to exercise on its behalf:

- a) to make decisions as to interpretation of the Rules and Bye-laws in so far as they relate to the playing of matches and to impose such conditions as they may deem appropriate to ensure fulfilment of fixtures within the Rules and Bye-laws and
- b) to impose penalties for breach of the Rules by way of fines, deduction of points, awarding of matches, reversal of results and ordering payment of expenses by one club to another.

## **16 CLAIMING MATCHES, PROTESTS, RATIFICATION AND APPEALS PROCEDURE**

### **16.1 Claiming matches, protests**

- a) Any club seeking to claim a match must do so in writing, or by e-mail, to the Secretary within 7 days of the scheduled date.
- b) Clubs seeking to claim a match, with or without opponent's agreement, must indicate to the Secretary why the match cannot be considered as a postponed fixture (Bye-law 12).
- c) All protests, complaints of breach of the Bye-laws or questions of interpretation of the Bye-laws shall, in the first instance, be made to the Secretary who will bring it to the attention of the Council and the club in question..
- d) The Board will reach a final decision by majority vote and the Chairman will advise the League Liaison Officer/s of the club/s involved of the decision by letter or e mail, copying the Secretary, Treasurer (if a fine has been awarded) and (if a result is to be altered or a match awarded) the MHA Press Officer, and the decision and the amended table will be posted on the League website

### **16.2 Appeals**

- a) A right of appeal to the Board exists for either of the clubs whose teams were the opposing teams in a match in respect of which a decision has been made under Bye-law 16.1.
- b) An appeal from a decision shall be made within 14 days of notification of the original decision to the clubs and shall be sent in writing or by e-mail to the Secretary.
- c) Upon receipt of a valid appeal, the Secretary shall inform the Chairman, who shall consult with the Board and decide if there are grounds to hear the appeal or if the matter will be dealt with by the Board.
- d) Within 21 days of the receipt of a valid appeal, the Secretary shall advise the clubs of the date (which shall be at least 14 days thereafter) and location of the appeal hearing be heard. The clubs may be represented at the hearing or send written representations via their League Liaison Officer to the Secretary.
- e) The outcome of the appeal hearing shall be confirmed in writing, or by e-mail, within 7 days of the hearing to the clubs involved in the match in question and those who made written representations.
- f) Any decision at the Appeal hearing shall be final and binding.

## **17. BOARD POWERS AND BINDING FORCE OF RULES**

### **17.1 Board powers**

The Board shall have the power in accordance with the byelaws of the Association, to impose such penalty for breach of the Rules and Bye-laws as it may deem appropriate. However the expulsion of a club or team, suspension of a club for up to three years, relegating a team to a lower Division must be agreed by the full Committee at a specially convened meeting.

### **17.2 Binding force of Rules and Bye-laws**

Each club by its entry into the League shall be deemed to have given its consent to the Rules and Bye-laws and to any amendments which may from time to time be adopted in proper form. They also agree to abide by the spirit of the rules and byelaws and not seek to gain any unfair advantage from loopholes or 'grey' areas.

A more concise version listing the more common rules will be issued via the website

## **18 Child Protection (Under Review with EH may be amended further) (see in addition section 6.7 Sex Offenders Register)**

18.1 The MHA believes:

- (a) that safety and welfare of children should always be of paramount importance, whatever the circumstances;
- (b) that everyone with a role in working with children has a moral and a legal responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse; and
- (c) that special care is needed in dealing with children whose age, inexperience or physical state makes them particularly vulnerable to abuse, and therefore:
  - (i) has adopted a child protection policy (a copy of which is available from the MHA) to ensure that the welfare and safety of children in England Hockey's care or custody is always the primary consideration; and
  - (ii) committed itself to providing an environment where children can learn about, participate in and enjoy hockey free from harassment or abuse.

18.2 The child protection policy is predicated on the following three principles:

- (a) a child's welfare is the paramount consideration;
- (b) a child, regardless of age, ability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation has a right to be protected from abuse; and
- (c) the rights, dignity and worth of a child should always be respected.

## **19 Equity Policy**

19.1 Statement of Intention

- (a) The MHA is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity. The MHA aims to ensure that all people, irrespective of age, gender, ability, race, religion, ethnic origin, creed, colour, social status or sexual orientation have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in hockey at all levels and in all roles. This includes, job applicants, employees, participants, volunteers and spectators.

(b) MHA shall:

- (i) ensure that there will be open access to all its services;
- (ii) eliminate prejudice against any group by removing barriers;
- (iii) select, recruit, promote and train all personnel working for or on behalf of the MHA solely on the basis of merit and ability and by adapting facilities and equipment where necessary;
- (iv) communicate to all employees and volunteers its commitment to equal opportunities;
- (v) fulfil its social responsibility to all employees and volunteers, ensuring that appropriate support is given;
- (vi) make every reasonable effort to prepare, produce and market materials that are appropriate for all persons in respect of language, format and approach;
- (vii) modify any existing rules and regulations that may inhibit the inclusion of any groups, provided this does not result in the deterioration of equality required by the MHA.

19.2 Definitions

- (a) Direct discrimination is defined as treating a person less favourably than others would be treated in the same circumstances/
- (b) Indirect discrimination occurs when a job requirement or condition is applied, which, whether intentional or not, has an adverse effect on one sex or racial group or marital status because fewer

representatives of that group are able to comply with it, and that requirement or condition cannot be justified on grounds other than race, gender or marital status.

### 19.3 Harassment

Harassment can be described as inappropriate actions, behaviour, comments or physical contact that are objectionable or cause offence to the recipient. It may be directed towards people because of their age, sexuality, disability or some other characteristic

### 19.4 Conduct

The MHA regards discrimination and harassment as outlined above as gross misconduct and any employee of the MHA, participant or volunteer who so discriminates against any other person shall be liable to appropriate disciplinary action.

### 19.5 Implementation

- (a) A copy of the policy shall be available to all persons working or assisting the MHA. All these persons shall respect, act in accordance with and thereby support and promote the spirit and intentions of this policy.
- (b) A planned approach shall be adopted to remove discrimination against any group.
- (c) The MHA shall be committed to working only alongside those individuals or organisations who are prepared to demonstrate the principles and practice of equity as laid out in this document.

## Appendix

### **PENALTIES AND FINES FOR BREACH OF THE RULES AND BYE-LAWS**

#### **1. Penalties and Points Deductions**

*The Committee reserves the right, in the case of persistent failure or unreasonable delay by a club in the payment of fine(s) or compliance with any other sanction properly imposed by the Committee, to add substantially increased sanctions in addition to the original punishment. In the event of a gross failure by a club to comply with the Committee's instructions relegation or expulsion will be applied.*

This table sets out the normal tariff of points deductions which will be applied, but the Committee reserves the right to alter the punishment imposed, at its discretion, taking into account the spirit of the byelaws. Where any substantial alteration is made the club will be informed of the reasons. Application of these penalties and points deductions is subject to any appeals as per the League Rules.

	<b>RULE</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
1	Failure to fulfil an outdoor fixture	<b>Loss of game</b> and pay opponents expenses	Games may be played on non designated date if agreed with the Board and opponents and is played earlier than designated date
2	Failure to fulfil 2nd fixture in one season	<b>2pts deducted</b> and formal warning of possible relegation	For each failure to fulfil the offending team must pay opponents expenses
3	Failure to fulfil more than 2 fixtures in each of consecutive seasons	Relegation (See Note)	A bond will be required for the next season
4	Playing an ineligible player, including one serving any form of suspension	2pts deducted per player	The result stands as is <b>unless</b> the innocent team request the game be replayed <b>or</b> the league committee decides to void/replay the game
5	Playing a player(s) under an assumed name	2pts deducted per player	The result stands as is <b>unless</b> the innocent team request the game be replayed <b>or</b> the league committee decides to void/replay the game
6	Playing a player(s) under an assumed name who has already played that weekend	2pts deducted per player	The result stands as is <b>unless</b> the innocent team request the game be replayed <b>or</b> the league committee decides to void/replay the game
7	Repeat of offence of playing a	4pts deducted per	The result stands as is <b>unless</b> the

	player(s) under an assumed name who has already played that weekend	player	innocent team request the game be replayed <b>or</b> the league committee decides to void/replay the game
8	Playing suspended "red" card player	2pts deducted per player	The result stands as is <b>unless</b> the innocent team request the game be replayed <b>or</b> the Committee decides to void/replay the game. In addition, the player will face further Disciplinary action.
9	Failure to fulfil an indoor fixture	2 pts deducted and pay opponents expenses	Games may be played on non designated date if agreed with Indoor Secretary and opponents and is played earlier than designated date
10	Failing to provide an umpire to a match	Deemed to have lost that match by a score of 0-5 and pay opponents expenses	
11	Playing a cup-tied player in a cup competition	Deemed to have lost that match by a score of 0-5 and pay opponents expenses	
12	Fielding an A team with less than a full compliment of players (11)	2 pts deducted, a 5-0 walkover and pay opponents expenses	Each lower team shall be deemed to have lost their match by a score of 0-5

### Notes

**Relegation:** Where a team is going to be forcibly relegated it is still expected to complete its fixture list. Failure to do so will count as additional failure to fulfil and be punished accordingly. It will be placed bottom of the League but all results will count.

**Expulsion:** This will occur immediately and all that team's results will be expunged

## 2. Fines

This table sets out the normal tariff of fines which will be applied, but the Board reserves the right to alter the punishment imposed, at its discretion. Where any substantial alteration is made the club will be informed of the reasons.

	DESCRIPTION	FINE
1	First Offence of not phoning in/late phoning in of result to Manx Radio	Warning
2	First Offence of not phoning in/late phoning in of result to MHA press Officer	Warning
3	Second offence of not phoning in/late phoning in of result to Manx Radio	£10
4	Second offence of not phoning in/late phoning in of result to MHA press Officer	£10
5	For each additional offence of not phoning in/late phoning in of	Additional £10 on the amount

	result to Manx Radio	previously fined
6	For each additional offence of not phoning in/late phoning in of result to MHA press Officer	Additional £10 on the amount previously fined
7	If a team fails to submit or submits a late/incorrect/incomplete team sheet	Warning
8	If a team commits a second offence of failing to submit or submitting a late/incorrect/incomplete team sheet	£10
9	For each additional offence of failing to submit or submitting a late/incorrect/incomplete team sheet	Additional £10 on the amount previously fined

**Note 1 Consistent breaches of the above offences or any other league rules may lead to further fines and/or points deductions.**

**Note 2 Any Club failing to return a Trophy at the Annual General Meeting will be fined £50 and will also be charged for the cost of a replacement.**