



# SENIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

## 2017 / 2018

### Men





## **Men's Competition Regulations 2017 - 2018**

### **1. Preamble**

The following Rules are applicable to the following National Competitions played within the control of Hockey Wales (HW) and should be read in conjunction with the individual tournament regulations.

#### 1.1 Men

- a) Welsh Championship
- b) Welsh Trophy
- c) Welsh Challenge
- d) Welsh Masters

### **2. Management and Control**

- 2.1 Shall be invested in the HW National Competitions Coordinators.
- 2.2 The HW Competitions Technical Action Group (TAG) may appoint Assistant Coordinators to assist in the organisation of individual competitions.

### **3. Entry**

- 3.1 Any club registered with HW may enter.
- 3.2 Entry form(s) and any entry fees as advised by HW shall be sent to the Competitions Coordinator by the designated date on the entry form
- 3.3 All monies will be controlled by HW.
- 3.4 No club may enter more than one team per outdoor competition, subject to the Competitions Coordinators discretion for the Men's Trophy and Challenge competitions. If any club has permission to enter more than one team into any competition players must be selected to play the whole competition for that one team and cannot be selected for any other team in the same competition.
- 3.5 All Clubs and players must pay the current HW affiliation fees by 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- 3.6 If a Club enters a competition whereby the winners are invited to participate in a European competition the club, on entering that competition, accepts that European entry is an absolute expectation should they win that competition. Should the invitation be declined then penalties will be imposed. The only grounds for declining to enter a European competition are if that Club has qualified for both the Indoor and an Outdoor competition in the same season. Should this situation arise then HW will seek a replacement which will, where possible, be the runner up in the relevant Welsh competition.



3.6a For the EHF qualification the highest ranking EHL team will be automatically allocated the first EHF position. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked EHF position will be allocated to the Winner of the Championship, or the Runner-Up if the highest placed EHL team also wins the Championship.

If there are two clubs in the EHL, they will be seeded and kept apart in the semi-finals with the highest placed team from the previous season playing the lowest non-EHL team (1v4) with the other EHL team playing the highest non-EHL team (2v3).

3.7 Those clubs with teams in the leagues as detailed in Appendix A will be entitled to enter one team into each of the respective competitions for which they have qualified. See example in 3.8b. Additional teams may be entered into the Trophy and Challenge tournaments- see 3.4 above.

3.8a Any club member (registered with HW) will be allowed to participate in the highest-level tournament for which his club has entered. If, however a club has entered a second or third team into differing level competitions then each club must nominate with HW the names of their strongest 14 players from each team that maintains a place within each higher-level competition. The selection of each team should be made from the nominated list of players. It is expected that these nominated players will only play in the competition in which their regular team is qualified with nominated players not being eligible to play in any lower tiered competition(s). If a team is short of players for any particular match it may make up their numbers from selecting from a team from a lower tiered competition only. The list of names must be received by HW by 1st September or by a date specified by the National Competitions Coordinator. An amended list of players to allow for injuries etc. may be forwarded to HW between 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January detailing the reasons why the player(s) are being withdrawn from the original list. The National Competitions Coordinator will consider any such request and will advise the club if the change has been approved or declined. No additional changes will be allowed outside of these dates. If a club does not enter teams into all levels for which they are eligible they must still register the players from the higher-ranking level tournament if just 1 team is entered into either the Trophy or Challenge level. See example in 3.8b

3.8b For example a club having one team in the League Premiership Division and one in the League Championship Division will be entitled to one entry into the HW Championship and would have to nominate 28 players who would not be eligible to play in either the Trophy or Challenge level competitions. The selection of the team to play in the Hockey Wales Championship should only be made from these 28 players with any other players only being selected from teams in lower tiered competitions.

3.8c The National Competitions Coordinator will determine the format of the Trophy and Challenge levels once all entries have been received.

3.9 Only players aged 40 or over during the calendar year of competition, may play in the Welsh Masters Cup. The National Competitions Coordinator will determine the format of the competition.

3.10 Masters teams may consist of players from **no more than three clubs** with the prior approval of the National Competitions Coordinator, but players may only play for one team / composite team in the competition (see rule 14.4). Any player who is not a member of a HW registered club may participate but must register with HW as a member of one of the three 'merged' participating clubs.



**3.11 No team shall automatically qualify for any final**

3.12 A maximum of 18 players (a weekend) may be used by team, of whom 2 must be goalkeepers wearing full protective equipment. If a team chooses not to include a second goalkeeper in the 18 players, they are limited to using 16 players (a weekend). Any variations will be advised by the National Competitions Coordinator prior to the start of the competition.

**4. Draw**

4.1 Where possible, all draws will be made at a suitable public event.

4.2 The team drawn first is the Home team (dependent on the format of the competition).

**5. Rules of Play**

5.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Hockey as issued by the FIH with the only possible exception being in the Trophy and Challenge dependent on the format of the competition.

5.2 In the event of HW adopting experimental rules, matches will be played to such rules during their currency. The final of the Men's Championship may be played in accordance with the rules appertaining to EHF club competitions for that season.

5.3 If there is a clash of colours, the Away (second named) team shall change to different colours. This must include shirts and socks

**6. Dates of Matches**

6.1 Matches shall be played on the dates designated in the HW Priority Calendar with the exception of the Universities and Colleges who may be allowed some dispensation to agree different dates for their 1<sup>st</sup> Round Matches with their opposition and the National Competitions Coordinator should the scheduled date be outside their term dates

**7. Priority**

7.1 The Championship shall take priority over all other hockey played under the auspices of HW.

7.2 No postponement in the event of a clash with a re-arranged league match will be allowed where the respective HW competition date has been advised in the Priority Calendar as initially published by September.

7.3 Exceptions: NAG's and Senior national squads, training and matches will have priority provided that these dates are included in the Priority Calendar as initially published.

7.4 No matches are sanctioned by HW during the Cup Finals weekend other than the finals of the relative national competitions.

7.5 **NO** hockey should be played on National Cup Finals weekend.



## 8. Time and Duration of Play

- 8.1 Start time 1200 - 1430 or a time convenient to both teams when the fixture is arranged between them. Times of matches in the semi-finals and finals will be advised by the National Competitions Coordinator.
- 8.2 No matches will be arranged to start under artificial light unless prior approval is obtained from the National Competitions Coordinator.
- 8.3 All matches to be confirmed by Home team with Away team and Umpires at least 10 days prior to match.
- 8.4 If insufficient pitch time is booked for the completion of the game, including penalty strokes, then the home team will forfeit the game.
- 8.5 In the event of a draw at the end of full time in any knock-out match a shoot-out competition will take place, as per Appendix C, unless the National Competitions Coordinator advises otherwise.
- 8.6 **If the format of the competition involves teams playing at the same venue, on the same day (e.g. pool or group games) then the Competitions Coordinator will advise teams of start times etc. which may be outside those mentioned above.**

## 9. Grounds

- 9.1 The Competitions TAG will decide the venue for the Finals of all competitions and may also decide upon semi-final venues along with any stage of any of the competitions held as pools or groups.
- 9.2 All matches must be played on artificial turf pitches.

## 10. Matches - Postponement, Failure to fulfil, Conceding, Abandonment

Postponed - a "stand alone" match may be postponed due to adverse weather conditions. The home team has the sole right to determine if the pitch is unplayable. The home team should ascertain from the visiting team the time they intend to depart for the pitch venue and the visitors and umpires should be notified before their departure that the pitch will be unfit due to weather.

There will be no postponements for matches which form part of pool tournaments

- 10.1 Postponed - a match may be postponed if adverse weather conditions prevent the away team from travelling
- 10.2 Postponed - a match may be postponed if a club has 2 or more players involved with a national squad (see priority 7.3)
- 10.3 Postponed - for reasons other than 10.1 and 10.2 any request for postponement must be put in writing, to the National Competitions Coordinator, with a full explanation no less than 7 days before the scheduled match start time (unless there are very exceptional circumstances). The National Competitions Coordinator will determine if the request for postponement has been approved. A request for a postponement may also incur a fine (see 12.5a) and match expenses (see 12.4). Postponements are unlikely to be granted for such reasons as: players on holiday,



weddings, university exams, International Rugby weekends and reasons of personal choice making players unavailable. Any postponed match must normally be played within 14 days as per section 8 above

10.4 **Conceding a match is unacceptable** - the offending club will be fined (see 12.5b) and may incur match expenses (see 12.4)

10.5 Abandonment is the responsibility of the Umpires. If a game is abandoned before the 60<sup>th</sup> minute, it is to be replayed normally within 14 days. From the 60<sup>th</sup> minute onwards the team with the most goals shall be the winner. If a draw, the game is to be replayed normally within 14 days.

The rearranged fixture should be played within 14 days and the National Competitions Coordinator informed. If clubs are unable to agree a date, the National Competitions Coordinator will fix a date for playing the match. Any club refusing to play on a date fixed by the National Competitions Coordinator shall be deemed to have lost the match

## 11. Umpires

11.1 The WHUA may appoint umpires to any match but will provide umpires for the semi-final round onwards in each competition.

11.2 Umpires must be qualified, as per the WHUA/HW current list of active umpires, or hold an equivalent qualification from any National Association and be affiliated to both the WHUA and HW.

11.3 After the match both umpires must confirm the result by signing the match sheet (this may not be necessary for pool or group matches).

11.4 Non arrival of an appointed umpire / umpires at the designated time:

a) The start shall be delayed for 10 minutes

b) If the appointed umpire(s) has not arrived at the end of that 10 minutes the following shall apply:

i) The Home team captain shall ascertain, from amongst the spectators, if there is a qualified umpire(s) available who is willing to officiate. That umpire(s) shall then become the "temporary umpire(s)"

ii) If no such umpire is available then the Home team captain, in consultation with the captain of the Away team and the umpire, shall nominate from amongst their playing squads, a qualified umpire(s) to act as "temporary umpire(s)". A player(s) may be withdrawn from either or both playing squads for this purpose. If a "temporary umpire(s)" has been withdrawn from one playing squad the other team shall withdraw one of its playing squad.

**NOTE:** For the purpose of this rule both teams shall have an equal number of players on the pitch provided they both have an equal number of players available. If one team has fewer than eleven players available, then that differential must be maintained.

iii) In the event of the appointed umpire(s) arriving before the commencement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half the appointed umpire(s) will take over the match and the "temporary umpire(s)" and the withdrawn player(s), may\_re-join the game.

11.5 If no replacement qualified umpire is available the match shall be postponed (see 10)



## **12. Expenses, Fines**

- 12.1 The Home team shall meet the match expenses including the provision of the pitch, match balls and reasonable refreshments after the game.
- 12.2 The Away team to meet its own travelling expenses.
- 12.3 All clubs must contribute towards the cost of any expenses for the appointed umpires, the amount and method of collection to be decided by the WHUA annually.
- 12.4 Failure to fulfil a fixture (see 10.3, 10.4) clubs will be liable for any expenses incurred by their opponents and umpires.
- 12.5 Fines will be levied as follows:
- a. Postponed as per 10.3  
Fine subject to a maximum of £100
  - b. Conceded as per 10.4  
Fine subject to a minimum of £50 and a maximum of £150
  - c. Non-notification of nominated players by due date**  
**Fine of £20**
  - d. Playing a non-registered player  
Fine of £50 plus option to expel the offending team from that particular competition.
- 12.6 In the case of serious or repeated offences the TAG retains the right to impose additional penalties which may include increased fines over and above those detailed above as well as the option to ban or suspend clubs or teams from entering competitions.

## **13. Disputes / Appeals**

- 13.1 Any complaint which may arise in connection with these regulations or other matters relating to these competitions will only be considered if it is sent in writing to the Competitions TAG Chair within 48 hours of the event / decision.
- 13.2 The Competitions TAG Chair shall determine the action to be taken.
- 13.3 Clubs shall have the right to appeal as laid down in the HW Right of Appeal

## **14. Eligibility**

- 14.1. All players participating in Welsh competitions must comply with the HW Registration Rules (which explain the mechanism for players transferring from one club to another)
- 14.2. Players shall only play, in any of the competitions covered by these rules, for the club with which they are currently registered, with the exception of the Welsh Masters Cup (see rule 14.4)



- 14.3. Players shall not play in any of the competitions covered by these rules if, after 1<sup>st</sup> November in the season of competition they have played in any competition in that season for a club which is not affiliated to HW.
- 14.4. It is recognised that some clubs do not play in the Welsh Masters Cup. If there are players in those clubs who wish to play in the Welsh Masters Cup, then they may play for a club which does participate in this competition provided that they are registered with HW and that their own club does not participate in the Welsh Masters Cup (see rule 3.10)

## **15. Doping Control**

15.1 As per HW Bye Laws and Articles of Association, you are reminded that all players could be subject to UK Anti-doping procedures at any match.

## **16. General**

16.1 Participating teams must be aware of Hockey Wales Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Anti-Doping Policy, and all Codes of Conduct, all of which will apply to each match

16.2 The Competitions TAG shall determine the action to be taken for any matter not specifically covered by these regulations and should issues arise on the day, the organiser / such person(s) as the Competitions TAG has delegated to assist with the running of the competition, shall determine the action to be taken.

HW Competitions TAG

June 2017

HW Competitions TAG Chair

Sheila Morrow

HW National Competitions Coordinator

John Taylor





## Appendix A

Tier	South Wales		North Wales	Other	
1	EHL				Hockey Wales Club Championships
2	Premiership		Premier Division		
3	Championship		Division 1		
4	Northern Conference		Division 2 West		Hockey Wales Club Trophy
5	De Cymru and The Marches 1		North West Hockey League Divisions 1 – 4	West Midlands 1	
6	De Cymru and the Marches 2				
7	De Cymru 1	The Marches 1	North West Hockey League Divisions 5 -11 & North Wales Hockey League		Hockey Wales Club Challenge
8	De Cymru 2	The Marches 2			
9	De Cymru 3	The Marches 3			

Note – the placement of clubs within this system is based on the league placements at the start of the 2017/2018 league season.

Clubs who have a team or teams playing within a participating league are eligible to enter a team into that tier of cup competition. For example, Cardiff & Met may enter a team into the top tier of competition made up from players from Cardiff & Met, Cardiff & Met A, and Cardiff & Met B. Bridgend may enter a team into the Challenge level of the competition made up from players who play in Bridgend A and Bridgend B teams.

Number of semi-finalists from each region would be dependent on number of entries (not eligibility)

Pool rounds could be national, not regional (dependent on number of entries)

**No team shall automatically qualify for any final**



## **Appendix B** (from FIH General Tournament Regulations – August 2017)

In a shoot-out competition, five players from each team take a one-on-one shoot-out alternately against a defender from the other team as set out in this Regulation. The shoot-out competition comprises all series of shoot-outs required to determine a result.

The following sets out both the playing Rules and the procedures to be followed.

- 1 If the shoot-out competition takes place after the end of a match, the first shoot-out should take place within four (4) minutes of the end of regulation playing time.
- 2 The respective Team Managers provide five players to take and one player to defend the shoot-outs from those on the Match Report except as excluded below. A player nominated to defend the shoot-outs can also be nominated to take a shoot-out. No substitutions / replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition other than as specified below.
- 3 A player who is still serving a disciplinary suspension by the Technical Delegate at the time the shoot-out competition takes place or has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition, cannot take part in that shoot-out competition. A player who has been warned (green card) or temporarily suspended (yellow card) may take part in the shoot-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match.
- 4 The Technical Delegate will specify the method of timing shoot-outs taking account of the facilities available and the need to control time accurately.
- 5 The Technical Delegate will specify the goal to be used.
- 6 A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot-out.



- 7 All persons listed on the Match Report other than any player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition are permitted to enter the field of play outside the 23m area used for the shoot-out but must be at least 10 metres from the spot where the ball is placed at the start of the shoot-out.
- 8 The goalkeeper / defending player of the team taking a shoot-out shall wait on the back-line outside the circle.
- 9 A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.
- 10 Players taking a shoot-out and also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents are allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put back on their protective equipment.
- 11 Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper / defending player of the other team making a total of 10 shoot-outs.
- 13 Taking a shoot-out:
  - a the goalkeeper / defending player starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts;
  - b the ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;
  - c an attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;
  - d the Umpire blows the whistle to start time;
  - e an official at the technical table starts the clock;
  - f the attacker and the goalkeeper / defending player may then move in any direction;
  - g the shoot-out is completed when:
    - i 8 seconds has elapsed since the starting signal



- ii a goal is scored;
  - iii the attacker commits an offence;
  - iv the goalkeeper / defending player commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle in which case the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper/defending player;
  - v the goalkeeper / defending player commits an intentional offence inside or outside the circle, in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;
  - vi the ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper / defending player intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.
- 14 If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above, it can be taken and defended by any eligible player on the Match Report subject to the provisions of Articles 17, 18 and 19 of this Appendix.
- 15 The team scoring the most goals (or ahead by more goals than the other team has untaken shoot-outs available) is the winner.
- 16 A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot-out competition.
- 17 If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:
- a that player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper / defending player, cannot be replaced;
  - b the replacement for a suspended goalkeeper / defending player can only come from the five players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition:
    - i the replacement goalkeeper / defending player is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper/defending player they are replacing was wearing;



- ii for taking their own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
  - c any shoot-out due to be taken by a suspended player is forfeited; any goals scored by this player before being suspended count as a goal.
  
- 18 If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper / defending player is incapacitated:
  - a that goalkeeper / defending player may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded in this Appendix or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition;
  - b the replacement goalkeeper:
    - i is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper / defending player was wearing;
    - ii if this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
  
- 19 If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded above or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition.
  
- 20 If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs:
  - a a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix;
  - b the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;
  - c the team whose player took the first shoot-out in a series defends the first shoot-out of the next series;



- d when one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot-outs, that team is the winner.
- 21 If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, additional series of shoot-outs are taken with the same players subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix:
- a the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;
  - b the team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.
- 22 Unless varied by this Appendix, the Rules of Hockey apply during a shoot-out.