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# YOUTH COMPETITION REGULATIONS

## 2023 / 2024



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## HOCKEY WALES YOUTH REGULATIONS

These regulations will be used for all club youth competitions played in Wales. These regulations should be applied at all levels of competition i.e. qualifying and finals. However, it is understood that due to pitch restrictions etc. it may not be possible to adhere fully to these regulations. Prior to adapting any regulations, approval is required from Hockey Wales.

Regulations marked with an \* may be amended for regional qualifying competitions. Hockey Wales along with the respective competition's coordinators will determine the format of the competition.

### U12 and U14 Competitions

The FIH Rules of Hockey shall apply, with the following exceptions:

1. Matches shall be played across half a hockey pitch
2. A result shall stand if the two teams have a minimum of 5 players each playing the game
3. Penalty corners will be played in U14 competitions. The defending side shall have a goalkeeper and 4 defenders behind their own goal line whilst the remaining players (two) shall go to the "D" at the other end of the pitch. These players must stay there until the ball is injected by the attacking team
4. A 'challenge' will be played in U12 competitions.
  - a. The umpiring signal for a challenge is the same as for a penalty corner in the Rules of Hockey; i.e. point both arms horizontally towards the attacking goal
  - b. Taking a challenge:
    - i. all players on the court other than the player taking the challenge and the goalkeeper defending it must stand in the opposite D.
    - ii. the player taking the challenge must start from the halfway line
    - iii. the goalkeeper defending the challenge must stand with both feet on or behind the goal-line and must not leave the goal-line until the ball has been played
    - iv. the player taking the challenge must not take it until the whistle has been blown
    - v. after the attacker has played the ball the defending goalkeeper may move
    - vi. after the attacker has played the ball open play resumes and the other players from both teams who were beyond the centre-line may re-join play (there is no time limit and normal play commences when the attacker plays the ball)
5. Penalty Strokes should be taken 5 metres from the goal
6. Long corners will be taken from an imaginary line approximately 5 metres from the top of the circle. This imaginary line will also be classed as the 23m area and normal rules of hockey shall apply
7. A green card will indicate a warning, not a two-minute suspension
8. On the first occasion, a player breaks the line at a penalty corner, a warning will be issued, subsequent breaks will result in the offending player (or a nominated player, if the goalkeeper breaks the line) being sent to the "D" at the other end of the pitch
9. Players **MUST NOT** play the ball above shoulder height
10. **Each team **MUST** play with a fully attired goalkeeper at all times**

### General (U12 / U14 / U16 and U18 Competitions)

1. All players **MUST wear shin pads** and **should wear gum shields**
2. It is recommended that players wear face masks when defending penalty corners
3. Players should not wear jewellery likely to cause injury to other players
4. Players should wear appropriate playing kit
  - a. Undergarments which are visible, must be the same colour as the playing kit
  - b. Kit should be of an appropriate length e.g. gym knickers must not be visible
  - c. Skorts must not be tucked into any undergarments
5. Teams should provide their own first aid kits and it is the responsibility of the teams participating in the tournament to provide their own first aid to any of their players
6. Participating clubs must be aware of Hockey Wales Policies and Procedures (including Codes of Conduct, Safeguarding, Disciplinary) which will apply to all matches
7. The Competitions TAG shall determine the action to be taken for any matter not specifically covered by these regulations
8. Should issues arise on the day, the Tournament Director shall determine the action to be taken. If no Tournament Director is appointed, 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

### Priority

Hockey Wales National Youth Competition matches will take priority over all other hockey. In the event of a clash, no postponement with a re-arranged league match will be permitted where the respective National Competition date has been advised in the Priority Calendar as initially published.

### A Teams and Squad Sizes

Age groups are determined by the player's age on 1<sup>st</sup> September

- I. Under 12 and Under 14
  - a. As of 1<sup>st</sup> September in the season of the competition
  - b. Maximum squad size is 10 players
  - c. Maximum of 7 players on the pitch at any one time, one of which **MUST** be a fully attired goalkeeper
- II. Under 16 and Under 18
  - a. As of 1<sup>st</sup> September in the season of the competition
  - b. Players must be in Year 9 or above to play in the U18 competitions
  - c. A maximum of 18 x players may be used by a 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
  - d. Maximum of 11 players on the pitch at any one time

## B Match Times and Arrangements\*

### I. Under 12 and Under 14

- a. Competition will take place between 2 North Wales teams and 2 South Wales teams – if a region cannot fulfil their allocation of final places, the HW Events Manager may offer any spare place to the other region
- b. Matches shall be played across half a hockey pitch
- c. Match duration will be dependent on the number of teams entered (ideally 10 minutes each way)
- d. First named team will start the game and provide the match ball
- e. No team shall automatically qualify for any finals

### II. Under 16 and Under 18

- a. Final will be played between the top two teams in Wales
- b. Semi-finals will be a round robin format unless two teams from the same club qualify for the last four places when there will be two knock-out semi-finals, with teams from the same club playing each other
- c. The number of teams from North and South to go through to the semi-finals will be dependent on the number of entries from each region.
- d. Finals will be 4 x 15 minutes quarters unless otherwise advise by Competitions TAG
- e. First named team will provide the match ball
- f. No team shall automatically qualify for any final

Please note, in accordance with the normal rules of hockey, time **will not** be stopped to re-kit a goalkeeper following a goalkeeper suspension

## C Group & Final Placings\*

### III. Under 12 and Under 14

Teams will play all other teams in their pool and the following points will be awarded for each match:

- a) Three points for a win
- b) One point for a draw

In the event of teams finishing with an equal number of points at the end of the Pool matches the ranking in the Pools shall be decided using the following criteria:

- a) Goal difference
- b) Highest number of goals for
- c) Winner of the match between the two teams

If the scores are still tied, a set of 3 shoot-outs will be taken, then sudden death shoot-outs will be taken by the same 3 players (see separate shoot-out regulations)

**Note:** A shoot-out competition will only be necessary if it affects progress to the next round or medal winning positions in the national finals

#### IV. Under 16 and Under 18

In a round robin competition, teams will play all other teams in their pool and the following points will be awarded for each match:

- a) Three points of a win
- b) One point for a draw

In the event of teams finishing with an equal number of points at the end of the Pool matches the ranking in the Pools shall be decided using the following criteria:

- a) Goal difference
- b) Highest number of goals for
- c) Winner of the match between the two teams

If the scores are still tied, a shoot-out competition will be taken (see separate shoot-out regulations)

**Note:** A shoot-out competition will only be necessary if it affects progress to the next round or medal winning positions in the national finals

In a knockout competition, if the match is level after completion of regulation time, a shoot-out competition will be taken (see separate shoot-out regulations)

#### D Kit

1. All teams entering the competition should bring a change of kit in case of a colour clash (a minimum of a set of different coloured bibs is acceptable for U12s and U14s)
2. In the event of a clash of colours the second named team shall change to an alternate colour
3. Player's shirts should be marked with **numbers** so players are individually identifiable
4. All players, in the same team, should be similarly attired
5. Players should wear appropriate playing kit
  - a. Undergarments which are visible, must be the same colour as the playing kit
  - b. Kit should be of an appropriate length e.g. gym knickers must not be visible
  - c. Skorts must not be tucked into any undergarments
6. In case of suspension and due to regulation, it is recommended that clubs bring a spare goalkeeper kit which may be used to re-kit a suspended goalkeeper once their suspension has finished

Please note, in accordance with the normal rules of hockey, time will not be stopped to re-kit a goalkeeper following a goalkeeper suspension

#### E Trophies / Medals\*

At each event, there will be a presentation trophy and cup. These can be used by teams after the competition for photos. The Hockey Wales Cup must be returned to the HW Events Manager once finished.

#### F Turning Up Late\*

If a team is late turning up for a published start time, then the game may be awarded as a 5-0 win to the opposition. This is at the discretion of the National Representative to whom responsibility has been delegated

## **G Umpires\***

Umpires for games may be provided, if they are not provided clubs will be notified and expected to provide their own.

## **H Eligibility of Teams and Players / Registration**

### Under 12 and Under 14

- a. Players must be under 12 / under 14 on 1<sup>st</sup> September in the season of the competition
- b. Under 12 teams will be selected according to gender. If a team does not have sufficient players of that gender, a mixed team may be entered in the boys' competition only (maximum of 2 girls), with the prior approval of Hockey Wales prior to any qualifying tournament (number and age of players will be checked with Hockey Wales)
- c. Players may not play in both Boys and Girls competitions within the same age group
- d. Under 14 teams must be made up solely of same gender players
- e. Players cannot play for more than one club, in any round of the Hockey Wales Cup, at any age level
- f. Players cannot play, in any round, at any age level, if they have played in any competition, in that season, for a club which is not affiliated to Hockey Wales
- g. Players must be affiliated as a playing member with their club and with Hockey Wales, with the appropriate affiliation fee having been paid
- h. Clubs who do not have sufficient players may have up to a maximum of 3 players from one other club, to make a maximum of 8 players, having applied to Hockey Wales for permission (number and age of affiliated players will be checked with Hockey Wales). NAG players will not be able to play for other clubs

### Under 16 and Under 18

- a. Players must be under 16 / 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> September in the season of the competition
- b. Players must be 13 years old or above to play in the Under 18 competition
- c. Teams must be made up solely of same gender players
- d. Players cannot play for more than one club in any round of the Hockey Wales Cup at any age level
- e. Players cannot play, in any round, at any age level, if they have played in any competition, in that season, for a club which is not affiliated to Hockey Wales. Exception may be granted, on application to Hockey Wales, for any club with a junior section that cannot offer its players the opportunity to play Senior competitive hockey – any returning player must be able to provide proof of a previous season's junior membership, with said club
- f. Players must be affiliated as a playing member with their club and with Hockey Wales, with the appropriate affiliation fee having been paid
- g. Clubs who do not have sufficient players may have up to a maximum of 3 players from one other club to make a maximum of 12 players, having applied to Hockey Wales for permission (number and age of affiliated players will be checked with Hockey Wales) NAG players, including age trapped NAG players, will not be able to play for other clubs
- h. If by combining, two clubs will have sufficient players for a team, they should apply to Hockey Wales for permission (number and age of affiliated players will be checked with Hockey Wales)
- i. Clubs who do not enter Youth Cup competitions, at any level, but have players eligible to play may apply for 3 players to play for another club, providing that club is not already combining with another club (see point g). NAG players, including age trapped NAG players, will not be able to play for other clubs
- j. No special consideration will be given to Goal Keepers

- Please note - permission will be declined if it is felt that clubs are asking in order to strengthen their team rather than giving opportunities to more players.
- All applications for permission must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> October, or by a date specified by the Hockey Wales Competitions TAG
- The Competitions TAG would like clubs to use their own players and would expect all players playing in the final to have represented the club, at some level, over the course of the season. This will be monitored.

Examples:

	Scenario	Result	Rationale
1	Club A has 5 players, Club B has 7 players – clubs approach Hockey Wales for permission to join together.	Merger accepted for that competition only.	By joining together clubs it enables players to participate in the competition.
2	Club A has 10 players, Club B does not enter youth competitions at that level but has several players in that age group. Both clubs approach Hockey Wales for permission to use 3 players from club B.	Accepted	Club A has insufficient players to put their own team in but by adding the three from club B allows all to participate.
3	Club A has 5 players, Club B has 7 players – clubs approach Hockey Wales for permission to join together. They then approach Hockey Wales to ask for permission to use 2 extra players from club C.	Denied	Only two teams are permitted to join together. Other players are signposted to another club.
4	Club A has 20 players, Club B has 2 players. Player X from Club B requests to join Club A	Denied	By player X joining club A they will be stopping an existing player from club A playing. Player X signposted to a different club.
5	Club A has 20 players but claim not to have a goalkeeper, club B does not enter youth competition but has a goalkeeper of the right age.	Denied	Same reasoning as example 4
6	Player A, who is 14, plays for Club X in U16 competition Club Y asks permission for Player A to play for them in U18 competition	Denied	Players cannot play for more than one club in any round of the Hockey Wales Cup at any age level

## **I Photography Consent**

Clubs competing in National Competitions must complete a photography and drone usage consent form. This must be returned to Hockey Wales before the start of the competition.

## **J Fines**

Failure to turn up at an event which the team has qualified for is unacceptable and may result in the offending club being liable for any expenses (e.g. venue hire, umpires and officials' expenses)

Fines will be levied as follows

- i. Failure to turn up to an event – £150
- ii. Conceded – £100
- iii. Withdraw from any round of any competition – £100
- iv. Non-notification of nominated players / squad lists (including incomplete / unreadable lists) by the deadline – £50
- v. Playing of non-affiliated player – £75 plus option to expel the offending club / team from the competition.
- vi. Playing an ineligible player - £75 plus option to expel the offending club / team from the competition.

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. The Competitions TAG reserve the right to impose a fine / sanctions to any club for a situation which is not covered by the above

## **K Disputes / Appeals**

1. Any complaint that may arise relating to these regulations or other matters relating to these competitions will only be considered if it is sent in writing to the Hockey Wales Competitions TAG Chair within 48 hours of the event / decision
2. The Hockey Wales Competitions TAG will determine the action to be taken
3. Clubs shall have the right to appeal as laid down in Hockey Wales Policies and Procedures

## **L General**

1. Participating teams must be aware of Hockey Wales Policies and Procedures (including Codes of Conduct, Safeguarding, Disciplinary) which will apply to all matches
2. The Competitions TAG shall determine the action to be taken for any matter not specifically covered by these regulations
3. Should issues arise on the day, the Tournament Director shall determine the action to be taken – if no Tournament Director is appointed, 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

Hockey Wales Competitions TAG  
October 2023

Hockey Wales Competitions TAG Chair  
Hockey Wales Events Manager

Bill Riley  
Amanda Roberts



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