

**ENGLISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
RULES OF COMPETITION 2018-19**



NATIONAL ICE HOCKEY LEAGUE

ENGLISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION RULES OF COMPETITION 2018-19

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Definitions/guidance notes

- The EIHA is the English Ice Hockey Association Ltd
- The NIHL is the National Ice Hockey League
- The NLMG – is the National League Management Group
- RoC = Rules of Competition
- League identity and format – This 'development' league exists primarily for the development of young, British-trained players. The EIHA will regularly review this aspect of the league and make any changes necessary to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
- Fixture – A game organised by the participating teams and approved by the regional fixtures secretary.
- NIHL Cup – Is a Cup Competition as authorised by the NIHL NLMG.
- Challenge games - This refers to any matches not part of an EIHA sanctioned competition. Games in all EIHA sanctioned competitions will take priority over challenge games.
- Minimum squads – The minimum number of players required.
- Registered players – These are players who have been duly registered to the team taking part in a match, through the EIHA's online registration process, to play in NIHL sanctioned competitions.
- Player eligibility – The eligibility requirements for a player to participate in the NIHL.
- Playoff eligibility – The eligibility requirements for a player to participate in any games marked as playoff games by the NIHL NLMG and listed accordingly in Appendix A of this document.
- Non British trained players - A non-British trained player is a player of any nationality who has not been registered, and played, for two seasons in a British junior (up to U18) team.
- Dispensation – variations agreed by the EIHA and detailed in various policies of the EIHA
- Club – for the purposes of these rules a club will include all teams using the same rink as their 'home' on a regular basis.

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- Professional Player – A professional player is defined as one where the club is organised in a business-like manner and the athlete is seriously interested in deriving the majority of their annual income from ice hockey or already derives the majority of their income from ice hockey.
- BWL – British Women’s Leagues. Generic and historic term to refer to the English Women’s Elite League, English Women’s Premier Ice Hockey League and English Women’s National League.
- Emergency transfer request – Only permitted for goalkeepers, where a game could not be completed without it. Such requests are on a game by game basis. Such request will only be permitted from a lower division or the recreational section.

1. Management of the National Ice Hockey League

1.1. The NIHL is a Senior Ice Hockey League of the EIHA, formed of teams from across England, Scotland and Wales which is managed by the National League Management Group (NLMG) and the National League Executive Committee (NLEC).

1.1.1. The NLMG is formed of:

- NIHL Northern Chair (Charles Dacres)
- NIHL Southern Chair (Paul Hayes)
- NIHL League Manager (Richard Carpenter)
- NIHL League Manager (Gary Dent)

1.1.2. The NLEC is formed of:

- NIHL Northern Chair (Charles Dacres)
- NIHL Southern Chair (Paul Hayes)
- NIHL League Manager (Richard Carpenter)
- NIHL League Manager (Gary Dent)
- Fixtures Secretary North (TBD)
- Fixtures Secretary South (Tony Lack)
- League Administrator (Mary Faunt)
- NIHL North Administrator (Lynn Faber)
- Registrations Secretary (Liz Moralee)
- Statistician (Kevin Gerrad)

1.2. The day to day operation of the league will be carried out by the NLMG supported by the officers in the NLEC.

1.3. The NIHL is also supported by the following officers which operate independently of the NLMG/NLEC.

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- EIHA Chairman (Ken Taggart)
- Discipline Chair (Lynn Faber)
- IHUK Referee-in-Chief (Joy Johnston)

- 1.4. The post of NIHL Regional Chair is appointed by the Association's Board of Directors; all other posts are appointed by the EIHA Chairman.
- 1.5. The NLMG is charged by the Board of the EIHA for the management of the NIHL. It will take account of the suggestions and comments of teams within the NIHL, but is solely responsible for managing the League and its competitions as it sees fit for the successful completion of those competitions.
- 1.6. The NLMG will not be bound by the comments and suggestions of the teams individually or jointly. The NLMG may, as it sees fit, establish working groups to carry out part of or all of the duties in running the league.
- 1.7. Participation in any game or competition under the control of the NLMG means that the participation team (and its owners, officers and players) acknowledges that the NLMG is the decision making body for that competition or game, with the only appeal against decisions of the League being to a nominated representative of the Board of Directors of the EIHA. Sides are reminded about their obligations under Rule 25 of the EIHA Rules and Regulations.
- 1.8. An individual or group of individuals acting collectively cannot hold an interest in part or as a whole in more than one senior team within the same division under the management of the English Ice Hockey Association without the approval of the NLMG.
- 1.9. The NLMG reserve the right to amend or change the rules of competition as they see fit for the benefit of the league without prior notice to the clubs participating. Notice of any changes will be circulated immediately by the administrator via email or other mechanism and shall take effect 24 hours from date & time of the notification.
- 1.10. In the case of dispute between two clubs which cannot be resolved each club agrees that the EIHA shall act as the binding mediator.
- 1.11. In relation to the entry of team(s) into a league authorised and managed by the EIHA, teams should apply at the relevant section meeting and be approved by both the existing member clubs and the NLMG.

2. League Identity and Format

- 2.1. This is a development league to be known as the National Ice Hockey League of the EIHA and known/referred to as the NIHL. It shall comprise of

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those teams accepted into the League at the League Meeting, scheduled to take place no later than June prior to the start of the season.

- 2.2. Accepted sides are granted full member status once they have been accepted to play in an NIHL League Division. Sides are entitled to attend to league meetings and will hold one vote per side.
- 2.3. Sides will be asked to vote on new applications for membership and on other matters as required that has been placed on the Agenda. No vote will be permitted on an item that has not been placed on the agenda.
- 2.4. Teams will play each other as defined in the league format as agreed that at the section meeting, based on two divisions in each of two geographically bound conferences.
- 2.5. Details of the format for the season can be found in Appendix A.

3. Challenge Games.

The following procedure will apply for requesting Challenge Games. Challenge Games will be played to standard EIHA & IIHF rules.

- 3.1. The club requiring permission for the challenge game must write/email to the relevant fixture secretary.
- 3.2. The Fixtures Secretary approves the request; the fixture will be forwarded to Referee-in-Chief for officials for allocation. All approvals will be subject to withdrawal (with at least 7 days notice if the date is needed for a competitive game).
- 3.3. The Referee-in-Chief shall approve the request and allocate the officials.
- 3.4. The Fixtures Secretary shall update the EIHA Website
- 3.5. If the request is denied at any stage, the team will be notified of the reason.

4. Fixtures Administration

- 4.1. Fixtures will be determined at meetings to be organised by the League Fixtures Secretaries unless otherwise agreed.
- 4.2. At those meetings, all teams will attend and will make available sufficient home game dates to complete the League schedule within the time constraints. Where necessary for the fair allocation of fixtures, teams will be required to supply both Saturday and Sunday dates.
- 4.3. Dates to be excluded from the schedule must be notified to the relevant League Fixtures Secretary by the time the fixtures meeting commences.

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- 4.4. While the NLMG/NLEC through its fixtures secretaries will make every effort to facilitate fixtures, It is solely the responsibility of the member clubs to ensure that their fixtures are arranged by the final dates for fixtures as published in Appendix A of the Rules of Competition. The NIHL accepts no liability for any losses due to fixtures which have not been arranged by the two member sides involved.
- 4.5. Acceptance of invitations into league, playoff or cup competitions acknowledges acceptance of the rules and regulations introduced by the NLMG for those competitions.
- 4.6. In the event of an exceptional circumstance, a game may only be abandoned at the approval of one of the following; the on-ice officials allocated to the game, the Venue Manager or the NLMG.
- 4.7. The NIHL operates from a fixtures point of view on the basis of senior priority. This means that when required to by our RoC for the purpose of completing NIHL competitions:
- 4.7.1. NIHL sides can take the ice at a rink that is booked to another division of a the NIHL side for a league or playoff game. NIHL1 sides can take the ice that is scheduled for an NIHL2 game.
- 4.7.2. NIHL sides accept that the ice can be taken from them for an NIHL1 fixtures or that of a non-EIHA League that competes at a higher standard as determined by the NLMG.
- 4.7.3. In all cases, fixtures changes done in such a way should be communicated and approved by both the Rink Management and the regional Fixtures Secretary as standard and where required. Sides should make every attempt not to take ice from other teams if other options are available.
- 4.8. No side shall act in a deliberately obstructive manner which is designed to hurt another EIHA member side, of any section, based at the same ice rink.
- 4.9. Should a game need to be awarded by the NLMG (for whatever reason) this will be done on a case by case basis. However, sides should consult Appendix L, which shows some common scenarios and the decision making process that the NLMG would be likely to use.

5. Commitment/Ownership

- 5.1. All clubs wishing to enter this league will be required to sign a declaration of commitment for the season, and agree to abide by the rules of competition as

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set out therein, as well as the EIHA Rules and Regulations (copies of that document are available from the League Secretary).

- 5.2. Withdrawal from the League or any other officially sanctioned competition will render the team liable to a fine and/or other sanctions as determined by the NLMG. The NLMG shall conduct an investigation when this happens, and shall report accordingly to the other member clubs of the league about the outcome.
- 5.3. Failure to travel to a fixture, without acceptable cause, as determined by the NLMG, will make a team liable to a fine of up to £500 and can be docked up to 2pts. This amount, or part thereof, may be claimed as part of any compensation charge requested (and justified to the NLMG) by the home team. Any amount of compensation above and beyond this should, in the first instance, be negotiated between the clubs concerned. If they fail to agree the matter, it may be referred to the NLMG to determine the figure. The NLMG will charge up to £200 for this service, the amount to be paid by the team (or teams) deemed to have been unreasonable in their claim/offer. Each team will be required to supply information justifying the amount they have claimed/offered.
- 5.4. Should there be a claim that a game is not able to be played on an agreed date due to weather conditions, the Sides involved should follow the procedure as specified in Appendix M regarding this matter. The games may not be called off formally until the morning of the game unless it is absolutely certain there will be no improvement in conditions before the game is scheduled to take place. Failure to follow the established procedure may result in a side having the game awarded as a 5-0 loss and/or face a deduction of points and/or face a deduction of points under 5.3
- 5.5. All changes of team ownership must be approved by the NLMG. Previous/New Directors should contact the Regional Chairs to discuss this matter before taking control of the team.
- 5.6. The NLMG recognises that teams in the NIHL are owned by different mechanisms, some by individuals, some by companies, some by other means.
- 5.7. Any team failing to travel twice in one season without an acceptable cause, as determined by the NLMG, will be expelled from the league.
- 5.8. When a team whose owning company is placed into Administration (under the Insolvency Act 1986, as amended) that team shall be permitted to continue for that season, if requested however the following penalties apply.
 - 5.8.1. The team shall be placed on minus 10pts with immediate effect in all competitions or be docked 30pts whichever is the greater deficit.

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5.8.2. The team shall not be eligible to take part in the post-season playoffs, nor shall they take part in any knockout round of any cup competition.

5.8.3. No Director, or person who has judged to have significant responsibility in the ownership and governance of the club by the NLMG shall be permitted to be a Director in the new ownership company, nor shall be permitted to be involved in any controlling role (such as those specified in the handbook, represent a team at meetings, be registered in any official capacity), nor shall the NLMG deal with the persons about any matter for a period of three years from the end of that season.

5.9. Whereas a team is owned by an individual, transfer of ownership must be completed in accordance of rule 5.5 with an agreement for all debts to be honoured by the new owner. Failure to do this will result in an NLMG investigation where the NLMG reserves the right to apply the same penalties and conditions regarding liabilities to companies where they are the owners of a team that shall apply to individuals who own teams (as in rule 5.7)

5.10. Should a team be removed from the league, all of their games shall be expunged from the record of any competition that the team has taken part in.

6. Availability

6.1. Clubs participating in NIHL competitions shall be expected to make themselves available on any Saturday or Sunday during the specified season even on dates they were not originally scheduled to play after the initial fixtures were published. This does not apply to dates that were excluded before the original fixtures schedule was prepared (as covered in Rule 4.3)

6.2. Clubs will not be asked to play midweek (Monday to Friday) league or playoff games unless by agreement of both teams concerned, the league fixtures secretary & NLMG. For clubs that take part in NIHL Cup competitions, sides may be required to play midweek if no suitable weekend date exists.

6.3. Clubs will not be asked to play home games on dates where the league fixtures secretary has prior knowledge that ice is not available unless the playoff format requires this.

6.4. Any club requesting a fixture change may be charged a non-refundable £100 fee should this happen after the fixtures have been agreed and published.

6.5. No charges will apply where a change is requested due to one of the following situations: another team playing out of their rink at a higher level take the ice time allocation, ice plant failure or ice allocation is withdrawn by the facility management. Other exceptional circumstances may be taken into consideration by the NLMG.

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- 6.6. All properly scheduled league matches approved in the League's Fixtures Schedule will take priority over games in any other competition.
- 6.7. All games to face off no later than 7:30pm Saturday, 7:30pm Sunday and 8:00pm midweek. Local agreements can be made with the permission of the fixture secretary & regional NLMG.
- 6.8. A minor penalty of two minutes for delay of game may be awarded against team not ready to face off at the scheduled time.
- 6.9. There will be no games played for double points unless an application for dispensation has been received and authorised by the regional NLMG. This will only happen in exceptional circumstances as teams are expected to complete their schedules if at all possible.

7. Minimum Squads

7.1. Each team will have registered 7 days before their 1st game of the league season:

- 12 players plus 2 netminders registered specifically for the NIHL or who's primary team is that NIHL side.
- Coaching/management requirements as detailed in the EIHA Coaching Protocols document
- Bench management requirements as laid out in the EIHA Coaching Protocol Document

7.1.1. Failure to comply with the above rule will result in a points deduction. If it still applies by the scheduled date of the first game of the season, that will count as a first instance of failure to play a game. If it continues to apply for further games, the NLMG may look at further sanctions, up to and including expulsion and future suspension.

7.2. All teams must note the following rules:

7.2.1. A club must have a minimum 32 registered players by 1st September to enter two teams in the league. Failure to have the required numbers by that date will result in the 2nd team automatically being dropped from the league.

7.2.2. The NLMG reserve the right to select the minimum number on a season by season basis.

7.2.3. A team has to have a minimum of **12** players on the bench in every game. Failure to do so will result in the game automatically being awarded to the opposition 5-0 and the game will be played as a challenge game unless specific dispensation has been given by the

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Regional League Manager prior to the game being played. If dispensation is given, then the team must still comply with IIHF Rule 21.

7.2.3.1. No more than three requests for dispensation will usually be accepted and consideration will be given on the fourth request for the removal of the offending team from the league.

7.2.4. Each team is required to have a light and dark uniform unless variation to this has been agreed by both teams prior to the fixture being played, Home team to play in the light uniform and visiting team in the dark colours unless both teams agree otherwise.

8. Player Eligibility

8.1. General Eligibility Rules

8.1.1. Players competing in the league must not be professional.

8.1.2. Players registered *primarily* to NIHL but eligible for leagues in lower age categories, will be permitted to compete in those leagues should they wish.

8.1.3. Players must be at least 16 years of age.

8.1.4. The NIHL is open to all players regardless of sex or gender expression.

8.1.5. Female players are permitted to play in both the BWL and NIHL with the permission of the NIHL NLMG and Women's Section LMC.

8.2. Completing of Fixtures

8.2.1. In the event of the team being below minimum bench strength for a game, players would be expected to compete in NIHL before any other league.

8.2.2. Coaches registered to NIHL will be permitted to coach at other levels but if no other coach is available to replace them for an NIHL game they are expected to give priority to the NIHL game to ensure that game is not put in jeopardy.

8.2.3. Should any game cancelled be due to insufficient players or lack of coaching staff, the players and coaches who are primarily registered to the responsible team shall not be allowed to participate in any other domestic fixture that day.

8.2.3.1. However, In the event of a game being abandoned in line with IIHF Rule 22(iv) players would be permitted to play in another domestic fixture on the same day.

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8.3. Movement between Teams within a Club

Movement between teams within a Club is permitted subject to the following restrictions

8.3.1. Player age for under 23's is determined as at 31st December of the current season.

8.3.2. Registered players having attained their 16th birthday and who are eligible to play Under 23 in the season can play up as many times as required by the Club.

8.3.3. Where an NIHL 1 team exists in the Club, registered senior players aged over 23 as at 31st December must be registered to the team that the club requires them to play in.

If they require moving from the Div 1 team to Div 2 Team they must be transferred between the two teams concerned and the relevant fee paid. For a player playing up to a higher EIHA division team they can play up 3 times and on the fourth time they will be automatically transferred up to the relevant team. It will still be possible to transfer them down to the lower team (subject to the required period between transfers and the the transfer deadline) but they will not be allowed to play up again. This dispensation ends at the transfer deadline of the 31st January after which they can only play for their registered side

8.3.4. Where an NIHL Division 2 team exists in the Club, and no NIHL Division 1 team, registered players having attained their 16th birthday and who are eligible to play Under 23's in the season can request dispensation to play for an NIHL Division 1 team from another club. Over 23's can request dispensation to play up to a single NIHL Division 1 team up to three times. On the fourth time, they would transfer to the NIHL Division 1 side.

8.3.5. Players are to use the U20 dispensation procedures as identified on the EIHA website at <http://eiha.co.uk/download/u20-dispensation-form/>

8.3.6. Under 23 players must be registered using the senior registration system to an NIHL team.

8.3.7. Under 20 players must fulfil their responsibility to the teams in their age group unless a local club agreement has been reached, except in the following circumstances.

8.3.7.1. If a scheduled league game will not take place due to lack of players, the under 20 player is then required by the league to fulfil

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their responsibilities to their required age group and play at the age level required.

8.3.8. If a club has a NIHL 1 team & a NIHL 2 team under 23 players are eligible to play in both teams and freely able to move between both.

8.3.9. Transfer, registration and dual-registration deadline for the league is the 31st January. After 31st January the only additions that can be made to a team for games are players at U18 or below already registered at the club or with dispensation to play for this team as at 31st January, and players borrowed in an emergency. Dispensation to borrow players will usually be only be given for netminders from lower levels from the borrowing team.

8.4. Playoff Eligibility

8.4.1. To become playoff eligible for a team, a player must be recorded on the game sheet for 25% of the league fixtures for that particular team and registered for the team. Attempts to name players on a team list who are not in attendance and dressed for a game may lead in sanctions. Only players who are deemed to be playoff eligible are able to be listed on the Official EIHA Team List in any fixture that is called a 'playoff' game by the EIHA.

8.4.1.1. Players who have transferred mid-season from another team must complete the 25% criteria as with any other player. Games played for other teams, even those with the same Division do not count. The 25% is from the start of the season NOT from when the player signs for the club.

8.4.1.2. Under 23 players who are playing for teams in multiple divisions are able to be playoff eligible in multiple divisions, however they must fulfil the criteria as stated in 8.4.1 (25% of fixtures) for each team.

8.4.1.3. Players who have turned 16 within the season need only complete 25% of their teams' league fixtures from the date of their 16th birthday.

8.4.1.3.1. For clarification, a player who turned 16 after the end of the regular season but before the playoffs would not be entitled to play in any playoff games.

8.4.2. Teams undertake to supply sufficient players and coaching staff for all league games, including games in the play offs and Cup competitions. Teams are required to have a non-playing coach in charge of the bench

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for all games. If a player coach has to take over in charge of a bench he must cease playing in the game from that point.

8.4.3. Dispensation for the playoffs, will be considered in ONLY the following circumstances. All requests for dispensation must be made prior to the start of the fixture and accepted by the NLMG. All other requests for dispensation will be denied

8.4.3.1. Where a team can provide medical evidence that a player missed games solely due to injury and would have reached the 25% if they had played in those games.

8.4.3.2. Where a player missed games due to an International Call-up and would have reached the 25% if they had played in those games and those International fixtures were played in accordance with Rule 11 of the IIHF International Transfer Regulations.

8.4.3.3. In respect to netminders. A team may request dispensation to use any properly registered netminder (having attained their 16th birthday) involved with their own Club (no players or netminders will be drafted into the team after the registration deadline). Permission must be obtained from the relevant regional NLMG. Dispensation may be unlimited, or restricted based upon the fitness of other goalkeepers in the club, and will be solely based on the judgment of the NLMG.

8.5. Official EIHA Team List

8.5.1. For every game (of any type, including challenge matches), each side must fill out an Official EIHA Team List using the FixturesLive system. Further documentation on this is available on the EIHA Website

8.5.2. Teams must ensure that all bench officials (Coaches, Managers, Physio's etc.) must be entered onto the team lists. This is to ensure that the team is compliant with the required bench officials as detailed in the coaching protocols and in relation to any discipline issues from the bench officials, so that the referees and scorers can correctly issue any sanctions that are applicable.

8.5.3. Player coaches must also be listed in the off-ice staff section to ensure that the on-ice officials can ensure that the game meets the Coaching requirements as specified in the Coaching Protocols.

8.6. Penalties

8.6.1. A team that lists an ineligible player on the Official EIHA Team List shall result in that game being awarded as 5-0 to the non-offending side.

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Should both teams ice ineligible players, the game will be awarded as 0-0 with no league points awarded to either side

9. Non British Trained Players

- 9.1. At any one time a maximum of 1 player may be on the ice who is registered as a Non British Trained Player (as specified in the definitions/guidance notes). This is a guideline and a gentlemen's agreement between all participating clubs.
- 9.2. Dispensation for the players who do not fulfil the criteria for British Trained player will be considered on application to the registration secretary only.
- 9.3. On mutual agreement by the teams taking part, the maximum number of Non-British trained players to be dressed at any one fixture, will be no greater than 2.
- 9.4. Within the NIHL South on mutual agreement by the teams taking part, the maximum number of non-British trained players dressing for a game in Division 2 is 1.
- 9.5. Players who are classified as an Under 18 do not count towards a team's allocation of non-EIHA trained players regardless of their nationality or previous record of icing for clubs within the EIHA.

10. Employment Policy

The EIHA policy so far as teams' employing individuals (in whatever capacity) is as follows:

EIHA POLICY STATEMENT - EIHA MEMBERS AND EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATIONS

The English Ice Hockey Association (the Association) takes on board all aspects of British and European law in its effort to be fair and equitable to both members Clubs/Teams and players registered with the EIHA in the proper manner. It is the policy of the Association that any situation whereby a member Club/Team employs a person or persons (as players, coaches, management or other positions) that that employment situation should be covered by an adequate employment contract which meets the obligations of employment and other laws in England. The Association strongly recommends the use of a suitable qualified legal advisor in the development and implementation of such a contract. The Association will not recommend any one source of such advice; the employer in any such situation needs to resolve their own employment issues and there will be no recourse to the Association as the employment contact will be solely between the Club/Team as the employer and the player or other person as the employee. The Association strongly recommends that the employee should seek legal advice on the structure and

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contents of any contract prior to signing acceptance of it and its obligations.

The employment situation also needs to pay regard to the health and safety, insurance and other issues which arise from such a contractual position as would any other employment situation within the country.

11. Discipline

- 11.1. The League will maintain adequate statistics to determine League positions and results table as well as the disciplinary position of individuals and of teams. It will however, remain the responsibility of teams themselves to maintain their own disciplinary position and the disciplinary position of its team members.
- 11.2. Teams will be penalised for not instituting automatic bans and suspensions brought about through the disciplinary system.
- 11.3. The NLMG reserves the right to deduct points from teams who are in breach of the league rules and discipline. This may also include the removal of points from a team at the start of the next competitive season.
- 11.4. Any player or coach receiving a suspension whilst icing in any NIHL game will be suspended from all hockey they are eligible to play until such time the suspension is served at the level received.
- 11.5. Details of the disciplinary system, along with the points to be awarded for penalties given during games, can be found on the EIHA website.
- 11.6. For playoff competitions, penalty points shall be reset to zero for the purposes of the playoff competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this will take place following the sides final league fixture. However, any suspensions must be completed as normal.
- 11.7. Disciplinary fines must be paid to the EIHA by the due date. Failure to do this may lead to additional charges being imposed on a team.
- 11.8. In exceptional cases the NLMG may become the investigating body and make recommendations to the disciplinary committee. This will usually only be when an incident involving players or team officials takes place wholly or partly outside of the playing surface.
- 11.9. When a non-British trained player receives a suspension from the Discipline Section, the team in question shall not be permitted to list on the Official EIHA Team List a replacement non-British trained player in their absence. This means that the maximum number of non-British trained players permitted to ice for a particular side will be reduced by one per suspended player for the length of that particular suspension.

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11.9.1. Should a team carry over a reduction in non-British trained players into the following season following a suspension, if the suspended player is not registered to the side the length of the reduction of non-British trained players shall be reduced by half. In the event that the length of reduction equates to over two months, this will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the NLMG.

11.10. Any bench official (if that be Coach, Manager, Physio, Equipment Manager etc) that is deemed to have encouraged or failed to prevent a major violent incident will be subject to Supplementary Discipline.

11.11. For any major violent incident, alongside the existing Disciplinary arrangements for players and coaches, the NLMG shall work with Discipline to consider if either club has brought the game into disrepute with its player's actions. Clubs that are found to have brought the game into disrepute shall be subject to actions that include, but are not limited to:

11.11.1. Additional Penalty Points being given to a team.

11.11.2. Points deductions for competition where the game took place (or for non-RoC competitions, the league).

12. League Table Positions

12.1. Unless otherwise specified in a competition structure as listed in Appendix A, teams shall be awarded two points for a win (either regulation, overtime or penalty shots), one point for a tie or an overtime loss and zero points for a regulation time loss.

12.2. The positions of teams in league tables will be determined by the League statistician using the following primary criteria:

12.2.1. Points

12.2.2. Points in games between the tied teams

12.2.3. Goal difference in games between the tied teams

12.2.4. Goals scored in games between the tied teams

12.2.5. Number of regulation wins

12.2.6. Overall goal difference

12.2.7. Overall goals scored

12.3. The split is done ONCE only, so if more than two teams are tied on points a mini table is created using only the results between those teams.

12.4. In the event of further criteria being required, the League statistician will provide additional criteria according to IIHF rules.

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13. Pre & Post Game Activity

- 13.1. NIHL NORTH ONLY: 45 minutes prior to faceoff, the Coaches and Captains of both sides will be expected to attend a meeting in the Officials Changing Room, where the Officials and both sides will have the opportunity to discuss the upcoming game.
- 13.2. In NIHL1, teams are required to video all their games and should ensure that the footage can be provided to relevant sections of the EIHA upon requests. No team shall refuse to allow the filming of a game, by the home or away side. The minimum standard for recording shall be either a single mounted shot using a wide-angled lens, or two action cameras, one behind each goal. In NIHL2, teams are strongly encouraged to film their games.
- 13.3. Teams are required to undertake the electronic submission of game sheets as instructed by the NLMG & FixturesLive.
- 13.4. Failure to comply with these rules will result in fines being imposed on the offending clubs.
- 13.5. Home teams must submit a properly completed electronic game sheet of matches using the FixturesLive EGS service by midnight on the day of the match unless instructed otherwise. All teams must ensure that they are compliant with the EIHA Coaching Protocols in terms of their off-ice officials. Details of how to use the service can be found on the FixturesLive website and that of the EIHA. Penalties for failure to submit an EGS on time shall be issued prior to each season.

14. Venues

- 14.1. Only rinks, including temporary rinks, which have been approved by the NLMG can be used as a venue for NIHL games. Clubs wishing to use a new venue must request permission from the NLMG and submit any venue details required by the NLMG with that request.
- 14.2. Teams which make a major change in the structure of their ice rink should ensure that the NLMG is informed prior to the start of the season (for summer changes) or immediately (for mid-season changes) to ensure that the relevant bodies (referees, other teams) can be informed.
 - 14.2.1. Examples of changes include: Change of which dressing rooms the teams use, Change which bench teams use, Car Parking Arrangements.

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Appendix A: The League Structure 2018/19

The League will consist of two conferences (North and South) and each conference will have two divisions.

A1: League Format

Division	Structure
Moralee Division One (North)	Two home games, two away games vs each team
Laidler Division Two (North)	Two home games, two away games vs each team
Britton Division One (South)	Three home games, three away games vs each team
Wilkinson Division Two (South)	One home game, one away game vs each team

A2: Season Period:

2018/19 Season Dates are as in the table below:

Division	Start Date	End Date
Moralee Division One (North)	Saturday 1 st September	Sunday 17 th March
Laidler Division Two (North)	Saturday 1 st September	Sunday 7 th April
Britton Division One (South)	Saturday 1 st September	Sunday 17 th March
Wilkinson Division Two (South)	Saturday 1 st September	Sunday 7 th April

Playoff information:

Playoff	Playoff Dates
Moralee/Britton Division One	Regional Quarter Final: 23 rd /24 th March Regional Semi-Final: 30 th March/1 st April Regional Final: 6 th April/7 th April NIHL Final Four Weekend: 13 th /14 th April
NIHL Division 2 National Championship Match	14 th April
Laidler Division Two (North)	Finals weekend in TBA, 20 th /21 st April
Wilkinson Division Two (South)	Finals weekend in Bracknell, 20 th /21 st April

The LMC reserves the right to change the dates of competitions if required.

A3: NIHL Playoffs Format

Failure of a team to complete their scheduled games during the play-offs will be subject to disciplinary action by the LMC. Any such action may result in financial penalties and or points deduction for the following season.

A3.1 Division 1

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The top eight sides in each of Division 1 (Moralee) and Division 1 (Britton) will qualify for the Division 1 Playoffs.

The tournament shall consist of a Northern Playoff Championship, a Southern Playoff Championship as well as a National Championship Weekend.

A3.1.1 NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The top eight teams of Division One in each section shall play in a knockout tournament to be held in three rounds over three consecutive weekends.

The three rounds shall be as follows:

- Round 1 (Regional Quarter-Finals): Match A: 1st vs 8th, Match B: 2nd vs 7th, Match C: 3rd vs 6th, Match D: 4th vs 5th
- Round 2 (Regional Semi-Final): Match E: Winner of Match A vs Winner Match D, Match F: Winner of Match B vs Winner of Match C
- Round 3 (Regional Final): Match G: Winner of Match E vs Winner Match F

All Matches will be played in the form of a two-leg aggregate series, with one each team playing one game at home and one away. The higher placed league team will have first choice on the date for their home game.

A3.2 Division Two

There shall be a regional playoff competition for NIHL2 (Laidler) and NIHL2 (Wilkinson). The top four sides from each division shall qualify for their respective playoffs.

A3.2.1 NORTH AND SOUTH

Qualifying teams will play each other over the course of a weekend in single leg matches at an agreed venue.

The fixtures will be as follows based on final league classification: Should a host team qualify for the finals weekend, they shall have the option to play the 2nd game on the Saturday.

Saturday:

Match A: 1st vs 4th

Match B: 2nd vs 3rd

Sunday:

Match C: Winner Match A vs Winner Match B

The final shall be between the winners of Match A and B. The side with the best league record shall have home advantage in the final.

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A3.3 NIHL FINAL FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

The four sides that qualify for the Northern and Southern Regional Finals as defined in A3.1.1 shall qualify for the NIHL Final Four Championship, which will be played over a single weekend. Furthermore, the league champions of NIHL2 (Laidler) and NIHL2 (Wilkinson) shall play for the NIHL2 National Championship.

The weekend format shall be as follows: Please note that the exact order shall be subject to a draw as defined below.

Saturday:

Match A: North 1 vs South 2

Match B: South 1 vs North 2

Sunday:

NIHL2 National Championship: Winner of NIHL2 (Laidler) vs NIHL2 (Wilkinson)

Match C: Winner Match A vs Winner Match B

Draws will take place in order to settle order of matches, and home advantage if required.

Draw 1: To determine the order of matches on Saturday

Draw 2: To determine home advantage for the NIHL2 National Championship Game

For Match C the side with the higher seeding as determined by the finishing positions in the regional playoffs shall have home advantage. Should those seedings be equal, a draw shall be undertaken immediately after the Match B.

For the avoidance of doubt, the NIHL2 National Championship Game, is not considered a playoff game, and is considered to be a league game between the sides played to standard rules.

A3.3 Playoff Fixtures Organisation

The only exception to A3.1.1 will be if a team appears to deliberately choose an unexpected date (not their usual preferred home day) because they know their opponents will be unable to obtain game ice on the date left for them. In those circumstances they may be asked to justify their choice.

A4. Cup Competitions

A4.1 NIHL Regional Cup

There shall be two cup competitions, one for NIHL North and one for NIHL South. All sides in NIHL1 are eligible to take part if they so wish.

In each section, there shall be one group encompassing all of the sides. In NIHL North, the games shall be played as separate fixtures, while in NIHL South, the

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games shall be considered dual purpose with league games. The first meeting between the two sides in a season shall be considered to be the dual purpose game and shall be marked as so on FixturesLive.

Teams from another British league or division can take part in these competitions by invitation.

The KO rounds shall be played over two legs.

Semi-Finals:

Match A: 1st vs 4th

Match B: 2nd vs 3rd

Final:

Match C: Winner Match A vs Winner Match B

A4.2 NIHL Autumn Cup

There shall be an NIHL Autumn Cup, to be competed for as follows.

There shall be two groups (Group South) and (Group North). Each side shall play once, home and away against the sides in the other section.

The top two from each group shall qualify for the KO rounds to be held midweek over two legs.

Match A: 1st North vs 2nd South

Match B: 1st South vs 2nd North

Match C: Winner Match A vs Winner Match B

First pick of dates shall go to the team with the better record in the group stage as per the standard classification criteria.

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A5 Overtime and Penalty Shots

It is highly recommended that all clubs that are involved in any games that may go to overtime are familiar with this rule and also familiarise themselves with IIHF Rules 62-63, 115, 176-178 as well as the EIHA In-House Rule book. Timekeepers and Penalty Timekeepers are particularly encouraged to read IIHF Rule 115 in relation to penalties in overtime.

In a match where the score is even at the end of regulation time an overtime period will be played, followed if necessary by a Penalty Shots Competition. The only exception to this is if a two-legged match is tied after the first leg, no overtime or penalty shots will be played, the leg shall end as a draw.

All Overtime formats shall be the same, which is specified in A5.1.

A5.1 Overtime (3 on 3)

The Overtime period shall be five minutes in length and shall be played as per IIHF Rules 62 and 115, with the exception that teams shall be permitted only three outskaters. Therefore:

- Overtime shall be played three on three at full strength for five minutes.
- Overtime shall be sudden death, i.e. the first team that scores wins the game immediately.

There shall be one non-British trained player permitted to ice at any time during the overtime period as per standard league rules.

A5.2 Penalty Shots Competition

Should teams be tied after overtime, a penalty shots competition shall take place.

The penalty shots competition shall take place under IIHF Rules 63, 176-178.

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A6 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION BETWEEN DIVISION 1 AND DIVISION 2

A6.1 There shall be no automatic promotion or relegation between sections and divisions in the NIHL

General:

A6.2 Prior to the conclusion of the season, sides will be invited to request promotion or relegation. The NLMG shall consider these requests, consult with the member sides in the league, and then confirm to the side involved if this has been accepted or rejected. League placings will be taken into account in this process but will not be the only criteria considered.

A6.3 Irrespective of the above or those detailed in appendix A, the LMC may vary these rules if the number of teams in Divisions becomes imbalanced & may require clubs to be demoted or promoted to maintain league balance.

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Appendix B: NIHL Anti-Discrimination Document

This document is prepared for the NIHL and is aimed at senior hockey. It is likely that other documents will be prepared specifically tailored to other branches of hockey. It does not replace other policy documents currently in place and does not address other issues, such as child protection, which are covered elsewhere. The purpose of this document is to provide a base document for the NIHL. It is not designed to be definitive, in that just because a specific type of discrimination is not mentioned here, it does not mean that the NIHL management will take it any less seriously.

Overall policy statement: The NIHL is a senior development ice hockey league, open to all players aged 16 and over and aims to be welcoming and open to all that support it and the game of ice hockey. Over 2000 people make up the NIHL, as players, on-ice officials, coaches, team staff, off-ice officials, league management, volunteers both at ice and stand level, etc, etc. Both on the ice and off of it, the NIHL is made up of people from different backgrounds, from different national origin, different ethnicity, different genders, different sexualities, different religious beliefs. Discrimination against groups of persons on these grounds will not be tolerated, either by the member clubs nor the NIHL.

Discriminatory behaviour will be determined by what is said or done (including written or visible), not by 'intentions'.

The following definitions are made for the purposes of this document.

Racism: we define racism to cover any comments or actions made because of a person's (or groups) race, national or ethnic origin. Any person of any race, nationality or ethnic origin can be a victim or a perpetrator.

Sexism: Any derogatory comments or actions made relating to because of a person's sex or gender identity.

Homophobia: Any comments or actions made relating to or because of a person's sexual orientation, usually, but not exclusively in relation to those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Religious Discrimination: Any comments or actions made relating to or because of a person's religious beliefs.

Discriminatory harassment (sub-category): You should be aware that a lot of individual things may not be deemed directly discriminatory but in a cumulative form they can become so. As an example one joke may be OK but consistently telling jokes with one sector of the community as the regular butt of those jokes may be viewed differently. In the case of consistent or regular behaviour (and not just jokes, anything you might be deemed to be targeting at one sector of the community rather than relating to everyone) you need to be sure that people are genuinely ok with that behaviour, not just that they say they are and/or make no complaint. If in doubt then do not do it.

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Hence claims on the lines that someone was winding someone up, joking or 'it's ok, he's my mate' will not be accepted as a justifiable reason or excuse. This policy covers all occasions when an individual is actively involved in hockey and will also cover actions outside of the direct hockey environment, particularly when dealing with others involved in hockey.

Reporting: Any individual witnessing or on the receiving end of any form of discriminatory behaviour is required to report the incident to the league immediately (as soon as is practical). This can be done either through your club or directly to an EIHA representative. Turning a blind eye will not be acceptable. The league will investigate all incidents and maintain a database of all reports. No individual or team will be deemed guilty merely because of a report, or any number of reports, but this system will enable us to monitor the situation and assist us to determine the level of any actual or possible problem and act accordingly. If any report is shown to be deliberately malicious, action will be taken against the person making the report – this doesn't mean making a report that cannot be proven will be held against an individual, it means a person or persons deliberately trying to get an innocent individual or team into trouble is likely to suffer consequences. Victimisation of anyone relating to their making a report will be an offence and treated as being a discriminatory action. If you have a problem with a report then tell us, do not take it out on the person making the report.

A dedicated email address will be provided and publicised for the use of any player, coach or official in reporting incidents. (antiracism@eiha.co.uk) Other methods of reporting may also be made available. Reports will be treated as confidential.

Discipline: The starting point for any player(s) found guilty of making discriminatory comments or actions will be a minimum 10 match suspension. Do not think that a first offence will automatically get the ten game suspension, it could be more. The penalty for coaches will usually be higher and the penalty for clubs will be whatever the EIHA deems appropriate for the offence committed.

Club responsibilities:

Clubs will be held responsible for any racist comments or actions of their members and supporters unless it can be shown that they have taken all reasonable actions to prevent such things occurring. If something happens or is going on and the club can be shown to have been aware of the issue (or potential issue) and taken no action they should expect significant repercussions.

Clubs should log all cases of which they become aware and note any actions they take. Doing so does not take away the need to report the incidents to the league but if the NIHL is satisfied with measures taken it will merely log the incident and take no further action against those involved. Acknowledging a problem and taking action will be considered a positive, not a negative.

Coach's responsibilities:

A coach will be held responsible for any discriminatory comments or actions by players or other team staff unless it can be shown he or she has taken all reasonable

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actions to prevent such things occurring. If something happens, or is going on and it is proved the coach is aware of the issue (or potential issue) and takes no action and/or fails to report it, they will become liable to disciplinary action.

Player responsibilities:

Players will obviously be held responsible for their own actions but they will also be liable to discipline if they fail to report any discriminatory comments or actions by anyone else when they have first-hand knowledge. This includes comments or actions by teammates, opponents or any officials. During a game these should usually be reported to the referee (either directly or through your coach) and this should also include actions or comments by spectators. The incident should still be reported to the league direct even if you have reported it to the referee (add a note to state you did so). If the issue relates to the referee it should be directly reported to both the league and the Chief Referee.

Third party reporting:

It has been mentioned before but just to make things absolutely clear, anybody witnessing any kind of discriminatory behaviour relating to anyone involved in hockey has a responsibility to report the matter. You do not need to be the victim; you do not even need to know the victim. If it can be proven that you witnessed an incident of any kind (at a game, in training, through social media or in any other circumstance) you will be liable to disciplinary action if you fail to report it. If several of you witnessed the same incident it will be sufficient if one of you reports it so long as that individual does so on behalf of you all and identifies all of the witnesses.

Technology:

The NIHL reserve the right to use whatever technology they consider appropriate in their investigation of discriminatory behaviour.

Guidance for clubs:-

In the case of a club/team we would expect the following actions to be taken, and logged, regardless of whether you are aware of any problem or deem it unimportant.

1. You should have an anti-discrimination policy in place and all players, coaches, officials and other members should regularly be made aware of the policy. Ideally this policy should also be part of any constitution you might have.

2. There should be regular mention in match day programmes of your club's anti-discrimination stance and warnings of action that will be taken against anyone in breach of this.

3. All people involved in the club. Including stewards and security people at games, should be aware of the policy and be given guidance/training on what is considered discriminatory and the action to be taken against anybody in breach of the policy.

4. Recruitment should be from all sectors of the community. It's not a numbers game but if you haven't got anybody from some significant groups maybe you should consider why that is the case. Similarly marketing and promotion should take place

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throughout the community or at least not obviously exclude some groups (institutional discrimination).

Review:

This policy will be regularly reviewed and any comments or suggestions will be welcome. The intention is to email a copy of this policy to every registered NIHL player, coach and official. Ignorance of the policy will be no excuse. Any comments or suggestions on the document should be made to the NLMG for review.

Glossary

A glossary further defining terms used in this document will be produced in due course but in the meantime you should use common sense and request clarification if you deem that necessary.

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Appendix C: Postponement of Fixtures – Guidelines

The first port of call when you have a concern is always your opposite number at the other team involved. You are welcome to copy the league fixtures secretary in on any emails but he won't usually get involved unless he has concerns about the case being put forward.

If teams are agreed on the need for a postponement then the home team should notify the fixtures secretary of this. The visiting team should be copied in on this email so the fixtures secretary doesn't have to check the situation with them - if you receive such a copy then please acknowledge your agreement by emailing the league fixtures secretary. In those circumstances the fixtures secretary will usually confirm the postponement.

Until a postponement is confirmed by the league it is not official and should not be announced to the public by either team. If you don't get a prompt response to your email and it is urgent then you can text or phone the fixtures secretary or contact the league managers.

If there is a dispute on whether a game should go ahead then the matter needs to be referred to the fixtures secretary in the first instance. He will look at, and, if necessary, check the justifications put forward by both teams for their stance. He will also liaise with the league managers before any decision is taken.

A few general thoughts on the subject:-

Postponements can cost teams a lot of money and whilst player and official safety will always be the prime consideration you should maybe stop and think how you would feel if the situation were reversed. It is not usually going to be acceptable to request a postponement because your journey may take a bit longer (or cost a bit more) rather than because it is genuinely unsafe. Would you expect to go to work in these conditions if you were an employee with urgent work to do? If you were an employer would you expect your staff to make it to work? A couple of players unable to make it for the game should not be considered reason enough to call a game off.

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Appendix D: Crowd Control Responsibilities/Guidelines

As there have now been a number of incidents at games it seems sensible to explain what the LMC expects in the area of interaction between players, officials and supporters and the responsibilities of clubs to try and ensure these standards are achieved/maintained.

All clubs are expected to keep penalty benches, team benches, dressing rooms, their surrounds and routes between same as secure areas. They are responsible, within reason, for the safety of visiting players and officials and should have sufficient security (measures) in place to achieve this. Players and officials should never feel physically threatened by supporters.

There should always be trained stewarding and security in place to take action against supporters who are involved with the issuing of racist, homophobic or other forms of abuse that goes beyond what could be considered reasonable support for a team or acceptable comments or chants about opponents. To clarify this, no form of racist or homophobic abuse is acceptable.

As a secondary point, players and officials should never be involved in physically threatening or intimidating supporters. Similarly, players and officials should never get involved in exchanges of (excessive) verbal abuse with supporters. If they have a problem with a supporter, or supporters, they or their team officials should notify security staff/stewards (through home team officials). They also have the option of officially notifying the referee (and requesting he reports the matter).

The LMC recognises that clubs cannot prevent all incidents but if there is any reported incident the LMC will check on the measures the club has taken (prior to, at the time of, and after) and if it is decided that reasonable measures were in place then they will take no further action beyond possibly issuing recommendations. Please note that it will not be sufficient to have theoretically taken measures or to have a policy if it turns out that those measures or policies have not been properly implemented.

The sanctions for clubs failing to control players, officials or supporters can include fines, requirements to play fixtures behind closed doors or expulsion from the league.

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Appendix E: Guidance on player transfers

This document is provided for information and guidance but is not an official EIHA guide.

The first point to be made is that, even if there is a dispute, the teams/player involved should always try to settle any outstanding issues by discussion and negotiation between themselves. Referring the matter to the EIHA should be a last resort.

I detail below the general principles likely to be applied in any arbitration by the EIHA and what teams (and players) should look to do to protect their position if they wish to do so.

1. Teams should be aware that if a team wishes to claim any form of compensation or outstanding debt from a player (or their new team) when the player moves the onus is likely to be on them to prove their claim.
2. If you supply equipment conditionally then the terms of supply, e.g. team retaining ownership or item supplied becoming the player's property subject to conditions, then you need to have this agreement documented and signed by both parties.
3. If you pay for an ITC then a player moves on within a season then you can request repayment of, say, £300 towards the ITC cost (more if the move follows on quickly from the issue of the ITC) but it is best to document this and get the document signed by the player. If you purchase an unlimited ITC for a player you should document any conditions applying to this, and have the document signed, maybe covering moves in the following season as well. Do not try to cover too long a period in these cases as the agreement is unlikely to be enforceable.
4. If you waive subs/fees for a player conditional upon them playing for you all season then you need to have this agreement documented and signed by both parties.

These are just a few examples but the recurring theme is that if you want to claim monies or equipment from a player when he moves on you need signed agreements to back up your claim.

If you decide to cut a player during the season for reasons other than gross misconduct (or similar) then you should not expect to make a claim for return of personal equipment or other monies unless any agreement signed entitles you to do so (even then this may not be enforceable if he claims that he was fulfilling their side of any agreement).

The exceptions on equipment would usually be team shirts, socks etc. These would normally be deemed to be owned by the team unless the player can provide signed documentary evidence to the contrary.

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Please note that you do not have to pay a player for them to be deemed one of your employees. Unless you are a pay to play team just supplying shirts and socks for games you are likely to be covered by employment law. This can include things like minimum notice periods and other protection for the 'employee'. Please note that if you wish to retain a player's registration pending settlement of any claim you have against them you must supply the necessary documentation to the EIHA promptly if they are requested to settle any dispute. Any undue delay is likely to lead to the EIHA authorising the player's release and approving their transfer.

Other

All teams should be aware of the PAYE and general tax regulations. Calling payments expenses (or sponsorship) does not make them so. Payments in kind (e.g. equipment if ownership is transferred to the player) should usually be reported to HMRC. The player may be able to claim them as expenses but he may not.

All expenses paid to a player need to be properly documented and justified. Please note that there are penalties and other charges for failure to report information to the authorities. Please also note that HMRC are entitled to claim any tax or NIC not deducted under PAYE (where applicable) from the team, not just the player, and that they can gross them up e.g. you pay someone £50 a week and you should have deducted £10 tax – HMRC can decide the £50 was net pay so the gross pay would be £62.50 and you would be asked to pay the £12.50 tax (+ interest and penalties). £12.50 may not seem much but if you pay it to 10 guys over 30 weeks it starts to add up to a more significant sum. These charges can also be subject to interest and penalties and the authorities can review back over several seasons if they wish.

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Appendix F: Photographers

All photographers must have personal access insurance and register as an off-ice official.

Photographers are restricted from away team benches and away penalty benches. They also must not hang out over the boards or interfere with the running of the game.

Referees have the authority to remove, if required, problem individuals from the rink area and submit an incident report. Also Photographers should be reminded that they are subject to the discipline regulations of the EIHA and should therefore conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

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Appendix G: Clarification on Dual Registrations for EIHA Senior Teams

1. The rules on dual-registration relate to the location of teams. All teams playing out of a rink are deemed to be from one club.
2. The default home base of a player is with the team for which he initially registers which will be the lowest level team (by age or league). Bear in mind that a player cannot play down.
3. An agreement can be put in place that the primary team (the one who has first call/control over where he plays on any given day) is not the same as the team he initially registers with (e.g. it can be agreed that an U18 is primarily an NIHL2 player and that the NIHL team has first call on their services). The LMCs need to be notified of any such agreement by those concerned if the primary team is not the lowest level team.
4. A player can only play for teams icing out of their home rink at any level where there is a team playing out of that rink.
5. If there is more than one team playing out of a rink at the same level then a player can only register/dual-register for one of those teams. If he wishes to change he must go through normal transfer procedures (transfer fees, a month or more between transfers, no moves after the transfer deadline).
6. Dual-registration is not just to play for a different club, it also applies to playing for different teams in the same club/venue. If you register as an U18 for Chelmsford, you need to dual register to play NIHL for a Chelmsford team.
7. There is no limit to the number of dual registrations a player might have so long as they are all for teams at different levels.

Scenario's:

London Raiders play out of Lee Valley this season. Any junior playing out of Lee Valley can only play NIHL1 for London Raiders. He can only play NIHL2 for Lee Valley Lions.

In the 2013/14 season, both Bristol and Oxford were playing NIHL2 out of Oxford. Juniors from Oxford rink can only play NIHL2 for Oxford or Bristol and can only be dual-registered (for NIHL2) with one of those two teams.

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Appendix H: "British" players – clarification

Please note that non-British trained is an entirely different scenario to nationality.

It is important to note that even if a player can produce a British Birth Certificate this does not automatically give them British Status.

The rules by British law are:

- Any person born prior to 1st January 1983 is classed as British.
- Any person who is born after this date can only be classed as British if one or both of their parents have permanent residence (indefinite leave to remain) at the time of the player's birth.

So to clarify the situation:

If you wish to register a player who has a British birth certificate but parent(s) are of foreign nationality then the player will require a Letter of Approval (LOA) to play in the UK.

The only exception is if one or both of the parents have a permanent residence visa which is dated prior to the player's date of birth.

Scenarios:

1. John Smith born 13 January 2005 has a British birth certificate and their parent was granted permanent residency in the UK on 29 November 2004. The player can be classed as British, as the permanent residency was granted prior to the player's birth.

The player will need to decide which country he/she wants to class as "home". If the family may move back to the parent's country of birth in the future maybe the player should request a limited LOA to the UK.

2. John Smith born 13 January 2005 has a British birth certificate and their parent was granted permanent residency to remain on 7 June 2006. The player is NOT British as at the time of his birth the parent(s) did not have permanent residency. The player WILL require an LOA.

Please note that EIHA registration secretaries will require a copy of the parent(s) permanent residency visa, dated prior to the player's birth, for any player wishing to claim British status.

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Appendix I: On-ice officials not present at a game or otherwise incapacitated

This section will cover procedures that a club should follow in the event that on-ice officials fail to arrive at a fixture prior to the advertised (on FixturesLive) start time.

Clubs are encouraged to be aware of the referees presence (or lack thereof at a game). Should a referee not have arrived by 20 minutes prior to the advertised start time, they are encouraged to start the procedure below without delay.

Should (for example, the only referee in a one-official system) become incapacitated, then the procedure equally applies.

In the first instance, the clubs should call either Regional League Manager (both the North and the South have two). In the event of neither person being available clubs should then try to contact the Regional Fixtures Secretary.

The Regional League Manager (or other) shall take the details of the situation and attempt to resolve by liaising with the Referee-in-Chief or others as appropriate and will co-ordinate the response. Clubs should expect that they will be called back, ideally within about 15 minutes with a decision of how to proceed.

The ideal is that that there may be a way to play the game will be found that is accepted to the NLMG. However, there may be no other option but to abandon the fixture. Please note Rule 4.5 which states that a game may only be abandoned by the on-ice officials or the NLMG.

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Appendix J: Trophy Presentation Regulations

Any side which hosts a match where a trophy is to be awarded is required to abide by these regulations.

In the week up to the fixture, the host side should be in contact with the NLMG to confirm the arrangement for the trophy presentation in terms of who is attending the game to present the trophy on behalf of the NLMG.

On the day, a short meeting should take place between the hosts clubs primary contact and NLMG member to ensure that the clubs are aware of their responsibilities under the rules. The NLMG member will speak to both Head Coaches before the game, and remind the teams that they must stay on the ice for the presentations.

Presentations can take place on the ice surface or on the players/penalty benches at the discretion of the host side. In either case, the hosts will ensure that a table of sufficient size for the trophy and 28/56 medals can be placed made ready at the end of the game.

Following the end of the game, the host side should complete the standard Player of the Game awards as usual, to be done by usual persons (i.e it is not expected that the LMC representative would do this). Limited other presentations can take place, as long as they are completed quickly i.e a shirt of the players back.

The LMC awards medals as follows:

Winners Only: All NIHL Leagues

Winners + Runners-up: All NIHL Playoff and Cup Competitions.

The Presentation should be completed as follows:

Announcer states that the presentations are to begin to be presented by <name the LMC member>

CUP/PLAYOFFS ONLY: The runner up side is called up in number order to receive their runners-up medals. Off ice staff, as listed on the game sheet, should also be included after the players have been presented with their medals

The winning side is called up in number order to receive their winners medals. Off ice staff, as listed on the game sheet, should also be included after the players have received their medals

The winning captain should be called up to collect the trophy, which concludes the presentation.

We have had two issues over the past two years with this process:

Runners up sides not wanting to collect their medals on the ice after a poor performance

Sides who have lost at home off-ice staff doing an unacceptably poor job in presenting it for the winning side.

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The LMC reminds all teams that win or lose, we absolutely must show professionalism in our ceremonies. It is important to the supporters and media as well as the players themselves. It is completely unacceptable to show a lack of respect to any person or side or to a teams supporters. Teams must always show a proper and respectful sporting attitude at all times for these ceremonies.

Any side that fails to follow this procedure or does so at an unacceptably low standard will be charged with bringing the game into disrepute, fined up to £500, docked 2pts for the following season in the league (regardless of competition it was picked up in) and the Head Coach of the side will be suspended for the first two competitive games of the following season.

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Appendix K: Informal Statements (PA/Social Media) (Standards of Behaviour)

This Appendix has been written to give guidance to clubs about “informal statements” i.e announcements made over the PA System as well as for official social media accounts (or any others directly linked to the club and involving personnel linked to the club). The LMC recognises that these are important ways for ensuring communication with supporters and vital in the modern age and we would encourage all teams to have a high quality of both announcing and social media content, as many teams already do.

PA Announcements:

PA Announcers should be reminded of their obligations under the rules as per Rule 2.5 of the IIHF Off-Ice Officials Handbook - http://www.iihf.com/fileadmin/user_upload/PDF/Sport/2014-15_Off-Ice_Official_Handbook_-_V3.pdf

In addition to their formal responsibilities it is recognized that PA Announcers have a wider role in being the official club voice that is heard in the rink and therefore represents the team not only to the teams present, but to the wider community. It is an important role which adds to the atmosphere of the sport, and is important in “selling” the game to spectators.

In the past, in another ice hockey league, there was an incident where the PA Announcer made a homophobic remark over the PA System which resulted in a continued series of media articles focusing on this issue from outlets around the world, as well as intense activity on social media. It is the NLMG’s strong belief that ice hockey is for everyone and that we must all do our best to represent that belief.

While it is not our intention to remove any sense of individuality or flair from the role, comments that discriminate or are abusive will be met with an extremely dim view by the NLMG. The NLMG reserves the right to launch an investigation into any such incident, and, if necessary, the NLMG reserves the right to charge the club with bringing the game into disrepute and act accordingly.

Social Media:

Social Media, especially Facebook and Twitter (which are heavily used in British Ice Hockey) are without a doubt an invaluable resource which are used heavily by teams across the NIHL.

On Twitter especially, we are seeing more teams carry live updates from the games, which is an invaluable service for supporters of both sides that cannot get to the game. The LMC has not made strict rules on permissible content for social media, mainly because the standard and professionalism of the member teams has been very good, and it has not become an issue.

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However, clubs should be reminded that these are still mini club statements, and that they should always retain a manner of professionalism. This does not mean that every social media post has to be serious, in fact far from it but it does mean that clubs need to ensure that they are not being abusive or discriminatory, as this will not be tolerated. The LMC does not actively sweep all social media or review it, but if complaints are made, then the LMC may investigate into them.

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Appendix L: Awarding of fixtures (Guidance)

The following should be considered to be informal guidance from the NLMG, with a view to making it simpler to understand the decision making process. The following is a list of scenarios which could take place, to which the NLMG would rule on.

Game in October, Kettering vs Liverpool.

Kettering were due to play Liverpool, however on the morning of the game, the ice rink informed them that the rink was now closed due to a large hole in the ice, and the game was postponed.

Kettering then offered Liverpool two other home dates to play the fixture, which Liverpool rejected, despite the fact that they were not playing on either of those days. NLMG attempts to find a suitable date also failed and Liverpool had not excluded the dates that were proposed at the start of the season.

Likely result: 5-0 awarded win to Kettering. Initial game was considered to be no-fault as ice plant malfunction explicitly covered in rule 6.5. Kettering provided a series of dates, which were turned down. Liverpool broke rule 6.1 in not being available, and Kettering made reasonable efforts to play the game.

Game at any time, Eastbourne vs Swansea

25 minutes into the game between Eastbourne and Swansea, a Swansea player suffered an injury to the back and neck area. Due to ambulance delays, the game could not be completed in the ice time provided. At the time of the game, Swansea had just taken then lead 2-1.

Likely result: Game annulled and postponed. At 2-1, the outcome of the game is in the balance and there is a significant amount of time left in the game making any decision highly speculative.

Game at any time, York vs Middlesbrough

57 minutes into the game between York and Middlesbrough, a lighting failure in the rink means that the remainder of the game cannot be played. At the time of the failure, York were leading Middlesbrough 6-1.

Likely result: Result stands. Only three minutes remains, and at five goals, it would seem highly unlikely that Middlesbrough could get back into the game.

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Game in March, Wrexham vs Bedford

Inclement weather conditions have meant that at short notice, Bedford cannot travel to Wrexham for this fixture and these have been accepted as valid by the NLMG. This takes place one weekend before the final weekend of the season and both sides are playing on both Saturday and Sunday.

Wrexham do have the ice to play on Wednesday night, but Bedford are unwilling to travel on this date.

Likely result: 0-0, 1pt each. Bedford cannot be compelled to play on Wednesday due to Rule 6.2 and the game has already been considered not to be a failure to travel by the NLMG.

Should anyone have ideas for further scenarios that they would like explored, please get in touch and we shall add them on.

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Appendix M: Postponing games due to inclement weather conditions

For the 2018/19 season and beyond, the NIHL shall adopt a new system for call offs of games as specified in Rule 5.4. The procedure is as follows:

- 1) At the first sign that there may be an issue with a fixture, sides should inform the opposition side, the regional fixtures secretary and an NIHL League Manager about the issues.
- 2) Sides **CANNOT** call off a game prior to the day of the fixture. Sides are more than welcome to advertise to their supporters that a fixture is considered to be “in doubt” at any time.
- 3) On the day of the game, if a side cannot travel due to the weather, it is strongly recommended that the side collects as much evidence as possible to support this claim. This may be, confirmation from the coach company that they are unwilling to travel or other information about how players cannot get out of their homes etc. Please note that a communication from the coach company stating that they are unwilling to transport a team from the game venue on the relevant date is useful evidence but may not be considered as definitive on all occasions.
- 4) Following the confirmation that a side will not travel or cannot host, the NLMG will rule on if this was appropriate to do so or not and inform the teams without delay. Teams that have been considered to have failed to travel will be charged under rule 5.3

Member sides should be aware that the NLMG will be using the National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS) as provided by the Met Office to assist with its rulings.

Of the three alert states the NLMG advises:

Travelling through or to a Yellow Alert area: Liaise with coach company early to ensure more time is planned for the journey.

Travelling from through or to an Amber Alert area: As with Yellow, but to a higher severity. Sides should ensure that they stick to the safest route possible and allow significant amounts of extra time. Sides should communicate with their opposition to confirm the situation at the host rink and surrounding area as early as possible.

Should a Red Alert be issued for an Area where a game to take place or on a route that is unavoidable, the NLMG will likely cancel the fixture on the morning of the game itself on safety grounds. Red Alerts are extremely unusual having only ever been issued nine times, and never in England, only in Wales or Scotland.

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Appendix N: Circulars

As appropriate, the LMC shall issue Circulars to the member teams to the NIHL.

All circulars remain in place unless superseded by changes to the Rules of Competition or a later circular. The circulars have been issued to all teams but if a further copy is required please request it from the League Secretary.