

IHA CUP COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

- I.1. The IHA Cup Competition Rules & Regulations cover all Cup Competitions under the auspices of the IHA, including Irish Senior Cup, Irish Hockey Trophy, Irish Hockey Challenge and the Irish Junior Cup.
- I.2. The Rules of Hockey, including any experimental rule changes approved by the IHA for use in Competitions, shall be observed except as herein provided. A copy of these IHA Cup Competition Rules & Regulations will be available on the IHA website.
- I.3. The IHA shall own the broadcasting rights to all games played in the IHA Cup Competitions be it, terrestrial, satellite, cable, or internet streaming. All other broadcast coverage may be permitted with the prior approval of the IHA.
- I.4. The IHA has approved the use of photographic/film/video equipment at all games under the jurisdiction of the Association. All players who participate in these competitions shall freely permit their images to be used without any payment or compensation.

I.5. Binding Force of the Regulations

Each club, by its entry into and participation in an Irish Cup Competition, and each player by registering to participate in the Cup Competition, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by the Rules of the Irish Hockey Association, the IHA Code of Conduct, the IHA Cup Competition Rules and Regulations and the Code of Ethics and to any amendments that may be ratified by the Board of Irish Hockey or Competitions Working Group. Each club and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the IHA Competitions Working Group in relation to these Rules & Regulations or any matter not covered in these Rules & Regulations and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.

The Board of the IHA reserve the right to update and/or amend all relevant regulations and codes during any season and will communicate any such updates or amendments to clubs or bodies competing in such competitions. All such updates or amendments shall be binding on participants from the date communicated by the Board of the IHA. In addition the Board of the IHA reserve the right to interpret any IHA rule, regulation or code governing competitions. Matters of interpretation shall be determined by the Board at its sole discretion and no appeal shall be available in respect of an interpretation decision made by the Board.

2. MANAGEMENT

- 2.1. The Management of IHA Cup Competitions will be under the auspices of the Cup Competitions Sub-Working Group of the IHA Competitions Working Group who shall be responsible and answerable to the Board of the IHA.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Clubs may enter no more than one team per Cup Competition subject to the following qualification criteria:

3.1. Irish Senior Cup (Men and Women)

- Ulster Premier Teams
- Leinster Senior I Teams
- Munster Top Three Teams from preceding season
- Finalist of IHT from preceding Season

3.2. Irish Hockey Trophy (Men)

- Ulster 1st XI Senior 1 Teams
- Leinster 1st XI Senior 2 Teams
- Munster remaining 1st XI Division 1 Teams that do not qualify for the Irish Senior Cup

3.3. Irish Hockey Trophy (Women)

- Ulster 1st XI Senior 1 & 2 Teams
- Leinster 1st XI teams in Division 2, 3 & 4
- Munster 1st XI teams in Division 1 & 2, that do not qualify for the Irish Senior Cup
- South East 1st XI on application at time of entry
- Connacht 1st XI on application at time of entry

3.4. Irish Hockey Challenge (Men)

- Ulster Senior 2 Teams
- Leinster All 1st XI teams that are ineligible for the ISC & IHT
- Munster All 1st XI teams that are ineligible for the ISC & IHT

3.5. Irish Hockey Challenge (Women)

- Ulster All 1st XI teams that are ineligible for the ISC & IHT
- Leinster All 1st XI teams that are ineligible for the ISC & IHT
- Munster All 1st XI teams that are ineligible for the ISC & IHT
- South East 1st XI not in IHT & 2nd XI of clubs entered into the IHT
- Connacht 1st XI not in IHT & 2nd XI of clubs entered into the IHT

3.6. Irish Junior Cup (Men)

- Ulster 2nd XI teams competing in Junior 1, 2 & 3
- Leinster 2nd XI teams competing in Divisions 3 & 4
- Munster 2nd XI teams competing in Premier and Division 1

3.7. Irish Junior Cup (Women)

- Ulster 2nd XI teams competing in Junior 1, 2, & 3
- Leinster 2nd XI teams competing in Division 2, 3 & 4
- Munster 2nd XI teams competing in Division 2, 3 & 4
- Connacht 2nd XI on application at time of entry
- South East 2nd XI on application at time of entry

3.8. Player Eligibility

- 3.8.1.** Player eligibility as per the IHA Player Eligibility Rules for all Cup Competitions.

4. TEAM ENTRY

- 4.1.** Prior to the season starting, Club Secretaries (as advised to the IHA) will receive an Entry Form from the IHA detailing how to enter teams to the various Cup Competitions.
- 4.2.** It is the responsibility of each Club to enter teams (subject to the qualification criteria) by the closing date as stated on the Entry Form.

5. TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

5.1. Registration requirements for players at the beginning of the season, or mid-season, is as per the IHA Player Registration Rules for all IHA Competitions.

The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on the club. Failure to abide by the IHA Player Registration Rules can lead to a range of penalties as outlined in those rules.

6. CUP DRAWS

6.1. The dates for each round of every Cup Competition is set prior to the beginning of each season and published in the Events Calendar for the season and available on the IHA website.

6.2. The draw for the first round of each Cup Competition is made once the entry list is known. The draw for subsequent rounds of each Cup Competition is made after the date of the previous round.

6.3. Each draw will be organised by the Cup Competitions Sub-Working Group with at least two scrutineers present.

6.4. The location of each draw will be publicised in advance to facilitate clubs to attend.

7. PRE-MATCH DAY CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1. The first named team is the home team and has choice of ground except for the Final and in the case of the ISC, the semi-final ground will also be appointed by the IHA Cup Competitions WG

7.2. The home club must contact their opponents to confirm arrangements by 8.00pm on the Monday prior to the match. Team colours to be established and if there is a clash, the away team must change.

7.3. The home club must contact both Umpires to confirm arrangements by 8.00pm on the Monday prior to the match. Travel arrangements, time of departure and any pick-up requirements should be confirmed.

8. BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

8.1. For all Cup Competition games, clubs must follow the IHA Bad Weather Procedure. The Bad Weather Procedure provides guidance on actions to be taken by the home club in the days prior to the match and on the match day itself.

9. MATCHDAY ADMINISTRATION

9.1. The Competitions Working Group shall be responsible for setting the dates for all rounds of the Cup Competitions.

9.2. All Cup matches must commence no earlier than 1.00 pm and no later than 3.00 pm unless agreed by the Cup Competitions Sub-Working Group.

9.3. Matches must start on time and if a team arrives more than 30 minutes after the appointed start time the match will be forfeited unless otherwise agreed by the two teams.

9.4. Pitches

9.4.1. All Cup Competition matches shall be played on a synthetic pitch except for the Challenge which may be played on shale provided the pitch is the regular home club's surface.

9.4.2. Umpires decide on the fitness of the pitch before and during the match and the IHA Bad Weather Procedure shall be followed in case of poor weather conditions.

9.4.3. The pitch must be available to both teams for a minimum of 20 minutes warm up time prior to the scheduled start time.

9.5. Duration of Matches

9.5.1. The duration of each match shall be 35 minutes each way.

9.5.2. In the event of a draw, extra time will ensue. After a 5-minute rest the umpires will toss a coin with the captains and the winner will have the choice of ends or possession of the ball to restart the match.

9.5.3. Extra time will consist of two periods of 7½ minutes in between which the teams will change ends, without a rest period.

9.5.4. The extra-time shall cease, however, once a team has scored or been awarded a goal (Golden Goal). That team will be the winner of the match.

9.5.5. If the score is still equal at the end of the extra-time a penalty stroke competition will be played to establish the winner of the match.

9.5.6. The Penalty stroke competition will be played in accordance with the FIH Rules of Hockey.

9.6. Abandoned Matches

9.6.1. Once a game has started, the decision on whether it should be abandoned rests with the Umpires.

9.6.2. When a game has been abandoned, the Umpires should ensure the Match Card is completed and signed in line with the procedure for completed games.

9.6.3. The home club is responsible for returning the Match Card to the IHA Office within 48 hours.

9.6.4. In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of adverse weather, serious injury or safety reasons the re-fix must be arranged through the IHA Cup Competitions Sub Working Group. The re-scheduled match will be played in its entirety from the start.

9.6.5. Any disciplinary issues that occur prior to a match being abandoned will be dealt with under the IHA Games Discipline Procedure and the IHA Cup Competition Rules and Regulations, as appropriate.

9.7. Post Match Responsibilities

9.7.1. The home team is responsible for having a Match Card for both sides to fill in the team details prior to the start of the game (Match Card can be found on the IHA website). Only players named on the Match Card may be on the pitch / bench.

9.7.2. The home team is responsible for handing over the completed Match Card to the Umpires prior to the start of the game.

9.7.3. The winning team is responsible for returning the Match Card to the IHA office to arrive within 48 hours of the completion of the game. Fax and scanned images are encouraged.

9.7.4. The winning team shall notify the result of the match and names of scorers to the IHA office at +353 1 716 3269 immediately after the game to facilitate the various press outlets.

9.7.5. Home clubs must provide post-match hospitality, including a post-match meal, to visiting teams and match officials where travel is from outside of the home Branch. Visiting clubs should notify home clubs in advance if they do not require post-match hospitality.

10. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS FOR MATCHES

10.1. A maximum of 16 players may be used by each team in each match.

- 10.2.** Players must wear numbered shirts with shirt numbers between 1 and 32.
- 10.2.1.** Teams must have player names on shirts for nationally televised Finals, if there is a request by the Broadcaster.
- 10.3.** Each team must have a captain or acting captain who is responsible for the behaviour of the team players on the field of play and who must wear a distinctive arm band or ribbon on the field of play or the team bench at all times during a match. Upon suspension of the captain, a team player on the field of play or the team bench must take over the armband or ribbon and role of team captain.
- 10.4.** Each team must have a minimum of 8 players on the field of play for a match to be started or continued. In case a team does not fulfil this condition, the opposing team will be considered as having won the match by a score of 5-0, or by the score when the match was discontinued, whichever of the two scores will be more advantageous for the winning team.

11. DISCIPLINE

- 11.1.** The IHA Code of Conduct and the IHA Games Discipline Procedure apply to Cup Competitions and any issues will be dealt with by the IHA Games Disciplinary Panel and IHA Appeals Committee, if necessary.
- 11.2.** The IHA Disciplinary Panel will review all Card Reports and may increase a suspension.
- 11.3.** Suspension dates will be notified by the IHA Disciplinary Panel via the Club Secretary.

12. UMPIRES

- 12.1.** Umpires for all Cup Competition matches will be notified by the IHUA
- 12.2.** Umpires will wear the standard IHUA uniform.

13. DISQUALIFICATION OR FAILURE/REFUSAL TO PLAY

- 13.1.** A team either disqualified or refusing/failing to play or to complete a match shall be considered as withdrawing from the Cup Competition.
- 13.2.** A fine of up to €750 or Sterling equivalent will be imposed on Clubs withdrawing from Cup Competitions. Clubs will be asked to complete a Report Form giving reasons for their withdrawal.

14. BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

- 14.1.1.** Any club found to be in breach of the Cup Competition Rules and Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by a specific regulation herein.
- 14.1.2.** The Cup Competitions Sub-Working Group shall at its discretion have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively fines, suspension of players, and power to make teams play matches away from their home venue, on a club for breaches of any or all of the IHA Cup Competition Rules and Regulations and/or the IHA Code of Conduct.
- 14.1.3.** In addition the IHA Cup Competitions Sub-Working Group shall at its discretion have the right to require that clubs reimburse opposing clubs, officials and/or the IHA for any expenses incurred by breaches of the Cup Competition Rules and Regulations.

14.1.4. A fine of €50 or Sterling equivalent will apply for late payment of Cup entry fee. This will increase by €10 or Sterling equivalent for every week payment is late after a fortnight from when the payment was due.

14.1.5. A fine of €50 or Sterling equivalent will apply where the home team does not adhere to the Regulations in relation to contacting and hosting Umpires and Technical Officials (see 7.3 and 9.7.5)

15. APPEAL PROCEDURE

15.1. Teams and players have the right to appeal against a decision of the IHA Competitions Working Group or Cup Competitions Sub-working Group to the Appeals Committee of the IHA Board, in line with the Appeal process within the IHA Constitution as if the said decision of the Competitions Working Group was a decision of the Games Disciplinary Panel as described therein.

15.1.1. Any other club that may be directly affected by an appeal shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be notified of the appeal and subsequently the outcome of the appeal

15.1.2. There shall be no appeal in respect of a decision where the Cup Competitions Rules and Regulations have been applied.