

# IHA TOURNAMENT COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

## I. INTRODUCTION

- I.1. The IHA Tournament Competition Rules & Regulations cover all Tournament Competitions under the auspices of the IHA, including Interprovincials, Irish Colleges / Universities Tournaments and Irish Schools Tournaments (Kate Russell, John Waring and Schoolboys).
- 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 Tournament 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 Tournament 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. Definition

**Organisation:** For the purposes of these Tournament Rules & Regulations, Organisation covers schools, clubs, colleges and Branches entering IHA Tournament Competitions.

**Provinces:** For the purposes of these Tournament Rules & Regulations, the term Provinces covers the four Provinces of Ireland: Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster.

### I.6. South East Branch

For the purposes on the Girls U16 and U18 Interprovincial competitions, the South East will be recognised as if it were a Province. This is subject to review by the IHA Management Board

### I.7. Binding Force of the Regulations

Each Organisation, by its entry into and participation in an Irish Tournament Competition, and each player participating in the Tournament 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 Tournament 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 Organisation 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 the IHA Tournament Competitions will be under the auspices of the IHA Competitions Working Group and responsible to the Board of Irish Hockey.

### **3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – INTERPROVINCIALS**

Player Eligibility for the various Interprovincial Competitions is subject to the following qualification criteria:

#### **3.1. Irish Senior Interprovincials (Men and Women)**

- Players who live or were born in Ireland or who have an Irish parent
- Players who are eligible to play for Ireland
- Players who are eligible may play for any Province where they meet the following qualification criteria:
  - Play for a Club which is affiliated to the Province OR
  - Be resident in Province OR
  - Have been born/ raised in Province OR
  - Have a parent born /raised in the Province

#### **3.2. Irish U21 Interprovincials (Men and Women)**

- Players who live or were born in Ireland or who have an Irish parent
- Players who are eligible to play for Ireland
- Players must be under 21 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the season of the competition
- Players who are eligible may play for any Province where they meet the following qualification criteria:
  - Play for a Club which is affiliated to the Province OR
  - Be resident in Province OR
  - Have been born/raised in the Province OR
  - Have a parent born /raised in the Province

#### **3.3. Irish U18/U16 Interprovincials (Boys and Girls)**

- Players who live or were born in Ireland or who have an Irish parent
- Players who are eligible to play for Ireland
- Players must be under 16 / 18 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the season of the competition
- Qualification for each provincial team is:
  - Be resident of /Province OR
  - Attending school/college within the Province OR
  - Play regularly for a club in the Province

#### **3.4. Irish Junior Interprovincials (Men and Women)**

- Former or current Senior or U21 International players are not eligible for Junior Interprovincials
- Players under 18 years of age in the season of the competition are NOT eligible for Junior Interprovincials
- Player eligibility is based on the level they are registered for and playing regularly in their domestic league in the current season, see Appendix 3
- Players who are eligible may play for any Province where they meet the following qualification criteria:
  - Plays for a Club which is affiliated to the Province OR
  - Be resident in the Province OR
  - Have been born/ raised in the Province OR
  - Have a parent born /raised in the Province

**3.5.** No player may play in two Interprovincial competitions within the one season, except in the following situation:

- A maximum of 5 U18 Munster and Connacht players may 'double up' to U21 level
- A maximum of 5 U21 Munster and Connacht players may 'double up' to Senior
- Players playing their Club hockey in Connacht may 'double up' between Senior and Junior Interprovincials

**3.6.** The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on each Province. The Competitions Working Group shall decide any dispute regarding eligibility and shall be entitled to request such written or oral evidence, as it considers necessary. The decision of the Competitions Working Group shall be final in this respect.

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY – SCHOOLS & COLLEGES TOURNAMENTS**

Organisation and Player Eligibility for the various Schools & Colleges Competitions is subject to the following qualification criteria

##### **4.1. John Waring Tournament**

- The 2 finalists from each provincial schools Minor cup (U14)

##### **4.2. Schoolboys Tournament**

- 8 schools from Ulster, 5 from Leinster and 3 from Munster
- Each Province to decide their method of qualification to meet their quota
- Players must be under the age of 19 at the start of the School Year (1<sup>st</sup> July)

##### **4.3. Kate Russell (Schools Girls Tournament)**

- Winner from each provincial schools cup
- Winning branch preceding Kate Russell is entitled to two entries (i.e. runner up of provincial schools cup)
- Players must be under the age of 19 at the start of the School Year (August 1<sup>st</sup>)

##### **4.4. Irish Colleges**

- Players must be attending the college or university in the current season

**4.5.** The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on each Organisation. The Competitions Working Group shall decide any dispute regarding eligibility and shall be entitled to request such written or oral evidence, as it considers necessary. The decision of the Competitions Working Group shall be final in this respect.

#### **5. TEAM ENTRY**

**5.1.** At the start of the season, Branches will be asked for their qualifying team entries for the various Irish Competitions, and the contact details for each Organisation or Branch Team Manager.

**5.2.** It is the responsibility of each Organisation to enter teams (subject to the qualification criteria) by the closing date requested.

**5.3.** To improve the structure of the Senior and U21 Men's competitions, it has been agreed by the IHA Management Board that it is necessary to have four teams in order to have 2 matches a day for each team. To achieve this, a 'Guest' team will be invited to participate each season. See Appendix 2 for more details.

## **6. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES**

- 6.1. The dates for each Tournament are 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. Each Tournament will rotate around the Provinces as per the Rotation Schedule – see Appendix I.
- 6.3. The match schedule for each Tournament will be determined by the Competitions Working Group and sent to the Team Manager (as notified to the IHA Office) and published on the IHA website a number of weeks before the Tournament.

## **7. PRE-TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION**

- 7.1. At least eight days before the Tournament, each team manager must submit a list of up to 18 eligible players to the IHA Office as well as the names of the Management Team, so that the Tournament Program may be produced.

## **8. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

- 8.1. A Tournament Director will be appointed by the Competitions Working Group to run each Tournament. The Tournament Director has full power and authority of the Competitions Working Group in matters concerning the conduct of the Tournament in accordance with these IHA Tournament Rules and Regulations.
- 8.2. The Tournament Director shall appoint the Umpires (if no Umpires Manager has been appointed), Technical Officials (if required) to each match from those appointed to the Tournament.

## **9. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S (TD) MEETING**

- 9.1. It is mandatory for each participating team to send the Team Manager to the TD's Meeting which will be held prior to the start of the Tournament. Details of the meeting will be notified to the participating teams 8 days prior to the Tournament.
- 9.2. Team colours for each match will be agreed at the TD's meeting.

## **10. BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE**

- 10.1. For Tournament competitions the Tournament Director, in conjunction with the IHA Office, will follow the guidelines for anticipated bad weather as laid out in the [IHA Bad Weather Procedure](#).
- 10.2. Any decision to postpone or cancel the Tournament will be made while taking account of the cost of such a decision.

## **11. THE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION**

- 11.1. Each team will play one match against each of the other teams, unless an alternative format has been notified in advance.
- 11.2. The points awarded for each match will be confirmed at the Tournament Director's meeting. The points will depend on the number of teams in the Tournament, with the recommendation as follows:
  - 11.2.1. Where teams only play each other once, then 3 points for a win and 1 for a draw
  - 11.2.2. Where there are less teams and they play each other twice, then 3 points for a win, 2 for a score draw and 1 for a no score draw
- 11.3. The teams will be ranked according to:

- respective number of matches won
- goal difference ("goals for" less "goals against")
- goals for
- result of match between the teams concerned
- penalty shootout competition.

#### **11.4. Interrupted Matches**

**11.4.1.** In the event of a match being interrupted (e.g. due to inclement weather), the match will re-commence as directed by the Tournament Director and the time remaining shall be completed, with the score to be as it stood when the game was interrupted.

### **12. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS FOR MATCHES**

- 12.1.** A maximum of 18 players may be used by each team in each match, two of which must be padded up. If a team chooses not to include a second goalkeeper on the bench, then they are limited to 17 players.
- 12.2.** Players must wear numbered shirts with shirt numbers between 1 to 32.
- 12.3.** 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.
- 12.4.** 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.

### **13. DISCIPLINE**

- 13.1.** The [IHA Code of Conduct](#) and the [IHA Discipline Procedure](#) apply to Tournament Competitions and any issues concerning conduct of individual players, members, spectators, etc will be dealt with by the Tournament Director, as laid out in the IHA Games Discipline Procedure (Tournaments).
- 13.2.** The IHA Games Discipline Procedures includes the process for handling appeals relating to red cards.

### **14. PROTESTS**

- 14.1.** When signing the match sheet at the end of the game the Team Manager must indicate on the match sheet that a protest is to follow. The written protest must follow within 10 minutes, accompanied by a EUR200 (Two Hundred Euro) fee, otherwise any protest is invalid.
- 14.2.** The Tournament Director must make a decision and publish it within 2 hours of the protest being lodged. The decision will be communicated to the Team Manager.
- 14.3.** No protest may be lodged from a field of play decision made by the umpires.
- 14.4.** The Tournament Directors decision regarding a protest is final.

### **15. DISQUALIFICATION OR FAILURE/REFUSAL TO PLAY**

- 15.1.** A team either disqualified or refusing/failing to play or to complete a match shall be considered as withdrawing from the Tournament.

## **16. BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES**

**16.1.1.** Any Organisation found by the Competitions Working Group to be in breach of the Tournament Competition Rules and Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by a specific regulation herein.

**16.1.2.** The Competitions Working Group shall at its discretion have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, fines, suspension of players, or an Organisation for breaches of any or all of the IHA Tournament Rules and Regulations and/or the [IHA Code of Conduct](#).

## **17. APPEAL PROCEDURE**

**17.1.** Teams and players have the right to appeal against a decision of the IHA Competitions 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 Disciplinary Committee as described therein.

**17.1.1.** 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

## APPENDIX I – COMPETITIONS ROTATION

Each competition will rotate around the Provinces as follows:

<b>Competition</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
Senior (M & W)	Ulster	Munster	Leinster	Ulster
U21 (M& W)	Leinster	Ulster	Munster	Leinster
U18/U16 (Girls)	Ulster	Leinster	Connacht	Munster
U18/U16 (Boys)	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	Leinster
Junior (M & W)	Connacht	Leinster	Munster	Ulster
Kate Russell	Ulster	Leinster/South E.	Leinster	Connacht
Schoolboys	Munster	Ulster	Leinster	Munster
John Waring	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Intervarsities	NUI Galway	Munster	Ulster	Leinster

## **APPENDIX 2 – MENS INTERPROVINCIAL TOURNAMENTS**

### **Guest Teams**

The High Performance Director will confirm to the Competitions Interpro WG Chair each of the Guest Teams for the Senior and U21 Men's Interprovincial Competitions by 31<sup>st</sup> July in the preceding season.

Note: For the season 2011/12, the Guest Teams will be as follows:

Senior: Irish U21

U21: Irish Boys U18

### **Winner**

The fourth team as a 'guest' team may not win the Interprovincial Trophy. If the guest team finishes the competition in first place, then the second placed team (and highest placed Province) will be deemed the winner of the Interprovincial Trophy.

### **Guest Team Selection**

When the Guest Team is another Irish Team (e.g. Irish U21 team participating in the Senior competition), then the rules below will apply to selection procedure for all Provinces.

The objectives of having an Irish team participate in the interprovincial competition are:

- To maximise the number of players seen by HP Coaches
- To provide Tournament competition for the Irish team at an appropriate level

### ***Irish Team Selection***

- Players selected for the relevant Irish squad will not be available for selection for the Interprovincial squads participating in the same Tournament
- The Irish Coach will name for each Irish squad no more than 22 players 6 weeks before the date of the competition. This will provide the Irish Coach with a maximum of 18 players for the Interprovincial Tournament and up to 4 substitutes to cover injury or withdrawals.

## **APPENDIX 3 – JUNIOR INTERPROVINCIAL ELIGIBILITY**

### **Men**

Player eligibility is based on the level each player is playing at in the current season within their domestic league. Any player who is eligible to play for a province but plays their club hockey in another province will be covered by the eligibility rules of their regular playing province.

**Leinster:** All players excluding those playing for a Division I club at 1st XI or 2nd XI level.

**Munster:** All players excluding those who are registered or have played in the Irish Senior Cup in the current season

**Ulster:** All players excluding those playing at Senior I level and above.

**Connacht:** All players excluding those who are registered or have played in the Irish Senior Cup in the current season.

### **Women**

Player eligibility is based on the level each player is playing at in the current season within their domestic league. Any player who is eligible to play for a province but plays their club hockey in another province will be covered by the eligibility rules of their regular playing province.

#### **Leinster, Ulster, Munster**

No player currently registered as a Division I player in their provincial leagues or registered for or played in the Irish Senior Cup in the current season are eligible.

#### **Connacht, South East**

All players playing Domestic League in their province are eligible.