



Western Province Hockey Union  
P O Box 13  
Observatory

[admin@wphockey.org.za](mailto:admin@wphockey.org.za)  
[www.wphockey.org.za](http://www.wphockey.org.za)

TEL: 021 448 2656

## WPHU LEAGUE RULES 2026

### 1. REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS:

#### 1.1 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 1.1.1 All players must be registered with WPHU by their club administrators by **10 April 2026**. Additional players that join clubs after this date must be registered before they play their first match for the club in the respective leagues.
- 1.1.2 Registration of players with WPHU & SAHA is compulsory. Clubs that fail to register players by the stipulated date will incur a R500 fine, plus an additional fine of R100 for every week or part thereof in which registration has not been completed.
- 1.1.3 Late-joining members must be registered immediately. If the club are not able to register the player online before they play their first game then the Hockey Manager must be informed in writing, by email, before the start of the match in which the player is to take part.
- 1.1.4 Should a team use an unregistered player in a league match; the match shall be awarded to the opposition. The defaulting team will also incur a fine of R500.
- 1.1.5 Player affiliation fees must be paid to WPHU by their clubs by the following date :  
**50 % = Payment by 31 May 2026**  
**Balance = Payment by 30 June 2026**
- 1.1.6 No queries regarding affiliation fee invoices will be entertained by the hockey office after **30 November 2026**.

#### 1.2 ELIGIBILITY

- 1.2.1 A player must be aged 15 or older to be eligible to participate in the Grand Challenge, Promotion Leagues & Grand Reserve Leagues. In order to be eligible for the Grand Challenge, Promotion Leagues & Grand Reserve Leagues a player must thus be 15 years old on the **01 January 2026**.
- 1.2.2 No player under the age of 13 may participate in any senior league team. A player must thus be 13 years or older on the **01 January 2026** to be eligible to play senior league hockey.
- 1.2.3 All senior league teams are permitted a maximum of eight U18 players (per team) only.
- 1.2.4 The parents/legal guardians of any child under the age of 18 that participates in senior league hockey must sign an Indemnity form in order to allow the child to



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participate in the senior league. It is the sole responsibility of the Club to ensure that this is done.

1.2.5 Clubs fully representing tertiary institutions cannot register scholars or non-students, except for team coaches. Students must have a valid student number at the respective institution.

1.2.6 University Clubs may use goalkeepers who are not registered students if the club lacks goalkeepers of the required ability for a specific team. This need to be communicated to [manager@wphockey.org.za](mailto:manager@wphockey.org.za) for approval before the non-student may play.

1.2.7 A coach who coaches at the institution may play in one of the institution's teams.

## 2 IDENTITY CARDS/AUTHENTICITY OF PLAYERS:

- 2.1 All participants involved in hockey-related activities within the geographical boundaries of South Africa are required to be registered with SAHA. Therefore, for the purpose of these league rules, all players participating in matches under the auspices of the WPHU shall be registered with the WPHU and SAHA.
- 2.2 All players must have a form of identity document on them at all league matches. The identity document shall contain the name, ID number and a photograph of the player. Acceptable forms of identification include a South African identity document, driver's licence or student card.
- 2.3 Should a team have a query regarding the authenticity of a player or his right to play in the team, the captain of the opposing team will have the right to lodge a protest with the technical table where applicable or the umpires, but the match will proceed as scheduled. Details of the protest must be written on the match card and signed by the umpires. In the case of a digital match card being used, the protest must be emailed to [manager@wphockey.org.za](mailto:manager@wphockey.org.za) within 24hrs of the completion of the match.
- 2.4 Any protest is to be made not later than ten minutes after the completion of the match and is to be lodged in writing with the hockey manager within 48 hours of the match being played. Written reports must be sent via email.

## 3 TRANSFER OF PLAYERS.

3.1 No player shall represent more than one club during the outdoor season without obtaining written clearance from the club the player intends leaving. The clearance shall be sent to the WPHU office. This can be transacted via email.

3.2 Players who represented one club during the indoor league but have joined a different club for the outdoor league must settle all outstanding financial obligations with their former club. Should these debts remain unpaid, the WPHU reserves the authority to suspend the player from the outdoor league until the matter is resolved. (No change – Paragraph just re-phrased)



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#### 4 LEAGUE STRUCTURE & FORMAT

- 4.1 The 2026 league structure will remain in 2026. The 2027 league format will be reviewed no later than June 2026.
- 4.2 GC & GR Leagues will play a single round robin of 9 games. The leagues will then split into a top 4 and bottom 6. The top 4 will then play a double round robin equalling 6 games and the bottom 6 a single round robin. The league title will be determined by the points accumulated in all rounds. Accumulated points from the 1st round robin will be carried forward to the split round.
- 4.3 All other 10 team leagues, beside those specified in 4.2, will play a double round robin. The league title will be determined by the points accumulated in the double round robin.
- 4.4 The format for any other league not containing 10 teams, will be determined based on the final number of entries in that league and the number of league weeks available to fulfil fixtures.
- 4.5 M/LGC leagues will consist of one team per club per league only, with the exception of tertiary institutions, that have chosen the “standard tertiary club” status, which may enter a second team in each league. In all other leagues, except in the lowest leagues, no club may have more than two teams in any one league.
- 4.6 Across MGC, MGR, MPL and MTC, no club may have a combined total of more than four teams.
- 4.7 Across LGC, LGR, LPL and LTC, no club may have a combined total of more than four teams.
- 4.8 The lowest leagues (M4, and lower, and L4 and lower) will be drawn up and structured according to the number of teams entered and thus may play a different system. The lowest leagues will be finalized no later than one week before fixtures start. The League Secretary will provide a written addendum to these rules to set out the format for the lowest leagues.
- 4.9 The age group leagues (under 11,13 and under 15) will be drawn up and structured according to the number of teams entered and thus may play a different system. These leagues will be finalised no later than in the second week of fixtures. The League Secretary will provide a written addendum to these rules to set out the format for the age group leagues.
- 4.10 It is the responsibility of clubs to check the home/away venues for the season. Should clubs not have contacted the League Secretary by **15 April 2026** regarding imbalances/errors, the fixtures will remain as published and no changes will be allowed.



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## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Points System:

#### **For all leagues :**

A winning team earns three (3) points.  
A draw earns one (1) point for each team.  
A loss earns zero (0) points.

In any situation where a match is conceded or points are awarded to one of the teams, the recorded score will be 5-0 in goals and three points will be awarded. Should the actual score be more advantageous to the non-offending team, then that score shall stand. A fine shall also be levied as stipulated in paragraph 19.

### 5.2 The ranking of the leagues shall be decided by the number of points gained.

In the event of teams having equal points – Final position will be determined as per the FIH Tournament Regulations;

Matches Won;  
Goal difference;  
Goals for;

Should the points still be identical, the result of the matches played between the teams involved will decide final standings.

Should the situation still be unable to be resolved, the Executive Committee will give a ruling on the issue.

- 5.3 In the event of a team failing to fulfil a fixture without having informed a club the opponents will be awarded match points as in Paragraph 5.1 and the defaulting club may be fined R500.
- 5.4 In the event of a team conceding a match (unless for reasons acceptable to the Hockey Manager and sanctioned by the Executive Committee) within less than 24 hours preceding the scheduled date, the opponents will be awarded match points as in Paragraph 5.1 and the defaulting club may be fined up to R500.
- 5.5 It will be each Club's responsibility to ensure that all their match results are loaded on the League Management System by 17h00 on the first working day after the matches have taken place. Failure to do so will result in a fine of R200
- 5.6 Each club shall also forward the results to the Admin Secretary, by email to the email address provided ([results@wphockey.org.za](mailto:results@wphockey.org.za)), by 17h00 on the first working day after the



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match. Failure to do so will result in a fine of R200. In the event of a team fielding an unregistered player in a match, the team will forfeit any league points earned for that match.

- 5.7 In the event of a team fielding an unregistered player in a match, the team will forfeit any league points earned for that match.

## 6. MATCH CARDS

- 6.1 Each team shall keep a record of its players for each league match on an official match card/sheet. Grand Challenge, and Promotion League teams must use the match sheet on Sportivo for all matches. Teams are responsible to ensure that their team names are added to the Sportivo sheet ahead of the match. The appointed tech table person will manage and capture all match stats on the APP during the match.

All other leagues must complete manual match cards. The manual card is to be completed with the **FULL NAME & SURNAME and PLAYER SHIRT NUMBER (unless otherwise indicated)** of all players participating in this match. The match card is to be signed by both umpires on conclusion of the match to reflect the official score of the match and the names of players awarded penalty cards. Each club must also send copies of the match cards to the Admin Secretary via email at : **results@wphockey.org.za**

A recon of a weekends results and the match cards should be submitted to the hockey office via email within 72 hours after the match is played.

Failure to have completed match cards will result in the team not being allowed to take the field and Rule 5.4 will apply.

Clubs shall retain the original match cards until six weeks after the conclusion of the season. Original match cards are to be presented to the WPHU office immediately if so, requested by the Hockey Manager.

- 6.2 Failure to submit match cards or copies to the WPHU office by the stipulated time will result in a fine of R50 for each outstanding card. Match cards may be submitted to WPHU by email, but original cards must be submitted to the WPHU office on request.
- 6.3 Where an official WPHU Match Report Sheet has been correctly completed by both teams, then this report sheet shall be accepted in lieu of a match card as contemplated above.
- 6.4 In the event of any complaint being lodged regarding the result or eligibility of any player in the match, the Hockey Manager will immediately check the match cards for both teams. If the plaintiff team has failed to lodge their match card within the prescribed time, their complaint will be dismissed. If the defendant team has failed to submit their match card within the prescribed time then they will be judged guilty by default and all applicable penalties will be applied. If neither team has submitted a match card then the complaint will be dismissed. Penalties for late submission of match cards will still apply.
- 6.5 Any dispute is to be recorded on the match card and signed by both captains.



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- 6.6 No queries regarding match card fines will be entertained by the hockey office after 30 October 2026.

## **7 PROMOTION, RELEGATION AND CHALLENGING:**

- 7.1 End of season promotion or relegation is automatic.
- 7.2 Between the M/LGC, M/LPL & M/LTC there shall be automatic promotion and relegation of ONE team.
- 7.2.1 Team that is relegated from M/LGC will move into M/LPL league and their 2<sup>nd</sup> team will move from M/LGR into M/LTC. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team of the team being promoted to M/LGC will be promoted in the M/LGR league.
- 7.2.2 In the event of the team qualifying for promotion as described above declining the offer, then the second highest eligible team shall be offered promotion.
- 7.2.3 Should there be no eligible team willing to be promoted then no team will be relegated from M/LGC or M/LTC respectively.
- 7.3 Between all other leagues, TWO teams will be relegated, and TWO teams will be promoted at the end of the season.
- 7.3.1 Should there be no eligible team willing to be promoted then no team/s will be relegated.
- 7.3.2 Should one team withdraw from a league then the team finishing (in that league and any league below that league) in the second last position will not be relegated.
- 7.3.3 Should two teams withdraw from a league then the teams finishing (in that league and any league below that league) in last and second last positions will not be relegated.
- 7.3.4 Should more than two teams withdraw from a league during the course of the season, there will be no relegation from that league (or any league below that league) and the appropriate number of teams from the leagues below will be promoted to restore the correct numbers.
- 7.3.5 Should the team finishing in one of the two top places be ineligible for promotion in terms of Rules 4.5, 4.6 and/or 4.7, then the next highest eligible team will be promoted provided that the team in question finished within the top four places.
- 7.3.6 In the event of the team qualifying for promotion as described above declining the offer, then the next highest eligible team shall be offered promotion, and if they decline this offer shall pass to the second highest eligible team, provided that the teams in question finished within the top four places.
- 7.3.7 Should there be fewer than two eligible teams willing to be promoted then the number of teams to be relegated from the higher league will be reduced accordingly.



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7.3.8 Should the relegation of a team result in there being three teams from that club in the next lower league, then one of the club's teams will be relegated from that league to the next lower league. Such a team will replace one of the teams which would have been relegated under rule 7.3.

**7.4 This section of the rules will be updated post the decisions made on the League Structure for 2027.**

**8 DEFINITION OF A TEAM:**

- 8.1 A maximum of 18 players may be used by a team in a match, of whom 2 must be goalkeepers wearing full protective equipment. If one of the goalkeepers becomes injured or is suspended, that team can continue to use 17 players including only 1 goalkeeper. If a team chooses not to include a second goalkeeper in the 18 players, they are limited to using 16 players in total in a match only. If a team chooses to have two goalkeepers but not an extra field player, that is allowed.
- 8.2 Should a team field a squad in excess of eleven players, the entire squad shall be deemed to be members of that team and may not play for another team at any time, unless the normal rules of relegation and/or reversion have been followed. (This applies particularly to any one weekend round of fixtures - i.e. a player may not play for one team on one day and then for another on the next). Any substitute is considered to be a member of that team.
- 8.3 Where a team is proved to have contravened rules 8.1 and/or 8.2 for any particular match, the opponents will be awarded match points as
- 8.4 A maximum of 7 substitutes, including a reserve goalkeeper, and 4 management staff may be seated on the team bench. If there is no reserve goalkeeper then the maximum number of substitutes is 5.
- 8.5 No persons other than those mentioned in 8.4 may be in the dugout and tech table area during a match.
- 8.6 Each team shall have a captain, who shall wear a distinctive band or ribbon. The captain is responsible for the conduct of his or her team and bench, even while acting as a substitute.
- 8.7 Another member of the team shall act as captain during the suspension of the designated captain.

**9 RELEGATION OF PLAYERS**

- 9.1 No Club shall relegate players from any of its teams which has a bye or for whatever reason, no scheduled fixtures, or which has completed its matches, nor may a player be relegated for the sake of strengthening a lower team. (This constitutes "reversion" and will result in the lower team losing the points, having a score of 0-5 recorded and the club being fined R500).
- 9.2 In the case of a higher team player being relegated to a lower team, this player shall remain in the lower team for two consecutive matches. Should a higher team player not be available the player may return to the higher team, but permission must be obtained from the Hockey Manager prior to the playing for the higher team.



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- 9.3 Players are allowed to move between the GC and GR leagues on a weekly basis. Rule 9.2 does not apply here.
- 9.4 No player from a higher team shall play in a lower team in the event of the lower team being short of player/s.
- 9.5 The penalty for breach of 9.4 rule shall be the forfeiture of points and penalties for the team in which the player relegated played in addition to a fine as decided by Council at the February meeting.

## 10 SUBSTITUTIONS:

- 10.1 Players from a team squad may not play again in a lower team (or an age group team) in any weekend of fixtures.
- 10.2 When a higher team is short of players (less than 12 players), a lower team player who has already played, may fill such a vacancy, but only as an emergency and not as a general rule. An emergency is considered to be:
  - 10.2.1a player who withdraws from a team no more than two hours before the scheduled time of the match;
  - 10.2.2a player who does not arrive for the match for whatever reason;
  - 10.2.3if a player is injured while en route to the match or during the warm-up period. If a team has a squad of 12 or more players, no emergency substitution of one player is allowed. Under no circumstances may a player who has already played for a higher team, play again for a lower team in the same round of fixtures.
- 10.3 The general rule is that no player may play for two different teams in any one week of fixtures - including pre-played or postponed matches. The week shall be understood as commencing on Monday morning and ending on Sunday night.
  - 10.3.1The exception is that a goalkeeper may play in a field position. Similarly, a player who normally plays in a field position may act as a goalkeeper. This concession shall only apply to a goalkeeper wearing full protective equipment as described in Rule 2.2 of the Rules of Hockey.
- 10.4 The penalty for transgressing any aspects of these rules regarding substitution shall be the forfeiture of points, by the lower team for which the player played a match and a fine of R500.

## 11 OFFICIAL MATCHES

- 11.1 A period of 10 additional minutes is allowed for a team to take the field after the specified start time of the match. Should a team be short of the required minimum number of players (eight) by this time, they shall forfeit the points, and a friendly game may be played.
  - 11.1.1 Should a valid reason for the non-appearance or shortage of players exist, the Hockey Manager is to be immediately contacted by telephone. Should the Hockey



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Manager not be available, a message stating all details date and time of the call is to sent via email to [manager@wphockey.org.za](mailto:manager@wphockey.org.za). The Hockey Manager & League Secretary will issue a ruling as to whether the reason given for the non-appearance of the team is acceptable or not.

- 11.2 In all Senior Leagues, matches will be played in four quarters of fifteen (15) minutes each, with a two-minute break between the first and second quarters and between the third and fourth quarters, and a five minute halftime break between the second and third quarters.
- 11.3 Matches in under 11 and under 13 leagues will be played in two equal halves of 20 minutes each and the under 15 league will be played in two equal halves of 25 minutes each. Should a match have to be curtailed, the halves will be of equal periods.
- 11.4 The result of any match will stand if it for whatsoever reason is called off after 85% of the game time has already been completed:  
  
All Senior League Matches = 51 minutes completed  
U15 League = 43 minutes completed  
U13 League = 34 minutes completed  
  
If a game is called off prior to said times, then the game will be replayed on a day and time suitable for both teams.
- 11.5 No dispensation shall be given to the lowest team in a club to postpone or pre-play in the event of a shortage of players caused by higher teams having to be filled.
- 11.6 Failure to gain permission to postpone a match will result in the fixture being declared null and void, or at the discretion of the Executive, the points will be awarded to the opposition.
- 11.7 Any side failing to fulfil a scheduled fixture shall forfeit the points. Clubs may not agree to postpone or pre-play a fixture without the written approval of the Hockey Manager. Should they do so, both will forfeit the points and no result will be entered in the logs.
- 11.8 A team must give 24 hours' notice to the Hockey Manager and to their opponents of their intention to concede a match. Failure to do so will incur a fine of R500 and automatic loss of points.
- 11.9 Where there is more than one game scheduled on a particular field, all games, except the last, shall finish at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the next game. Matches starting late shall therefore have both the first and second half playing times reduced equally in order to conform.
- 11.10 Should, for whatever reason, a match not be played, there will be no sharing of points and the fixture will be deemed not to have been played and so reflected in the logs.
- 11.11 Except in the case of M/LGC & M/LPL matches, should the appointed umpires not arrive to fulfil their duties, either any other appropriately graded umpire or designated member of each team shall officiate, so that the match WILL proceed. This shall not apply if clubs are given at least 24 hours' notice that no umpires are available and that they must arrange a suitably qualified umpire themselves.



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11.12 Should the appointed umpires not arrive to fulfil their duties at a M/LGC & M/LPL match, any other available and appropriately graded umpire can be used, providing both captains agree. Should no agreement be reached, the match will be postponed but must be played within 48 hours, at a time and venue to be arranged by the Hockey Manager, with Union appointed Umpires.

11.13 Protective facemasks are mandatory in **ALL** Leagues for players defending a penalty corner.

## 12 GROUNDS

- 12.1 Floodlit matches will only be played at venues where the lighting meets satisfactory standards. Matches in M/LGC, M/LGR, M/LPL leagues will only be played at venues with an average lighting of 450 lux or more. M/LTC, M/L 2, M/L 3 and M/L 4 matches will only be played at venues with a minimum lighting standard of 300 lux. Clubs in lower leagues may agree to play at venues with lower lighting levels entirely at their own risk.
- 12.2 Clubs are to submit a lighting report for their home artificial venue to the Hockey Manager before the start of the season. Lighting reports will be valid for a one-year period. The WPHU shall reserve the right to suspend floodlit matches at any venue where the lighting has found to have deteriorated beyond these minimum levels in the interests of safety.
- 12.3 The playability of any field due to adverse weather conditions or inadequate lighting will be at the discretion of the clubs, or relevant authority, e.g. groundsman. The umpires, however, shall make decisions as to whether the playing conditions will affect the safety of the players concerned.
- 12.4 All league matches shall be played on fields with artificial surfaces.
- 12.5 The WPHU shall reserve the right to suspend matches at any venue where the condition of the artificial surface is of such a nature that the safety of the players is a concern. Should this happen, it will be the responsibility of the Club whose home ground it is to find an alternative venue for these cancelled matches to be re-played. The date and time of the re-play of the suspended fixtures, must be by mutual agreement of both clubs.

## 13 MISCONDUCT

- 13.1 Any person who is reported for unbecoming behaviour which could bring the Union into disrepute may face disciplinary proceedings.
- 13.2 Any red card incident is to be reported in writing by the match umpire who issued the card to the Executive committee member – Rules & Technical & the WP Hockey Manager within 48 hours of the incident occurring. Should such report not be received, the red card will stand recorded, but the match suspensions will be held in abeyance until such time as the Foul Play Review Committee or Disciplinary Committee has dealt with the incident should it be deemed necessary. The Foul Play Review Committee will review the umpire report/s and have the right to have telephonic discussions with the umpire/s and player/s involved in the incident. Any other evidence including documentary evidence and video/photographic



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evidence may also be considered. After taking all facts into account, the Foul Play Review Committee will in writing issue a recommended sanction to the player and club involved within 48 hours of the receipt of the umpire report/s. If the player/club pleads guilty and accepts the proposed sanction that will conclude the matter.

- 13.3 If the player/club rejects the proposed sanction from The Foul Play Review Committee the matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee which will follow a formal disciplinary enquiry process and could take up to 14 days to conclude to allow for procedural fairness of the process, during the disciplinary enquiry process the player involved will not be allowed to participate in any matches. Unless the Disciplinary Committee has ruled otherwise, a player who has been given a red card, with immediate effect, may not participate in any fixtures, which includes double headers.
- 13.4 A player given a Red Card is automatically suspended for 3 subsequent matches from all hockey activities under the auspices of the South African Hockey Association. The Foul Play Review Committee or Disciplinary Committee will decide whether to increase or decrease the suspension as set out in 13.2, 13.3 and 13.4. The player or his club may appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee within 48 hours of them issuing their sanction. Any appeal is to be accompanied by a monetary deposit of R5 000. This may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee be forfeited if the appeal is unsuccessful. If the sanction has been appealed the matter will be referred to an Appeals Committee which will follow a formal disciplinary appeal process and could take up to a further 14 days to conclude to allow for procedural fairness of the process, during the appeal process the player involved will not be allowed to participate in hockey activities including matches. Unless the Appeals Committee has ruled otherwise, a player who has been given a red card, with immediate effect, may not participate in any fixtures, which includes double headers.
- 13.5 The same procedure as outlined in paragraph 13.4 will apply to a player who receives a third yellow card during the season, while the player is automatically suspended for the subsequent match only. The WPHU office will confirm the award of the third card. Any appeal must be lodged within 48 hours of this notification.
- 13.6 The Foul Play Review Committee will comprise of three members elected by the Executive committee. The committee will be representative from a gender and race point of view and will include ex-players, coaches and technical officials to ensure a balanced view is taken when deciding on sanctions and keeping the interests of the game top of mind when making decisions. The Disciplinary Committee and if required Appeals Committee will also be appointed by the Executive committee.
- 13.7 Any suspension decided or confirmed by the Disciplinary committee or Appeals committee shall apply separately to Indoor Hockey, Summer League and Outdoor Field Hockey.
- 13.8 The WPHU shall maintain a register of all yellow and red cards. This list shall be updated on a weekly basis. The Hockey Manager is to be advised immediately should any discrepancy be observed with this list.
- 13.9 Should a club wish to lodge a complaint with the Hockey Manager regarding the misconduct of a team or the transgression of a rule by a club, such complaint to be lodged in writing, within 48 hours of the match. Should no written report be received, the complaint will be null and void.



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- 13.10 A player receiving a red card will receive an automatic fine of R500. A player receiving a yellow card for umpire abuse or use of foul language will receive a R200 fine.

#### **14 CODE OF CONDUCT**

Any individual associated with Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members automatically agrees to comply with and be bound by the WPHU Code of Conduct, WPHU Constitution, WPHU Bye-Laws, and any other policies or codes of conduct that may be introduced from time to time.

#### **15 POSTPONEMENT OF FIXTURES**

- 15.1 No fixture may be pre-played or postponed without the permission of the Hockey Manager. No request will be considered unless both clubs are in agreement.
- 15.2 A fixture may only be postponed if a field is unplayable or if the umpires adjudge that the prevailing weather conditions (as decided at the field) would lead to dangerous playing conditions. No match may be postponed or pre-played for any other reason without permission from the Hockey Manager. There will be no pre-playing or postponements of ANY matches (including already allocated postponed or pre-played matches) for non-hockey reasons. In the case of their being extenuating circumstances that require the postponement of a match, this decision of the postponement will be at the discretion of the Hockey Manager, the League Secretary and one other member of the Executive committee.
- 15.3 In M/L3, M/L4, U15, U13 and U11 leagues, time changes during the weekend of fixtures may be made by mutual agreement between the teams. The weekend is regarded as any time from Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon.
- 15.4 In M/L2 and higher league matches, application to change the times of matches within the same weekend of fixtures must be made to the Hockey Manager first. No such requests will be considered unless there is mutual agreement between the teams and with the further proviso that the allocated umpires are available (in leagues where umpires are allocated).
- 15.5 Postponements may be granted should a team have three or more players and/ or team management selected for any Senior or U21 National teams, Provincial U21 Teams, Senior Provincial teams, Provincial and National Masters' teams.
- 15.6 For National or Provincial Team involvement as per 15.5, a maximum of two postponements may be permitted per team in the season. It is the responsibility of clubs to apply to the Hockey Manager for a postponement of a match and to supply the names of the selected players and management. This application must be made within ONE WEEK of the teams having been announced.
- 15.7 Should a team qualify for a pre-play or postponement because of provincial or national duties, the match will be rescheduled by the League Secretary or Hockey Manager and will be played on that date at the time stipulated, with exceptions or changes considered only after application to the Hockey Manager.



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- 15.8 Matches postponed because of unplayable fields and or any other reason as deemed acceptable by the Hockey Manager, are to be played within two weeks of the scheduled date. Failure to do so will result in a fine unless dispensation has been given by the Hockey Manager.

## **16 PROCEDURE TO PLAY POSTPONED MATCHES**

- 16.1 Any match postponed because of unplayable fields or for whatsoever reason the Hockey Manager has deemed a postponement permissible are to be played within 14 days of the scheduled date of the original fixture. The home team (or, in leagues where teams play at a neutral or shared venue, the team who is listed in the left column on the fixtures document), shall offer the opposition club TWO dates on which to play the match, within two weeks of the scheduled date. In M/LGC, & M/LPL the club making the arrangements shall also be responsible to keep the Hockey Office updated of the details of the rescheduled fixture so that the R&T Portfolio can be notified. Should none of these TWO dates be acceptable to the opposition club, the Hockey Manager will mediate and, after consultation with both clubs, set a date for the match which will be non-negotiable.

- 16.2 If the club responsible for rescheduling the game fail to do so within 14 days of the original fixture date, WPHU will set a new date, time and venue for the match, and this decision will be final and non-negotiable.

## **17 TECHNICAL TABLES & MATCH FILMING**

- 17.1 In all matches played in the M/LGC and M/LPL leagues, it is the responsibility of WPHU to supply a technical table official. If the Union cannot provide a suitable technical official for a match, it will then be the responsibility of the home team. It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the technical table has the required equipment in place. The duties of the technical officer and tech table equipment requirements shall be stipulated by the WPHU. Failure to do so will result in a fine as listed in point 21.
- 17.2 Where teams share a common home venue, then the team whose name appears on the left of the official fixture list shall be regarded as the home team.

## **18 PLAYING COLOURS**

- 18.1 Where the teams have similar playing colours it will be the responsibility of the home team (or the team mentioned on the left of the official fixture list where teams share a common venue) to arrange for a change of playing kit.
- 18.2 All teams participating in the leagues shall wear numbered shirts, with exception of the U11 and U13 leagues. Numbers are not to be duplicated within the same team.
- 18.3 Clubs shall submit their playing kit and colours annually when submitting entries to the league, for all teams including entries into the Masters and Junior Leagues. All club teams, except for the club first teams, are required to wear the same club kit. This includes Masters Teams and Junior Teams. If a team that is not a first team wishes to use a different kit to the registered kit, a written application must be submitted by the club to the Union. The WPHU



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Executive will review and determine these applications.

## 19 APPEALS

Any appeals to the WPHU Executive Committee against decisions made by the Hockey Manager or League Secretary shall be lodged in writing within 24 hours of the decision and shall be accompanied by a R5,000 deposit. This may be refunded at the discretion of the Executive.

## 20 UNFORSEEN EVENTS

If situations arise involving the technical conduct of the League that are not addressed in these Regulations, the WP Hockey Manager, in consultation with the WPHU Executive Committee, will decide on any necessary course of action.

ANY TRANSGRESSION TO THE ABOVE LEAGUE RULES WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FINES SET OUT BELOW OR AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE WPHU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

## 21. FINES

The following fine's structure will be implemented for 2025:

- 21.1 Illegal reversion of players - R500, use of non-registered player - R500.
- 21.2 Not arriving for a match without 24 hours' notification - R500.
- 21.3 Conceding match with more than 24 hours' notice – R500.
- 21.4 Withdrawal from a league above the lowest league - R200; from the lowest league - R100.
- 21.5 Not playing postponed match by due date - R100.
  
- 21.6 Any incorrect information submitted on match cards or results submitted – R30 per card.
- 21.7 If match results are not received by the League Secretary by 17h00 on the Monday following the weekend of fixtures or by 17h00 on the day following a midweek match - R200.
- 21.8 Non-registration of players by the stipulated date – R500.
- 21.8.1 An additional fine of R100 will be levied for every week thereafter that registration remains incomplete.
- 21.9 Non-attendance at official WPHU meetings without having submitted apologies - R500.
- 21.10 Non-attendance at three consecutive Council meetings even if apologies have been submitted – R500.
- 21.11 Non-submission or late submission of match cards to the hockey office – R50 per outstanding card.
- 21.12 Use of more than eighteen or sixteen players for any match, as specified in rule 8.1 – R500.
- 21.13 A player receiving a red card - R500.
- 21.14 A player receiving a yellow card for umpire abuse / descent - R200
- 21.15 A players receiving a card green/yellow for swearing on the field – R100
- 21.16 Failure to film GC match and upload footage onto platform as detailed in 16 – R200
- 21.17 Failure to supply personnel for technical tables as detailed in 16 – R100

\* \* \* \* \*



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## **ADDENDUM TO WPHU LEAGUE RULES 2025**

1. M4, L4 and Lower Leagues addendum to be circulated once league format has been finalised depending on final entries.
2. Junior Leagues addendum to be circulated once league format has been finalised depending on final entries.
3. In addition to the standard WPHU league rules, the following will apply to the U13 League :
  - a. Matches will consist of two halves of 20 minutes each (see 11.3), with a 5min halftime break. In M13/L13 if a match starts late for whatever reason, the halftime break should be adjusted so that the match finishes at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the next match.
  - b. The league points system in section 5 (for “all other leagues” in paragraph 5.1) of the league rules shall apply. If a match is conceded, the points and score will be recorded as indicated in paragraph 5.1 and paragraph 5.6.
  - c. Matches may be postponed due to inclement weather or an unplayable field.
  - d. Teams must provide their own umpires.
  - e. All players shall be registered with WPHU and SAHA, and therefore identification as per section 2 of the league rules shall apply.
  - f. Team colours shall be as per the senior club teams, and all players in the team should wear the same kit.
  - g. Age of players – Players may not be younger than 11 years of age and not older than 13 – In order to qualify to be U13 a player must have been 11 or 12 years old on 01 January 2026.
  - h. All parents/legal guardians must sign the WP Hockey U13 Indemnity form in order to allow the child to participate in the WPHU U13 league. If the form is not signed, then the onus of any claim arising from the child’s participation in the U13 league will become the sole responsibility of the club whom entered the child into the league.
  - i. Results : Clubs are required to submit match cards and results of all U13 matches as per senior league teams.
  - j. All other standard league rules apply to U13 league.
4. In addition to the standard WPHU league rules, the following will apply to the U15 League :
  - a. Matches will consist of two halves of 25 minutes each (see 11.3), with a 5min halftime break. In M15/L15 if a match starts late for whatever reason, the halftime break should be adjusted so that the match finishes at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the next match.
  - b. The league points system in section 5 (for “all other leagues” in paragraph 5.1) of the league rules shall apply. If a match is conceded, the points and score will be recorded as indicated in paragraph 5.1 and paragraph 5.6.
  - c. Matches may be postponed due to inclement weather or an unplayable field.
  - d. Teams must provide their own umpires.
  - e. All players shall be registered, and therefore identification as per section 2 of the league rules shall apply.



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- f. Team colours shall be as per the senior club teams, and all players in the team should wear similar kit.
  - g. Age of players – Players should not be younger than 13 years of age and not older than 15 – In order to qualify to be U15 a player must have been 13 or 14 years old on 01 January 2026.
  - h. All parents/legal guardians must sign the WP Hockey U15 Indemnity form in order to allow the child to participate in the WPHU U15 league. If the form is not signed, then the onus of any claim arising from the child's participation in the U15 league will become the sole responsibility of the club who entered the child into the league.
  - i. Results : Clubs are required to submit match cards and results of all U15 matches as per senior league teams.
  - j. U15 League players may not play in Senior league teams on the same weekend of their U15 fixtures, unless special permission has been given by the WP Hockey Manager. This permission request must be submitted via email to the Hockey Manager.
5. In addition to the standard WPHU league rules, the following will apply to the U11 League :
- a. Matches will consist of two halves of 20 minutes each (see 11.3), with a 5min halftime break. In U11 if a match starts late for whatever reason, the halftime break should be adjusted so that the match finishes at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the next match.
  - b. The U11 league match format will be half field, 8 a side.
  - c. The league points system – No logs will be kept for U11 leagues, however teams are still required to complete a matchcard.
  - d. Matches may be postponed due to inclement weather or an unplayable field.
  - e. Teams must provide their own umpires.
  - f. All players shall be registered, and therefore identification as per section 2 of the league rules shall apply.
  - g. Team colours shall be as per the senior club teams, and all players in the team should wear similar kit.
  - h. Age of players – Players should not be younger than 9 years of age and not older than 11 – In order to qualify to be U11 a player must have been 9 or 10 years old on 01 January 2026.
  - i. All parents/legal guardians must sign the WP Hockey U11 Indemnity form in order to allow the child to participate in the WPHU U15 league. If the form is not signed, then the onus of any claim arising from the child's participation in the U11 league will become the sole responsibility of the club who entered the child into the league.
  - j. Results : Clubs are required to submit match cards and results of all U11 matches as per senior league teams.
  - k. U11 League players may not play in Senior league teams on the same weekend of their U11 fixtures, unless special permission has been given by the WP Hockey Manager. This permission request must be submitted via email to the Hockey Manager.

## 6. MASTERS

In addition to the standard WPHU league rules, the following will apply to the O35 Masters Leagues :



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#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- 6.1 A Masters player must be at least 34 years old as of 1 January 2026. The Men's A League may include up to three players aged 31–33.
- 6.2 Up to three qualifying-aged players as per 6.1 from senior leagues may assist a Men's Masters A team per weekend. This must be a last resort to reach 11 players, not a strategy to strengthen the squad. These players must be registered as Senior Members with WPHU, not Masters.
- 6.3 Senior League players are ineligible for the Masters Men's B and Masters Mixed leagues, even if they meet the age requirements; however in the event a Masters Men's B or Masters Mixed team cannot field 11 players (or meet gender requirements for the Mixed League), they may draft a maximum of two players from Senior leagues as a last resort. These players must be of Masters age, and the opposition must be notified before the match.

#### **LEAGUE FORMAT:**

- 6.5 The Masters Men A Pool will consist of 9 teams and play a double round robin.
- 6.6 The Masters Men B Pool will consist of 10 teams and play a double round robin.
- 6.7 The Mixed Masters League will consist of 12 Teams – Format TBC
- 6.8 All matches need to be recorded with match cards submitted.
- 6.9 There will be no promotion or relegation at the end of the season.

#### **OFFICIAL MATCHES:**

All matches will be played in four quarters of 15 minutes each, with a two-minute break between the first and second quarters and between the third and fourth quarters, and a five-minute halftime break between the second and third quarters.

- 6.10 Points System:  
A winning team earns three (3) points.  
A draw earns one (1) point for each team.  
A loss earns zero (0) points.

In any situation where a match is conceded or points are awarded to one of the teams, the recorded score will be 5-0 in goals and three points will be awarded. Should the actual score be more advantageous to the non-offending team, then that score shall stand. A fine shall also be levied as stipulated in paragraph 21

- 6.11 Matches follow standard FIH rules unless otherwise specified in this document.
- 6.12 Protective facemasks are mandatory in all Masters Leagues for players defending a penalty corner.
- 6.13 Fixtures will be scheduled for Saturdays, subject to turf availability.
- 6.14 Mixed Masters Teams must include at least four players of the opposite gender per match, with a minimum of three on the field at all times. Non-compliance results in an automatic 5-0 forfeit to the opposition.
- 6.15 Drag-flicking is strictly prohibited in Mixed Masters league.