

IHA TOURNAMENT COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS 2009 – 10

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. 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 and John Waring).
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. 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.

1.5. Definition

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

1.6. 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 Committee. Each Organisation and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the IHA Competitions Committee 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 Committee and responsible to the Board of Irish Hockey.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Organisation and Player Eligibility for the various Tournament Competitions is subject to the following qualification criteria:

3.1. Irish Senior Interprovincials (Men and Women)

- Players who live or are born in Ireland or who have an Irish parent(s)
- Players who are eligible to play for Ireland

3.2. Irish U21 Interprovincials (Men and Women)

- Players who live or are born in Ireland or who have an Irish parent(s)
- Players who are eligible to play for Ireland
- Players must be under 21 on the 1st of January in the year of the competition

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

- Players who live or are born in Ireland or who have an Irish parent(s)
- Players who are eligible to play for Ireland
- Players must be under 16 / 18 on the 1st of January in the year of the competition

3.4. Irish Junior Interprovincials (Men and Women)

- Players who live or are born in Ireland or who have an Irish parent(s)
- Players who are eligible to play for Ireland

3.5. John Waring (Schools Boys Tournament)

- Finalist from each provincial schools cup
- Players must be under the age of 19 at the start of the School Year (August 1st)

3.6. 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 1st)

3.7. Irish Colleges

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

3.8. The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on each Organisation. The Competitions Committee 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 Committee shall be final in this respect.

4. TEAM ENTRY

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

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

5. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

5.1. 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.

5.2. The match schedule for each Tournament will be determined by the Competitions Committee 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.

6. PRE-TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1.** 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.

7. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

- 7.1.** A Tournament Director will be appointed by the Competitions Committee to run each Tournament. The Tournament Director has full power and authority of the Competitions Committee in matters concerning the conduct of the Tournament in accordance with these IHA Tournament Rules and Regulations.
- 7.2.** The Tournament Director shall appoint the Umpires, Technical Officials (if required) to each match from those nominated to the Tournament.

The Tournament Director has the authority to suspend players, team officials or other officials, who, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, are guilty of misconduct. In deciding the length of any suspension, the Tournament Director is limited to the remaining matches of the Tournament, but he/she may at his/her discretion, report the matter to the Chief Executive of the IHA for consideration as a disciplinary matter to be considered by the Discipline Committee, in which case further suspension and penalties may be considered and further impose a suspension that has effect beyond the conclusion of the tournament in accordance with the IHA Games Disciplinary Procedures.

8. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S (TD) MEETING

- 8.1.** 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.
- 8.2.** Team colours for each match will be agreed at the TD's meeting.

9. BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

- 9.1.** 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](#).
- 9.2.** Any decision to postpone or cancel the Tournament will be made while taking account of the cost of such a decision.

10. THE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION

- 10.1.** Each team will play one match against each of the other teams, unless an alternative format has been notified in advance.
- 10.2.** The points awarded for each match will be confirmed at the Tournament Director's meeting.
- 10.3.** 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 stroke competition.

10.4. Interrupted Matches

10.4.1. 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.

11. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS FOR MATCHES

- 11.1.** A maximum of 16 players may be used by each team in each match.
- 11.2.** Players must wear numbered shirts with shirt numbers between 1 to 32.
- 11.3.** 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.
- 11.4.** 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.

12. DISCIPLINE

- 12.1.** 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).
- 12.2.** The IHA Games Discipline Procedures includes the process for handling appeals related to red cards.

13. PROTESTS

- 13.1.** 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.
- 13.2.** 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.
- 13.3.** No protest can be lodged from a field of play decision made by the umpires.
- 13.4.** The Tournament Directors decision regarding the protest is final.

14. DISQUALIFICATION OR FAILURE/REFUSAL TO PLAY

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

15. BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

- 15.1.1.** Any Organisation found by the Competitions Committee 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.
- 15.1.2.** The Competitions Committee shall at its discretion have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, fines, suspension of players, on an Organisation for breaches of any or all of the IHA Tournament Rules and Regulations and/or the [IHA Code of Conduct](#).

16. APPEAL PROCEDURE

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

16.1.1. 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