

NORTH HOCKEY LEAGUE RULES 2019-20

Abbreviations and Definitions

EHL	-	The National League
GB	-	Great Britain
NGB	-	National Governing Body
NHA	-	The North Hockey Association
NHL	-	The North Hockey League
NHLMC	-	The North Hockey League Management Committee
NHUA	-	The North Hockey Umpiring Association
Secretary	-	To be read as 'League Secretary or delegated League Official'
Fixtures Live	-	The NHL authorised online system
NAGS	-	National Age Groups

LIST OF CONTENTS

Rules		Page
1	Name	2
2	Jurisdiction and Authority	2
3	Composition of NHL	2
4	League Management	2
5	Discipline	3
6	Administration Finance Fines and Penalties	4
7	Liaison with the league and Opponents - Clubs Responsibility	4
8	Sponsorship	4
9	Hospitality	5
10	Trophies	5
11	Umpires, and Club Liaison with Umpires and the NHUA	5
12	Player Qualification	5
13	Player Registration	6
14	Player Transfer	6
15	Player Selection	7
16	Player Uniform	7
17	Matches Regulations	7
18	Match Delegates	8
19	Teamsheets	8
20	Postponement / Bad Weather Arrangements	8
21	Match Rearrangement	9
22	Abandonment	9
23	Failure to fulfil fixtures	9
24	League order, promotion and relegation	9
25	Appeals	10
26	Emendation	10
	Appendix: Hyperlinks	10

1 Name

The League shall be called the North Hockey League and must be so referred to in all correspondence and publicity in which the name of the League is used. It may have the name of a sponsor put in front of it.

2 Jurisdiction and Authority

2.1 The NHL shall be under the direct jurisdiction of the NHA.

2.2 Admittance to the League of any club from outside the NHA Region shall be at the discretion of the NHA Council.

2.3 Each club, by its entry into the league, must agree to accept the jurisdiction of the NHA with regard to its administration of the League and shall be deemed to have given its consent to the rules of the league and to any amendments which may from time to time be adopted in proper form

2.4 The committee has the powers to determine any matter not covered by these rules and may, at its discretion, waive, reduce or increase an applicable penalty and relegate any team which, in the opinion of the committee, fails to meet the standards demanded for hockey in the league.

3 Composition of NHL

3.1 The league shall consist of fifteen divisions. All divisions shall provide for twelve teams and each team play every other on a home and away basis. Promotion will be by invitation and subject to approval by NHA.

3.2 Clubs from leagues within the region of the NHA may qualify for entry to the league and must be affiliated to their NGB, their Regional and County Association.

3.3 Any club may have no more than one team in a division other than in division 3 where up to 2 teams are allowed. To achieve this a 2nd or lower team may be denied promotion or be relegated to a lower league

4 League Management

4.1 The NHLMC consisting of the following: A Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Area Administrators appointed by Council together with an Umpires' representative nominated by NHUA. The Co-ordinator of each division and the "Fixtures Live" Coordinator(s) shall be members of the NHLMC.

4.2 The NHLMC shall have the power to co-opt additional members onto the committee but they shall have no voting rights.

4.3 An Emergency Committee of at least three members of the NHLMC may handle urgent problems

4.4 The secretary of the NHLMC shall administer the league. If any decision the secretary makes is challenged by a club then the full NHLMC, or the emergency committee of the NHLMC shall decide the matter.

4.5 The treasurer shall be responsible for keeping and preparing accounts. Such accounts shall be presented by 30 April annually to the NHA treasurer who shall arrange an audit and present the accounts to the AGM of the NHA. The league treasurer and at least two other persons appointed by the NHLMC shall be mandated to sign cheques, use internet banking and to issue instructions for the bank account to be operated on behalf of the NHLMC.

4.6 The Committee cannot decide to implement a penalty other than those specified in the NHL rules unless the club concerned has had the opportunity to attend a hearing.

4.7 The NHLMC may call a meeting of clubs by giving at least 21 days' notice. One such meeting called "The Summer Meeting" must be held prior to 30th June each year for the purpose of reviewing the previous season and advising clubs of any changes for the following season. Every club should be represented at any such meeting. Clubs attending such meetings will receive a reduction of £80 per team in the following season's affiliation fee.

5 Discipline

5.1 All matters relating to discipline shall be dealt with as laid in the England Hockey disciplinary regulations.

5.2 The England Hockey Code of Ethics and Behaviour as adopted by NHA and NHA Code of Pitchside Conduct apply to all Club Members, Spectators, Parents, Guardians, Coaches, Managers and Umpires and must be followed at all league matches. Contravention of these codes should be included in a report, if requested by the league secretary.

5.3 For each player or official on the bench who receives a red or yellow card, the team whose player or official received the card must remove a player from the pitch.

5.4 Any disciplinary action taken by the league will be reported to the county association of the club concerned.

5.5 A Club must report to the League Secretary any penalty imposed on a registered player as result of action taken against the player under the disciplinary regulations. Failure to do so could result in the playing of an ineligible player.

5.6 Players shall be subject to incremental match suspensions for yellow cards an individual accrues throughout the season. The league secretary and the relevant divisional coordinator will keep a record of yellow cards. However, the responsibility for applying suspensions rests with the player's club.

The following suspensions shall apply to each individual:

4 yellow cards in a season = 1 match suspension,

2 further yellow cards in the same season = 1 further match suspension,

2 further yellow cards in the same season = 1 further match suspension,

For each further yellow card thereafter in the same season = 1 further match suspension.

Any match suspension imposed as a consequence of this regulation shall take effect in the next NHL match following the match in which the qualifying yellow card was issued. In the event that a player is issued a red card subsequent to receiving a yellow card(s) in the same match, the yellow card(s) shall not be counted for the purposes of this rule. The failure to suspend a player under this rule will be treated as the playing of an ineligible player and three points will be deducted. Note: See Rule 12.3 regarding yellow cards in EHL games.

5.7 Each club must supply a copy of its code of conduct and disciplinary code to the league secretary in advance of the season and this must be acceptable to the committee. Failure to provide documents at least 7 days before the first fixture of the season will result in the standard level fine being levied.

Note: See Appendix 1 for Hyperlinks for documents mention in 5.1 and 5.4 which contain some automatic suspensions.

6 Administration Finance Fines and Penalties

6.1 The NHLMC shall recommend to the NHA Council rates for league fees, the standard fine and the higher level fine.

6.2 League fees must be paid by 31 October in each season. In the case of late payment, the higher level fine shall be payable for each month, or part thereof, by which payment is delayed. In the event of non-payment by 30th November the team may be expelled from the league and any games played will be declared null and void.

6.3 Fines must be paid within 14 days of being notified. Failure to do so will result in the fine being doubled. If, after a further 14 days, the fine is still not paid, then further action will be considered by the NHLMC including whether the team's league status should be revoked and all results for that team removed from the table. The NHLMC may, at its discretion, taking a club's previous record into account, waive, reduce or increase an applicable fine.

6.4 Fees and Fines

All Fees and fines must be paid by direct transfer. The payment date will be deemed to be the transfer date shown on the bank statement

Affiliation fees (as advised at the summer meeting– see rule 4.7)

Standard level fine £25

Higher level fine £50

6.5 At the end of the season, should the funds at the disposal of the NHLMC be insufficient to meet its expenses, the teams shall be required to make up the deficiency by equal levy (pro rata to entry fee).

7 Liaison with the league and Opponents - Clubs Responsibility

7.1 The home team shall confirm details of venue and start time to the away team at least 5days before the game and ensure responses are received from all.

7.2 The liaison officer/s of each club is required to complete the 'Club Details Form' and return it to the NHLMC secretary by 30th June.

7.3 Clubs are also required to supply details of match start times and venues to Fixtures Live and the NHA website at least one month before a scheduled match.

7.4 Any proposed alteration to these start times must be submitted to the league committee for approval. These may then be varied for particular matches only by the mutual agreement of the umpires and clubs concerned. All such changes must be reported to the NHLMC secretary and divisional co-ordinator by email.

7.5 All university clubs are required to advise the NHLMC secretary by 30th April of their term dates for the next academic year.

7.6 Liaison officers must ensure that if any changes are made during the season both the League's designated online system and NHA Website are updated where appropriate.

7.7 No communication on league business shall take place with any of the NHLMC officials after 10pm and must be by text or email unless specifically agreed to by the relevant official prior to that need

7.8 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breaches of Rule7.

8 Sponsorship

If there is a sponsor, clubs must refer to the League's Sponsor at all times and include the name and, if possible, the Sponsor's official logo in fixture cards and/or handbooks.

9 Hospitality

First named teams are expected to offer hospitality before and after the match to visiting teams, umpires and press. A visiting team must advise at by 8pm on the Wednesday before the match if they do not require hospitality. Failure to do this will result in the away team having to compensate the home team.

10 Trophies

All trophies must be returned to the league committee before or at the summer meeting, failure to do this will result in a fine of £100. Should a club lose a trophy the league will replace it and invoice the club for the cost.

11 Umpires, and Club Liaison with Umpires and the NHUA

11.1 Umpires shall, where possible, be appointed by the NHUA or by other umpire associations in the region. The club liaison officer shall be notified of the appointments made by umpiring associations and the home team shall then be responsible for confirming the venue and start time to the Umpire Coaches/and or Assessors a minimum of 5 days prior to the match, and ensure responses are received from all

11.2 All Teams must provide feedback on appointed umpires by Wednesday 8:00pm latest a following a match.

11.3 Where the umpiring association is unable to appoint an umpire(s) then the teams must appoint an umpire(s) who is qualified to at least level 1 assessed. If one umpire is required the

home team is responsible for the appointment. If 2 umpires are required each team becomes responsible for an appointment. The registration number(s) of such umpire(s) must be entered on the match report form. Failure to do this will result in the home club incurring a standard level fine.

11.4 Should an appointed umpire become unavailable at short notice and teams are not able to provide a level 1 assessed umpire then the game must be postponed, and the divisional secretary informed.

11.5 Where an umpire is not qualified to a minimum level 1 assessed standard, then the result of the game shall stand but the team using the unqualified umpire may face an appropriate penalty which could be a fine and/or a points deduction

11.6 Match postponement/re-arranged fixtures (see also rule 20). In the event of a match being postponed, then the NHUA Appointment Secretary must be informed immediately. For the date of the re-arranged match, the NHUA Appointment Secretary must be copied into all correspondence regarding the re-arrangement.

11.7 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 11

Players

12 Player Qualification

12.1 Only bona fide members of a league club who are 13 years of age or older on the day of the match shall be entitled to be registered and to play in league matches for that club. The Club is responsible for verifying a player's eligibility.

12.2 A player currently playing, or playing in the previous season, for a different club affiliated to an NGB must complete the transfer procedure set out in rule 14 before becoming eligible to play for the registering club in NHL.

12.3 A player who is suspended under EHL Yellow Card rule is ineligible to play in an NHL match until the EHL suspension has been served (non-starred players only). In the event of a player being suspended as a result of a yellow card received in the last EHL game the winter break, they shall only be ineligible for the next NHL match. It is the responsibility of any club with any teams in the EHL and NHL to notify the relevant NHL divisional coordinator of the name of any player that has received an EHL yellow card ban and the dates for which the player is serving the ban.

12.4 An NHL team shall not be allowed to register more than two players who do not:

- (1) Hold a European Union Passport or United Kingdom Passport, or
- (2) Have a permanent right of abode or indefinite leave to remain, as defined by Sections 1 and 2 of the Immigration Act 1971. (as amended from time to time), or
- (3) Hold a current valid Ancestry Visa or Family of Settled Person Visa, for a right to remain in the United Kingdom.

A player wishing to register for a NHL team must indicate in the appropriate section on their registration, the category relevant to them as specified above.

12.4.1 Players from the UK, Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Gibraltar together with those holding dual passport eligibility where one such eligibility is that of a European Union member state will be considered to have no limitation as to their ability to be registered.

12.4.2 A player who does not hold a passport must be eligible to hold a passport of the UK or a European Union State. The onus of proof regarding eligibility is on the registering team.

12.4.4 The NHLMC shall decide any dispute regarding eligibility and shall be entitled to request such written or oral evidence, as it considers necessary.

12.4.5 Any appeal against a decision of the NHLMC on eligibility shall be made in accordance with rule 25. An individual shall not play in an NHL game pending the outcome of an appeal.

12.5 There will be a three-point penalty for any breach of rule 12

13 Player Registration

13.1 Using the Fixtures Live on line fixture and registration system, including photographs,

each Club is required to register for each team in the NHL a minimum of 20 players excluding any registered starred players

13.2 Clubs with more than one team in the League or in a higher league may register the same player for any team squad but their use must be consistent with the requirement to select on merit.

13.3 For new clubs the initial registration for a season must be completed online by 16th September unless a special dispensation has been granted.

13.4 NHL registrations, once approved, remain in force until such time as either they are withdrawn by the club, there is an inter-club transfer, or the team leaves the league. New registration requests must be entered online by 8pm on Wednesday, if the player is to be used on the following Saturday

Note: There is a 3-day lead time for the registration to take effect following the electronic approval of the request by the league committee.

13.5 De-registration requests must also be entered online and become effective as soon as the NHLMC completes the electronic de-registration approval process.

13.6 By default, the NHL on f Fixtures Live and registration system, currently Fixtures Live, sends emails to the relevant NHLMC and club administrators using the above process steps.

13.7 Any club registering a player is eligible to play under Rule 12.4 must advise the league NHLMC Secretary of the appropriate section under the Act by an acknowledged email.

13.8 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 13

14 Player Transfer

14.1 A Club registering the transfer of a player from any other Club affiliated to an NGB must use the NHL on line fixture and registration system, currently Fixtures Live, if the player is already on it. Confirmation that a genuine change of Club has taken place, including agreement from the player's previous Club must be obtained by the club registering the player before submitting the registration.

14.2 An email generated by Fixtures Live, will inform, the Club of the date from which the player may play in the League. If the Club has a lower team playing in another league, then the Club must also have satisfied the rules of that League relating to player transfer. Transfer requests must be lodged with the NHLMC Divisional Coordinator by 1st February. The NHLMC shall have the power to grant a transfer request after 1 February if the request is the result of a move of abode of the player concerned.

14.3 There will be a three-point penalty for any breach of Rule 14.

15 Player Selection

15.1.1 Clubs are expected to select teams on merit. A club with one or more teams in the EHL or NHL, must, by 8pm on the Wednesday before the first league match, provide a list of 11 starred players for each of its teams other than its lowest placed team in the NHL. No player may be starred for more than one team. These players must be selected on merit and are excluded from playing for a team lower than the one they are starred for.

15.1.2 Clubs are permitted to make a change to their starred list of 11 by emailing the swap details to the league before 8.00pm on the Wednesday before the next match. Reasons for the change must be given and must be approved before the de-starred player can play for the lower team. Once a player, other than a goalkeeper, has been de-starred that player cannot be re-starred within 4 weeks of the date on which they were de-starred without the agreement of the NHLMC.

15.1.3 In addition, no player shall play in more than one NHL or EHL game in a day. The NHLMC will not tolerate abuses of the system. The movement of players will be monitored.

15.2 For the EHL Mid-season break, all EHL clubs must star an additional 3 players. (The rules covering clubs with two teams in the EHL will be finalised once the EHL registration process for these teams is published).

15.3 All starred players are expected to be regularly available for selection. The NHLMC should be informed of any problems and it must be notified if any player is to be unavailable for more than 3 weeks.

15.4 No player, other than a goalkeeper and those aged under 18 not selected for NAGs, shall play for more than one NHL or EHL team in a weekend without the permission of the NHLMC Secretary. It is the responsibility of the Club to inform the NHLMC Secretary of its NAGs players.

15.5 The NHLMC shall have the power to change starred players at any time but in doing so must notify the clubs of any such changes before 8pm on the Monday before the next league match.

15.6 The signing of a team sheet or match card will be deemed to be a true record.

15.7 A club unable satisfactorily to justify its selection or subsequent action shall be deemed to have played an ineligible player

15.8 Clubs with teams in the EHL must, for every EHL game, send a copy of the EHL match report form signed by the match delegate to the divisional co-ordinator by post, fax or email by the following Wednesday.

15.9 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 15.1.2,15.6,

15.10 There will be a minimum 3 point penalty for any breach of Rules 15.1.1, 15.1.3, 15.3, 15.4, & 15.8.

16 Player Uniform

16.1 Players participating in league matches shall wear club uniform as set out in the NHA handbook. If, in the opinion of the umpires, there is a clash of colours, the second named team shall always change shirts and socks as necessary. The second named team must always carry an alternative strip. Players participating in a game shall wear on the back of their shirt the number allocated to them on the team sheet which must be at least 9 inches in height and in a colour contrasting to their shirts. Goalkeepers shall wear a colour contrasting with those worn by both teams. Captains must be clearly identifiable by wearing an band of contrasting colour.

16.2 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 16.

17 Matches Regulations

17.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Hockey as laid down by the NGB.

17.2 All matches must be played on artificial pitches of an acceptable standard, and there must be adequate changing facilities available.

17.3 Matches shall be played on dates fixed by the committee except that the match may be postponed by the home team if the ground is unfit for play or the umpires consider conditions to be dangerous.

17.4 Matches shall be played in daylight unless prior permission has been given by the league committee to play under floodlights. Such permission, which lapses at the end of each season, may be granted provided that the club, in applying, has submitted a current certificate of lighting acceptable to the NHLMC which must have an average lux of 350 and a minimum reading anywhere on the pitch of 250.

17.5 The latest start times shall be 3.30pm other than from 1st November until 14th February when it shall be 2.15pm unless the club has an acceptable lighting certificate as set out in rule17.4.

17.6 Matches may be scheduled to start at 11.30am or earlier with the agreement of both the opposition and appointed umpires. In divisions 2 and 3 matches may be scheduled to start as early as 10.30 if the opposition have less than 50 miles to travel to the venue or otherwise by mutual agreement of the opposition and appointed umpires.

17.7 University Clubs will be required to play their fixtures on the designated league dates.

17.8 Each team must have a minimum of 7 players on the pitch before the match can commence.

18 Match Delegates

18.1 The home club shall appoint a responsible person to act as match delegate. If a club in the NHL fails to produce a delegate, then the umpires shall require the captain of the home team to nominate one of his team to stand down for the entire game and perform the duty. See hyperlink to [The Duties of Technical Match Delegates](#)

19 Team Sheets

19.1 Each club shall complete a team sheet and hand it to the match delegate 30minutes prior to the start time of the match. The match delegate shall record the match details on the match report form in black ink.

19.2 After the match the delegate shall arrange for this form to be signed and then returned, along with the team sheets, to the home club's representative who shall enter the result on the NHL on line fixture and registration system, currently Fixtures Live, within 60 minutes of the end of the match. form. The documents must be scanned, copied or posted to the divisional co-ordinator who must receive them by the following Wednesday. The home club must retain a copy of the match report.

19.3 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of Rule 19.

20 Postponement / Bad Weather Arrangements

20.1 Postponement of matches shall occur only in the event of adverse weather conditions or ground conditions (or non-arrival of the appointed umpire). In exceptional circumstances, the committee may grant a postponement and shall normally require clubs to submit their reasons for postponement in writing to the NHLMC secretary and divisional co-ordinator at least eight days before the date of the match. Exceptional means the unplanned events that do occasionally happen. The NHLMC will expect to see that at least 3 players are unavailable because of a commitment to an NHA or NGB event. This does not include Masters, Mixed, Veterans or Vintage Hockey, or social events.

20.2 In the case of bad weather, the home team should follow the following procedure. The home liaison officer or captain should ascertain the visiting team's and appointed umpires, umpire coaches and assessor's departure time from their home. If relevant this will take into account any planned overnight stay. The home liaison officer or captain must inspect the pitch before this departure time. A realistic view must be taken at this stage, including travel conditions. Enquiries should be made of any local meteorological office to confirm weather conditions for the next 24 or 48 hours. If the pitch is unfit and is likely to remain so the game should be postponed and the travelling team, umpires, umpire coaches and assessors informed before their departure times. This must be done by an answered phone call or acknowledged email with a confirmation of receipt.

20.3 Fitness of weather or ground conditions shall be decided as follows: Up to one hour before the designated starting time of the match by the captain of the first named team who must inform the opposition, the umpires, umpire coaches and assessors, the divisional coordinator and the NHUA appointment secretary. After that time the umpires shall decide.

20.4 An away team must agree to a match being postponed. In the event of the home team wishing to postpone a match the away team shall have the right to inspect the ground prior to a decision regarding postponement being reached. In the event of the away team exercising this right it shall be responsible for its own costs, any umpiring costs and any costs incurred by the home team as a result of any delay in the postponement.

20.5 The home club must e-mail or text the reason for the postponement of a fixture to the league secretary and the divisional co-ordinator by 8pm on the day of the postponed match.

20.6 There will be a standard level fine levied for any breach of rule 20.2and 20.5

21 Match Rearrangement

21.1 A postponed fixture should be replayed within 15 days. Within 7 days of the postponement the clubs must either fix a date for the rescheduled fixture within the 15-day period or agree to submit the decision to the NHLMC secretary and divisional co-ordinator. Both clubs must report the outcome by e-mail within 24 hours of agreement to the NHLMC secretary and the NHUA appointment secretary. In the event of a dispute over fixture dates between clubs, the NHLMC secretary or divisional co-ordinator may designate the venue and the date on which a fixture shall be played. A club not reporting will have 1 point deducted.

21.2 If, on the day scheduled for a re-arranged fixture, the home team's pitch is unfit, the away team shall be entitled, if it has a pitch available and fit for play, to require the 'home' team to travel and play the fixture on its ground, provided that the umpires and other team can make suitable arrangements for travel or for their replacement.

22 Abandonment

22.1 In the event of a match having to be abandoned as a result of serious injury to a player or of adverse weather conditions the home club shall inform the divisional coordinator of the abandonment to update the NHL on Fixtures Live and registration system, currently Fixtures Live. A report shall also be submitted by the umpires to the NHLMC secretary and divisional co-ordinator by email. The NHLMC shall decide on the action to be taken. Such a decision may necessitate a replay of the fixture depending on the circumstances at the time of the abandonment. In the event of a replay the new date shall be arranged by the clubs in accordance with Rule 21.

23 Failure to fulfil fixtures

23.1 A team not fulfilling its league fixture on the set date shall incur a 3 point penalty unless the match has been postponed – as set out in rule 20. The fixture should be re-arranged in accordance with rule 21 unless the NHLMC decides otherwise. The offending team shall meet any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents including pitch costs.

23.2 A team failing to fulfil the re-arranged fixture will be deducted a further 6 points, and the match will be awarded to the opposition (3 points and a result of 3-0).

23.3 Any team failing to honour fixtures three times in any one season shall be relegated for the following season.

23.4 Any team facing relegation from the league shall have the opportunity of a hearing as set out in rule 4.6.

24 League order, promotion and relegation

24.1 Three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw in all league matches. In the event of teams being level on points at the end of the season, places shall be determined by consideration of the following in order:

- i.** Goal difference
- ii.** Result of games between the teams concerned
- iii.** Highest number of goals for

Generally, the champions of each division or league will be promoted and the lowest team relegated.

24.2 Promotion and relegation shall be as follows

Premier:

Promotion

The highest eligible team will be promoted,

Relegation

If no teams are relegated from the EHL the bottom team will be relegated.

If 1 team is relegated from the EHL the bottom 2 teams will be relegated.

If 2 teams are relegated from the EHL the bottom 3 teams will be relegated.

Division 1

Promotion

The two highest eligible teams will be promoted.

Relegation

If 1 team is relegated from the Premier Division, then the bottom team will be relegated.

If 2 teams are relegated from the Premier Division, then the bottom 2 teams will be relegated.

If 3 teams are relegated from the Premier Division the bottom 3 teams will be relegated.

Division 2

Promotion.

The highest eligible teams in each division 2 approved by the NHA Council will be promoted to Division 1.

Relegation

Normally the bottom two teams in each division shall be relegated. Fewer or further teams may need to be relegated in order to provide two automatic promotion places for division 3. However, the number of teams relegated from Divisions 2 will also be determined by the origin and destination of the relegated teams.

Division 3

Promotion

The highest eligible team in each division 3, except for Division 3 North West where the two highest eligible teams approved by the NHA Council will be promoted to the relevant division.

Relegation

Normally two teams will be relegated (Women's Division 3 North West 3 teams) but fewer or further teams may need to be relegated in order to provide an automatic promotion place to the regional leagues below. However, the number of teams relegated from Divisions 3 will also be determined by the origin and destination of the relegated teams.

Promotion from Feeder Leagues:

The highest eligible team in the feeder Leagues approved by the NHA Council (rule 2.2) shall be promoted to the relevant Division 3.

Should a club be offered a promotion place decline the invitation the management committee shall recommend an alternative action to Council. The alternative might be to make an offer to the next highest eligible club, to reduce the number of relegations for that division or to leave a blank space in the division for the season ahead.

25 Appeals

25.1 Clubs shall have a right of appeal to the Council of NHA against a decision of the league committee. As set in the NHA Constitution rule 13 such appeals, together with a fee of £100, refundable at the discretion of the appeal committee, must be sent in writing to the secretary of NHA within 14 days of the NHLMC committee's decision being notified to and acknowledged by the club. If a club is affiliated to an association outside the jurisdiction of the NHA then the secretary of that association shall be requested to send an observer to the appeal hearing. The decision of the North Appeal Panel shall be final and binding on all.

26 Emendation

26.1 Any club wishing to propose a change in rules for the forthcoming season must put the proposal in writing, before 1st January, to the secretary of NHA, who will inform NHA Council, County, Feeder Leagues and the NHLMC secretary of the proposal.

26.2 These rules are subject to the rules on emendation laid down in the Constitution and schedules thereto of the NHA.

APPENDIX: HYPERLINKS

[England Hockey Code of Ethics and Behaviour](#)

[NHL Code of Conduct](#)

[NHL Pitchside Code of Conduct](#)

[NHA Code of Conduct](#)

[England Hockey Red Card and MMO Regulations](#)

[England Hockey Disrepute Complaint regulations](#)

[The Duties of Technical Match Delegates](#)

[NHL Constitution](#)