

EASTERN GAUTENG HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



League Rules and Regulations

Version: Final version 1.0

Author: Carike van Staden

Creation date: 15 March 2012

Last saved date: 30 April 2012



Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Powers of the league committee	3
3. Composition of the leagues.....	3
4. Match Regulations.....	4
5. Match Times and Changes	7
6. Registration and Levy	8
7. Selection	10
8. Transfers.....	10
9. Misconduct and Discipline.....	11
10. Protests.....	15
11. Playing Kit	15
12. School Girls and Boys	16
13. Umpires (See also 4.21).....	16
14. Results and Team Returns.....	17
15. Club Meetings.....	17
16. Security, Safety and Fields.....	17
17. Conclusion and acceptance of rules.....	17



1. Introduction

These league rules and regulations will be used for all the leagues played under the jurisdiction of Eastern Gauteng Hockey Association (EGHA), unless otherwise specified for a specific reason as agreed upon the League President and the Executive Committee of EGHA. This is an initial draft version of the league rules and regulation document.

2. Powers of the league committee

- 2.1. The administration of the leagues will be conducted by the League Committee (LC) under the authority of the Executive Committee (EXCO) who may delegate its powers to the LC or Disciplinary Committee (DC) as it deems fit in order to settle any disputes and/or any manipulation or violation of the league rules.
- 2.2. Wherever a term is used that is open to interpretation, the definition of the FIH and then SAHA shall provide guidance. In all cases the decision of the EXCO in ruling on the explanation and meaning thereof shall be final.
- 2.3. All teams submitting entries for any competition played under the auspices of the Association or any of its affiliates, by doing so, explicitly agree to abide by all the terms of these rules and regulations.

3. Composition of the leagues

- 3.1. The following league competitions shall be open to all affiliated clubs who are in good standing with the Association and shall consist of:
 - 3.1.1. Easterns Outdoor League (Men and Ladies)
 - 3.1.2. Easterns Indoor League (Men and Ladies)
 - 3.1.3. Any other competitions organised by the LC from time to time (Summer League or any Knockout competition).
- 3.2. Should more leagues be introduced in the future, at the conclusion of each season, after promotion and relegation has taken place, all teams shall be placed in order of strength as determined by their final log positions and divided into sections accordingly.
- 3.3. All new teams applying for entry shall start in the bottom league unless otherwise decided by the LC.
- 3.4. The LC may decline to promote or accept a first team of a club if it does not have the appropriate infrastructure to support the club. Infrastructure includes, inter alia, administration, coaching, a development programme, qualified umpires, suitable facilities and good security.
- 3.5. A club, with a team winning a league, may not decline promotion unless the relegated team from the league above is from the same club. If this option is exercised, which must be in writing, the LC may elect to retain the relegated team in the league above or promote the second-placed team from the league below. If promotion takes place within the same season, the promoted team shall continue to play with substantially the same players as it used to win promotion until the end of that season. The LC shall have the power to reverse the promotion at any time in the event of any breach and impose penalties that it deems appropriate to prevent the abuse of the spirit of this clause.



- 3.6. A club, with a team winning a league, may not decline promotion unless the relegated team from the league above is from the same club. If this option is exercised, which must be in writing, the LC may elect to retain the relegated team in the league above or promote the second-placed team from the league below. If promotion takes place within the same season, the promoted team shall continue to play with substantially the same players as it used to win promotion until the end of that season. The LC shall have the power to reverse the promotion at any time in the event of any breach and impose penalties that it deems appropriate to prevent the abuse of the spirit of this clause.
- 3.7. In the event of any team gaining 90% of the total possible available points during the season they shall be entitled to apply for promotion of more than one league. This may also apply to any club's first team in any league.
- 3.8. In the event of a tie in points in any competition affecting promotion or relegation:
 - 3.8.1. At the end of the league competition if two or more teams have the same number of points for any position, these teams will be ranked according to their respective number of matches won.
 - 3.8.2. If there still remains equality between two or more teams, then these teams will be ranked according to their respective goal difference (which means "goals for" less "goals against").
 - 3.8.3. If there remains equality between two or more teams, then these teams will be ranked according to their respective number of "goals for".
 - 3.8.4. A positive goal difference always takes precedence over a negative one.

4. Match Regulations

- 4.1. Matches shall be played by eleven registered amateur players of each competing team. Each team shall be allowed a total of 16 (sixteen) players per match who may be substituted according to the rules of hockey.
- 4.2. Only team members and officials may enter the technical area. Teams are limited to having 5 (five) substitutes, a manager, coach and medical officer on the bench.
- 4.3. The team sheets for all fixtures shall be presented to the technical official before the start of each game.
- 4.4. If no technical table is present, the captains shall present the team sheets of their teams for scrutiny by their opponents immediately before or within fifteen minutes after the match and at the request of:
 - 4.4.1. Either umpire;
 - 4.4.2. The captain of either team;
 - 4.4.3. Any member of the EGHA Executive or person authorised by them; or
 - 4.4.4. Any office bearer of the home club.
 - 4.4.5. Any failure to comply with such request will result in the assumption that the player(s) so approached are not registered.
- 4.5. Any player without an identity document or driver's license card, that cannot identify themselves and appear on the registration sheet for that particular team will be considered unregistered and may not take the field:



- 4.5.1. All teams from all leagues will complete a result sheet before the start of each game. All teams will hand in completed team sheets to the technical table before the start of each game;
- 4.5.2. All teams/will record their teams, results, disciplinary cards given, goal-scorers and any comments and email all the documentation to egautenghockey@gmail.com;
- 4.5.3. Any member of the EGHA Executive or person authorised by them; or
- 4.5.4. If there is any time delay by any team in submitting their match sheets to the technical table after the scheduled start of the game, the time lost will be deducted from the playing time.
- 4.5.5. All umpires are required to be registered and will produce their registration card at each game or as requested by the captains of each team.
- 4.5.6. Points will be deducted for the late submission of match sheets – the number of points deducted will be determined by the LC.
- 4.6. The points allocation for all matches will be as follows:
 - 4.6.1. Three for a win;
 - 4.6.2. One for a draw;
 - 4.6.3. Nil for a loss;
- 4.7. The duration of matches will be as per the relevant FIH rules (35 minutes each way with a 5 minute break between halves), unless the local competition rules dictate otherwise (Refer also to 4.5.4)
- 4.8. Should any match be one of several being played on any one ground, the earlier matches scheduled must be curtailed in order to finish at the time at which the next game is due to start.
- 4.9. In the event of a match having to be curtailed for any reason, if more than 20 minutes of the second half has been played, the game shall be deemed to have been completed. If it is abandoned earlier than this, the game will have to be replayed, unless both captains agree to allow the result to stand as it was at the point of abandonment.
- 4.10. In the event of weather conditions rendering the field unplayable and preventing the start or completion of or at least 20 minutes of the second half of a match, it shall be postponed and played not later than two weeks after the scheduled date, unless both captains agree to allow the result to stand as it was at the point of abandonment.
- 4.11. The umpires and grounds-man in consultation with the captains shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches. In the event of a dispute, the decision of the umpires shall be final on the day and the matter may be referred to the LC for a ruling on appeal within 48 hours.
- 4.12. In the event of any team not being ready to commence a match within 15 minutes of the time set down, the opposing team may refuse to play the match and will be required to fill in a result sheet claiming the points (5-0 w/o) for the match.
- 4.13. Any team not able to field at least seven players (outdoor) and four players (indoor) at the scheduled start time will forfeit the match (5-0 w/o). A result card must still be submitted showing the result.
- 4.14. No team may play with fewer than seven players (outdoor) or four players (indoor). Any team, reduced to fewer than seven players (outdoor) and four (indoor) through the disciplinary action of the umpires or technical officials, will forfeit the match and their



opponents will win 5-0 or the actual score at the time of abandonment, if the goal difference is higher. If both teams are reduced to fewer than the minimum number of players, the match will be abandoned and referred to the DC for a hearing. The LC will also rule on the result of the match.

NB: No match can be played as a “friendly”. If any side is unhappy with the composition of a team (loading), the game must firstly be played as an official match and only thereafter can an official objection be lodged, in writing, to the office within 48 hours. The DC will then make a ruling.

- 4.15. The home club will be responsible for the technical table and ensuring that the match sheets and discipline card report are sent to the office of the Association by no later than 12 noon on the Monday after the match or within 48 hours, whichever occurs sooner. In the absence of technical officials, it will be the responsibility of each club separately to submit the required documentation.
- 4.16. Clubs forced to scratch a match must notify their opponents, the umpires, technical officials and the Association at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled start of the match.
- 4.17. In the event of a team having properly cancelled a match with valid reasons, the opposition will be awarded points for a win together with a 5-0 goal credit, unless the two teams are from the same club. In this event, the score will be 1-0. No points will be deducted from the team not playing.
- 4.18. Any team from any club that fails to fulfil a fixture may be subject to further disciplinary action and the LC will be the sole arbiter of whether the reasons for a cancellation are valid. In the event of any team being in breach of this clause, the opposition will be awarded the points for a win together with a 5-0 goal credit, and 3 league points. The offending team will have three points deducted from that particular team for a first offence and may be subject to further disciplinary action, including a monetary penalty to compensate the officials for any costs they may have incurred. Any subsequent breach will be referred to the LC. Any team refusing to travel to any outlying clubs will also be subject to a three points deduction or a monetary fine as decided upon by the DC. It could also result in the club not gaining promotion.
- 4.19. Any team defaulting a fixture will be referred to the LC who will investigate the offence and take such action as deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to expulsion, suspension and/or a monetary fine.
- 4.20. Any team, of any club that voluntarily forfeits a game without a valid reason and/or withdraws for no reason whatsoever and/or does not arrive at the stipulated venue without notifying the opposition or the officials, will be subject to penalties as decided by the LC. The same penalties as stated in rule 3.18 will also apply. The LC will also double the points deducted to six and then to nine and continuously increase the penalty points by three for every occurrence thereafter. If any team of a club continues with this practice the LC has the power to withdraw the team from the league and/or suspend the team for 12 months.
- 4.21. Appointment of umpires:



- 4.21.1. In the event of officially allocated umpires not being present at the start of a match, each team will provide an umpire. If only one umpire is present, each team will provide an umpire for each half of the match. They shall toss for choice of halves.
- 4.21.2. In the event of umpires not being allocated by the Association:
 - 4.21.2.1. Each team will be obliged to supply its own umpire.
 - 4.21.2.2. Failure to comply will result in the offending team being obliged to take a player(s) off the field to fulfil the umpiring duty.
 - 4.21.2.3. Should the offending team fail to fulfil their umpiring duty in this manner, the LC may impose a penalty not exceeding three points and/or fine for each breach.
 - 4.21.2.4. All clubs must have a registered umpire or a suitably qualified umpire per side entered in the league.
 - 4.21.2.5. All clubs are required to have a refresher umpire's course before the season starts or as soon as possible after the league has commenced.
- 4.22. In the event of a team commencing a match with fewer than eleven players, such player(s) as are required to fill the team shall be allowed to join their team at any time during the match, provided they were listed on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the match.
- 4.23. While the Rules of Hockey permit teams to play with 11 field players only the Association will not take any responsibility for injury of any player electing to fill a goal-keeping position without full protective clothing and kit.
- 4.24. Only regulation balls, to be supplied by the home team (or team named first on the fixture list), shall be used in league matches.
- 4.25. In the event of a clash of colours, the home team will change to an alternative strip.

5. Match Times and Changes

- 5.1. All outdoor and indoor matches must be played on the prescribed dates and times except where the written permission of the LC has been obtained.
 - 5.1.1. The request must be put in writing and must reach the Association seven days prior to the date of the scheduled match, unless exceptional circumstances prevail.
 - 5.1.2. If the LC grants the postponement, the club will be notified in writing and the match must be played by the date specified. If no date is specified, it must be played within twenty-one days of the original fixture.
 - 5.1.3. If the clubs concerned cannot agree on a date, the EXCO shall have the right to set a date for such match to be played.
 - 5.1.4. All technical officials must be notified of the change by the team requesting it.
 - 5.1.5. The team(s) requesting the amendment will be responsible for any additional costs incurred as a result of the change.
- 5.2. Higher educational institutions, i.e. Colleges, Technikons and Universities, may be granted predates for the middle weekends of their mid-year holidays. No change will be granted for the first and last weekends of their holidays. It is the responsibility of the institution to advise the LC of vacation dates when submitting their league entries. Failure to do so will



repudiate this privilege and a walk-over will be granted to opposition teams if the matches are not played as scheduled.

- 5.3. League matches may be subject to time and venue changes provided:
 - 5.3.1. Both teams agree. If they do not, the originally scheduled date and time will remain in place.
 - 5.3.2. The result is notified to the Association within the prescribed period from the officially scheduled date, regardless of when the match is actually played.
 - 5.3.3. All matches must be played within seven days of the final match of the season.
- 5.4. The LC will set the dates for fixtures in all leagues.
- 5.5. The following inter-provincial tournaments under the auspices of SAHA will be recognised when drawing up league schedules – USSA, U18, U21, Senior IPT, SACD and Masters:
 - 5.5.1. For all SAHA scheduled tournaments (as above), any team, having three or more players or a goalkeeper on provincial duty either as players or officials, may be granted a date change upon application to the LC. Such application must be made not later than seven days prior to the match for whom a date/time change is being sought.
 - 5.5.2. The Association will endeavour to allocate fixtures in accordance with the SAHA tournament roster.
- 5.7. No postponements will be granted to leagues for national camps, national tours and that include any sporting events and/or social events except in exceptional circumstances.
- 5.8. All League teams (men and ladies) will only be allowed two postponements per team for the first half of the season. Any postponement must be played before the completion of the first round of matches. All the remaining league teams will also be allowed 2 postponements for the duration of the season to be used at their discretion. No further requests for postponements will be entertained and all teams will be expected to complete their fixtures as laid down per the fixtures. Three league points will be deducted from any side which does not fulfil a fixture thereafter. All requests for a postponement must be submitted in writing to the LC.

6. Registration and Levy

- 6.1. Provisional league entries for the following season (Indoor and Outdoor) must be submitted by the AGM each year. Additional Outdoor entries will be accepted up to the end of January and will be accommodated according to vacancies in the leagues or in the lowest league, at the discretion of the LC, who may also accept late entries thereafter.
- 6.2. League entries from new clubs must be accompanied by the full affiliation fee for the season.
- 6.3. All league entries will be considered final on:
 - 6.3.1. Indoor – date to be announced.
 - 6.3.2. Outdoor - date to be announced.
 - 6.3.3. Withdrawals of any teams after these dates will incur the full affiliation fees for that season with no refund.
- 6.4. Affiliation Fees.



- 6.4.1. All Indoor fees as laid down by the EXCO will be payable before the 15 August of each year. Penalties for late payment may be applied at the discretion of the Executive.
- 6.4.2. Payment of all fees for Outdoor is due by 30 April every year. This includes all amounts invoiced, e.g. any outstanding balances brought forward however they arose, astro hire, umpire and technical table fees. If payment is received by this date, the advertised discount for that season may be deducted, but will apply to team entry fees only. The standard penalties for non-payment by this date are as follows:
 - 6.4.2.1. From 1 May to 31 May: None
 - 6.4.2.2. From 1 June to 30 June: Three points deducted from all teams, interest charged at 18% p.a.
 - 6.4.2.3. From 1 July to 14 July: A further six points deducted from all teams, interest charged at 18% p.a.
 - 6.4.2.4. From 15 July: Suspension of all teams until payment is made, interest charged at 18% p.a. until date of payment
- 6.5. The Executive will consider applications for extensions to these dates only in exceptional circumstances. The interest payable will always apply and relief from the points penalty only will be considered in extraordinary cases.
- 6.6. No player that is not in good standing with the Association and/or his club may take the field in any fixture of EGHA. Transfers of players not in good standing will be denied. (Clubs will be notified at the end of each season which players of their club are not eligible due to fees owed to the Association).
- 6.7. No individual shall be allowed to play for a club unless he/she is a bona fide member (registered and fully paid up) of such club, which is affiliated to EGHA. No player, umpire, match official, manager or coach that has not been properly registered may take part in any fixture of EGHA.
- 6.8. EGHA requires individuals to be registered with it directly and may charge the prescribed fee therefore (process still under review refer 6.9).
- 6.9. A new registration process is being implemented.
- 6.10. No player may play for more than one club or province in any one season without receiving written clearance from the original club or province and the LC. Students normally resident in the province that return periodically during the season may play for any club with which they are properly registered.
- 6.11. It shall be the duty of clubs to forward a complete list of their players (per team) before the commencement of the first league match. New members may be added throughout the season.
- 6.12. In the event that a team/club plays an unregistered player:
 - 6.12.1. The team will lose the match 5-0 and be penalised three points for each such occurrence.
 - 6.12.2. The LC may impose further penalties for repeat or multiple offences, including a monetary penalty.
- 6.13. It is the responsibility of the captain to ensure that all of his/her players and officials are registered and will be held personally responsible if there is any transgression.



- 6.14. Any unregistered player will be awarded a technical yellow for each occurrence and may also be subject to further disciplinary action.
- 6.15. No team official may enter the technical area unless he/she is in possession of a registration card.
- 6.16. Any club using an unregistered player, manager or coach or rendering an incorrect team return will be subject to further disciplinary action.

7. Selection

- 7.1. A player may only be selected for a representative team if he/she has played at least three league matches for an affiliated club prior to the date of selection.
- 7.2. A player, having indicated his/her availability for selection and then withdrawing after being selected, will not be eligible to play league hockey for five matches from the date of withdrawal and will be liable for further disciplinary action unless proof of medical unfitness or other exceptional circumstances is provided to the LC.

8. Transfers

- 8.1. From one club to another club:
 - 8.1.1. Any individual wishing to transfer from one club to another must do so before the commencement of league (including play-offs). Thereafter a transfer may only take place with the permission of their club and the LC. Transfers may take place after the commencement of the season provided all conditions are met and the Association has given its approval and the player sits out for two playing weeks.
 - 8.1.2. No player registered with the Association is eligible at any time to join another club unless he/she has received a clearance certificate from their former club stating he/she is not financially indebted to them or under any form of disciplinary action not served. The Association is unable to protect clubs from defaulting members that have not been properly registered.
 - 8.1.3. The transfer procedure for the above shall be as follows:
 - 8.1.3.1. The player wishing to transfer must submit his/her request in writing to his/her former club.
 - 8.1.3.2. A copy of this request must be sent to the office of the Association.
 - 8.1.3.3. The club granting the transfer shall submit the clearance in writing to the office of the Association who will in turn notify the player and their new club of such clearance.
 - 8.1.3.4. The office of the Association will forward a copy of the clearance certificate to the new club and amend the registration database.
 - 8.1.3.5. No player may take the field for a new club without following these procedures.
 - 8.1.4. Notwithstanding anything else contained in this clause 7, once the season has commenced, the EXCO may grant special permission for a transfer to take place and shall determine the conditions applicable.



- 8.1.5. Club secretaries must submit to the Association a list of their defaulting members. These players are not entitled to membership of any club affiliated to the Association until arrears have been paid.
- 8.1.6. No club may withhold a transfer if the player is in good standing with the club.
- 8.1.7. In the event that a club disbands while still indebted to the Association, the registered players of that club will remain proportionately liable for the accumulated debt and will be allowed to transfer to a new club only once this amount has been paid to the Association.
- 8.2. From one team to another team within the club:
 - 8.2.1. Clubs with more than one team in the same league must nominate their teams according to strength. Each club has a three week grace period in which to finalise their teams. After this period their final teams agreed upon will be the teams that they enter into the league.
 - 8.2.2. Once finalised each club team will be league tied to 16 players (men and ladies) and any request to deviate from this rule must be submitted in writing to the office where a decision will be made. The interest of hockey will be taken in to account at all times.
 - 8.2.3. Any player demoted after successive league matches in a higher team will be required to play a minimum of three league matches in the lower team before being eligible for promotion again, except with the written permission of the LC. Clubs with more than two teams in the same league cannot demote players from the A team to the B team. They have to be demoted to the next lowest league team.
 - 8.2.4. Any player absent from three successive league matches from the team for which they were initially chosen will cease to be a member of that team and the club shall be free to select such players for any team.
 - 8.2.5. No player shall be eligible to play for two teams in any one week of the league fixtures (Monday to Sunday). The EXCO will take severe action and a penalty to suit the crime against any club who attempts in any way to manipulate these rules.

9. Misconduct and Discipline

- 9.1. The Association shall have the power to disqualify, penalise and/or take disciplinary action against any competing club or team, or player or players of any competing club or team who may be proved guilty of misconduct or of any breach of the rules of hockey or of the Association.
- 9.2. By participating in any league, tournament or match of any kind played under the auspices of EGHA, or for any club affiliated to EGHA playing anywhere, every player and official involved acknowledges that they do so on the express condition that they have read, accepted and agree to be bound by the FIH Code of Conduct Appendix L as published on the website of the FIH and/or the Association from time to time.
- 9.3. The EXCO shall appoint a DC to deal with any breach of rules that shall report back to the EXCO on its findings and recommended penalties.
- 9.4. The LC shall have the power to appoint match referees and/or commissioners with the same powers as technical officials. They may award yellow or red cards during or after



- matches attended by them and/or submit reports to the DC recommending further disciplinary action for breaches of the League Rules, FIH Code of Conduct and/or the Rules of Hockey. The EXCO will also appoint citing officers for each SEL and AL game and they will report any incidents to the DC where they feel disciplinary action should be taken.
- 9.5. Any suspension or other censure incurred in domestic league games will not affect selection for provincial representation, except where specifically directed by the DC.
 - 9.6. Cards awarded in one season will not accumulate into the next season; however, any portion of disciplinary action not served will carry forward into the next season until completed.
 - 9.7. Discipline points earned in the Indoor season will not carry forward to the Outdoor season, but any player suspended during Indoor will continue to serve the portion not served of that sentence during the Outdoor season. Outdoor sentences will apply to all competitions conducted under the auspices of the Association and may be carried forward to Indoor, Summer League and any other competition.
 - 9.8. Any affiliated club or individual who is a member of a club, or official appointed by the Association into any office, umpire, manager or coach that contravenes any league rules, bye laws, Code of Conduct or brings the game into disrepute may be requested to appear before the DC.
 - 9.9. Disciplinary procedures for on field offences:
 - 9.9.1. Where there is no technical table clubs must record, on the result cards, all green, yellow and red cards issued during the game giving the reasons for the issue. Where there is a technical table and a disciplinary match sheet is completed, it is sufficient that the umpires record the reasons for temporary suspensions on the match sheet. Officially appointed technical officials are empowered to take any appropriate disciplinary action during matches.
 - 9.9.2. Clubs may be notified of the number of green, yellow and red cards recorded against each player upon the award of any new suspension and the punishment, if any, for the accumulation of such suspensions. Clubs remain responsible for monitoring of the cumulative suspensions of their own players and the imposition of the prescribed automatic penalties. Failure to report players disciplined or to suspend a player as required will lead to further disciplinary action against both the player and the club concerned.
 - 9.9.3. Players may appeal temporary suspensions based only on allegations of mistaken identity.
 - 9.9.4. A player sent off (red card) may appeal based on a claim of wrongful dismissal or any other reason. The fully motivated appeal with all the appropriate supporting evidence and statements must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of the completion of the match (Sundays excluded). Where the DC reviews the case and elects to extend the period of suspension, the affected player has 48 hours from the time his/her club is notified of the decision of the DC. The DC will refer the matter to the match official, who may concede the player should not have been sent off and may reduce the punishment to a temporary suspension or expunge it completely. If the match official stands by the decision the DC may confirm the decision or call for a hearing.

**9.10. Punishments:**

- 9.10.1. All offences that result in either a temporary or permanent suspension from a game will carry a designated number of discipline points.
- 9.10.2. Any player receiving eight green cards will be suspended for one game. If a player receives another five greens thereafter the player will be suspended for two games. NB: Any player receiving a green card will be suspended for five minutes and must leave the field immediately.
- 9.10.3. Any player receiving a yellow card for dissent to an umpire or abusing an umpire will be suspended immediately for one match.
NB: Any player receiving a yellow card will be suspended for 10 minutes and must leave the field immediately.
Please note that the green card suspension of five (5) minutes and the yellow card suspension of ten (10) minutes is an internal decision and only applies to the EGHA leagues and not schools or any tournaments.
- 9.10.4. Any player receiving a second yellow card will serve a one-match suspension, even if a one-match suspension envisaged above has already been served. If both offences we awarded for dissent or abuse, the penalties will be cumulative. In other words a one match suspension will be served in terms of 9.10.2 and another in terms of this clause.
- 9.10.5. A player who has served a suspension for two yellows who then goes on to record a further two will then serve a two-match suspension in addition to any other penalty automatically imposed and the player will also attend a hearing convening the DC.
- 9.10.6. And so on for a third offence - a three-match suspension and appearance before the DC.
- 9.10.7. Any period of suspension commences on immediately after the last recorded offence and applies for league matches played by the team in which the last card was issued.
- 9.10.8. Any player receiving a red card, having been sent off for two yellow cards in the same match, unless the second offence was itself serious enough to have justified a red card on its own - one match suspension. In the former case the first yellow card will not earn disciplinary points in addition to the red card. In the latter case, both cards will carry disciplinary points.
- 9.10.9. Sent off (red card) for using offensive or insulting or abusive language/gestures whether or not he has been cautioned previously in that match will incur a two-match suspension unless this is directed at a match official, in which case it will incur a three-match suspension.
- 9.10.10. Player dismissed (red card) for violent conduct, serious foul play or spitting, or abuse of any match official (inter alia umpire, timekeeper, judge or commissioner) - three match suspension.
- 9.10.11. If the abuse continues after the red card has been shown or the player does not immediately remove himself entirely from the playing area and its environs, the penalty will be increased to five matches automatically and referred to the DC for further consideration. If any threats are made to an umpire, the player will be suspended indefinitely until the matter has been reviewed by the DC.



- 9.10.12. Players sent off (red card) for a second time in the same season will have one extra match added to the applicable suspension for the second offence.
- 9.10.13. Players sent off (red card) for a third time in the same season will have two extra matches added to the suspension, and so on.
- 9.10.14. All players who receive cards will be named on the EGHA website.
- 9.10.15. Any player suspended will be required to do community service and umpire a number of games as laid down by the DC.
- 9.11. The DC will deal with all off and on field offences.
- 9.12. During a period of suspension, the person disciplined may not take part in any activity directly or indirectly related to hockey, other than club and/or provincial practices, without the written authority of the DC.
- 9.13. Clubs may impose additional penalties on players that have transgressed, including fines, but must advise the Association, in writing, of all such additional penalties imposed.
- 9.14. Disciplinary action on captains and/or clubs.
 - 9.14.1. The attention of captains and clubs is drawn to the Rules of Hockey which say, "Captains shall be responsible for the behaviour of all their team players, substitutes and coaches".
 - 9.14.2. The captain of any team that has three or more players suspended in a single match will appear before the DC, together with the club chairperson.
 - 9.14.3. The captain of any team whose players accumulate penalty points appreciably above the average number of points for that league during any period of the season will be asked to appear before the DC. Steps taken by the club itself to discipline offending players over and above the penalties imposed by the Association will be taken into account when considering appropriate disciplinary action against the captain and/or club.
- 9.15. Disciplinary points will be allocated for every card as follows:
 - 9.15.1. Green – two points.
 - 9.15.2. Yellow – six points.
 - 9.15.3. Red – 12 points.
- 9.16. Any player incurring 12 or more disciplinary points in a season may be asked to attend a disciplinary hearing at the point of reaching this number and upon every subsequent addition to the total. The DC shall have the power to add to the automatic penalties specified above in respect of any player reaching this threshold and any subsequent addition to this number. It may prescribe any punishment that it deems appropriate to achieve a satisfactory change of behaviour. This may include, but is not restricted to, inter alia, counselling, anger management classes, a minimum of ten umpiring duties, writing the umpire's examination and/or hockey community service.
- 9.17. Assault on Match/Technical Officials
 - 9.17.1. Four categories of assault are defined:
 - 9.17.1.1. Category One: Verbal abuse, swearing, verbal threats, equipment abuse.
 - 9.17.1.2. Category Two: Common Assault - jostling, holding, pulling, pushing.
 - 9.17.1.3. Category Three: Assault Causing Bodily Harm - more forceful degrees of the



above.

- 9.17.1.4. Category Four: Assaults Causing Serious Bodily Harm - such as severe bruising or a broken nose.
- 9.17.2. If prima facie evidence exists of any such offences, the player or official is immediately suspended until a hearing of the DC can be convened. The award of a yellow or red card for any of these offences or citing by a commissioner will constitute prima facie evidence. The Association will not tolerate offences that fall in this category and the DC has been instructed to take harsh action against people found guilty of transgressions.
- 9.17.3. Any club which collectively receives (by all teams) more than eight yellows and 15 greens will result in every team in that particular club losing three league points.
- 9.18. Illegal Equipment
 - 9.18.1. The use of a stick with a bow exceeding 25 mm is illegal. The continued use of illegal sticks may be penalised by umpire, technical official, match referee or commissioner observing the use of such equipment by the immediate award of a yellow card to the offending player. The period of the temporary suspension will be for the remainder of the match.
 - 9.18.2. "Use" in the clause above is defined as the act of being brought into the technical area or entering the field of play with such a stick.
 - 9.18.3. Any player awarded a yellow card for this offence will be suspended automatically for two matches. The suspension will be effective immediately following the end of the match in which the yellow card was awarded.
 - 9.18.4. It is the responsibility of every player to ensure that the stick they use during any match complies with the rules of hockey and, if in any doubt, should seek approval from the technical official on duty or the umpires before the commencement of the match.
 - 9.18.5. Any form of metal jewellery will not be permitted. The wearing of a cap is not permitted unless the player has a doctor's certificate.

10. Protests

- 10.1. The tournament rules of the FIH will be applied unless there are specific competition rules overriding these. Particular attention should be taken of clause 14.2 in those regulations, "No protest can be lodged from a field of play decision made by the umpires".
- 10.2. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors or any dispute whatsoever shall be submitted, in writing, to the LC within 48 hours of the match to which it refers. The decision of the LC in the matter shall be final.

11. Playing Kit

- 11.1. Each competing club and teams within the club shall submit annually any change of colours and uniform of the club to the office of the Association for approval of the LC.
- 11.2. All players must appear on the field in the uniform of their club. Any additional accessories worn must be the same colour as the playing uniform. Correct underwear (thermal wear) to be worn. Ladies must wear skirts/skorts.



- 11.3. No white may be used below the knee and that includes socks and boots. Goalkeepers' pads must be of a colour other than white.
- 11.4. The captain of each team shall wear identification in the form of a captain's band or ribbon.
- 11.5. If there is a clash of colours, the home side must change (the first mentioned team).
- 11.6. All league players will have solid numbers (not outlined) on their shirts complying with the regulations of the FIH, which require the size of the number on the back of the shirt to be not less than 16 cm and not more than 20 cm high. Only numbers 1 to 32 will be permitted according to FIH rules. Players without numbers on their shirts will not be permitted to take the field. This applies to all leagues.
- 11.7. Any player and any umpire taking part in any match under the auspices of EGHA and who is registered must be able to produce his/her identification document / driver's license for inspection when requested to do so.
- 11.8. Any player in the league taking the field and transgressing this rule will automatically receive four discipline points (equivalent to a temporary suspension - yellow card) from the technical officials, or, in their absence, the umpires. The player will serve no period of temporary suspension during the match. This will accumulate with any other cards awarded by umpires or technical officials.

12. School Girls and Boys

- 12.1. Clubs wishing to play schoolgirls/boys of 14 years of age or over until 18 years of age, or who turn 14 in the current year, must obtain written permission from their parents/guardian.
- 12.2. The schools shall at all times have first call on such players.

13. Umpires (See also 4.21)

- 13.1. The umpires shall be the sole arbiters of fair play fifteen minutes before, during the game and for 15 minutes after the match. Their decisions shall be final.
- 13.2. All clubs in the leagues must submit (every season) the name of one suitably qualified umpire for each team entered for the umpires' pool together with their league entry form. NB: Clubs are requested to hold refresher courses for all their umpires before the start of each season or as soon as possible after the start of the season.
- 13.3. Failure of the nominated umpire to fulfil appointments equivalent to 50% of the matches in the league for which he/she is nominated will result in the nomination being declared null and void and the levy being charged as if no nomination had been made. The onus will be on the umpire and/or club to ensure that sufficient matches are accumulated during the season to avoid the nomination being voided.
- 13.4. Nominated umpires are also required to attend club umpire meetings. Failure to attend at least 50% of these meetings may also result in the nomination being voided.
- 13.5. Any umpire who does not turn up for any game, without notification, will forfeit his match fee and could be liable for a further financial fine or be taken off the panel for two weeks.



14. Results and Team Returns

- 14.1. Clubs must furnish the Association with the match sheet within two days of each match played either by fax or e-mail giving all the information about the match which should include the teams, result, disciplinary cards given, state of ground, crowd behaviour, quality of umpires and goal-scorers and any other appropriate information related to the game. Any match sheet not returned within two days of the match may result in the match being declared “no result” and protests may be lodged only up to seven days after the match. Any breach of this rule shall be dealt with at the discretion of the LC and may include not accepting late results for the purposes of league tables.

If any team has a complaint for any reason the complaint must be submitted in writing to the office within 48 hours where the DC will decide on what action to take.

- 14.2. The Association may request a team return in respect of any team that played a fixture that details the names of the players that took the field or acted as substitutes. This return shall be submitted within 48 hours of being requested to do so, failing which the Association shall be entitled to assume that thirteen players were unregistered and apply the penalties detailed in 5 above. If a false declaration is made in any return, the matter may be referred to the DC who shall impose a fine of not more than R500 together with any other action they deem appropriate. The original result card must be received in the office within a week or two.

15. Club Meetings

- 15.1. Each club will be required to send a representative to club council meetings (two per year), the annual Think Tanks and any pre-season umpire meetings. Apologies will not be accepted except in exceptional circumstances.
- 15.2. It is imperative that all captains and coaches attend the pre-season umpires briefing.

16. Security, Safety and Fields

- 16.1. Any club that enters into any league competition of the EGHA will ensure the following:
- 16.1.1. All fields that are used by any club team will be of an acceptable playing surface and will not be of a dangerous nature that might cause injury to any player (especially grass surfaces).
- 16.1.2. All clubs are to ensure that their supporters and spectators do not harass, intimidate, interfere or hurl abuse at visiting players and/or supporters in any way.
- 16.2. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in the club being suspended until such time as all these requirements can be guaranteed.

17. Conclusion and acceptance of rules

This concludes the rules and regulation document of EGHA.

Approved by the Executive Committee and club members on 23 April 2012.