

IHA TOURNAMENT COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

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, John Waring and Schoolboys).
- 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 Provinces entering IHA Tournament Competitions.

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

1.6. South East Branch

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

1.7. Binding Force of the Regulations

Each Organisation, by its entry into and participation in an Irish Tournament Competition, and each player participating in the Tournament Competition, shall be deemed to have given consent to abide by the Rules of the Irish Hockey Association, the [IHA Code of Conduct](#), the IHA Tournament Competition Rules and Regulations and the Code of Ethics and to any amendments that may be ratified by the Board of Irish Hockey or Competitions Working Group. Each Organisation and/or player shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the IHA Competitions Working Group in relation to these Rules & Regulations or any matter not covered in these Rules & Regulations and any penalty or sanction it may see fit to impose.

The Board of the IHA reserves the right to update and/or amend all relevant regulations and codes during any season and will communicate any such updates or amendments to clubs or bodies competing in such competitions. All such updates or amendments shall be binding on participants from the date communicated by the Board of the IHA. In addition the Board of the IHA reserve the right to interpret any IHA rule, regulation or code governing competitions. Matters of interpretation shall be determined by the Board at its

sole discretion and no appeal shall be available in respect of an interpretation decision made by the Board.

2. MANAGEMENT

2.1. The Management of the IHA Tournament Competitions will be under the auspices of the IHA Competitions Working Group and responsible to the Board of Irish Hockey.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – INTERPROVINCIALS

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

3.1. Irish Senior Interprovincials (Men and Women)

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

3.2. Irish U21 Interprovincials (Men and Women)

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

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

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

3.4. Irish Junior Interprovincials (Men and Women)

- Former or current Senior or U21 International players are not eligible to play in the Junior Interprovincial tournament
- Players under 18 years of age in the season of the competition are NOT eligible to play in the Junior Interprovincial tournament
- Player eligibility is based on the level at which they are registered for and playing regularly in their domestic league competition in the current season, see Appendix 3

- Players who are eligible may play for any Province where they meet the following qualification criteria:
 - Plays for a Club which is affiliated to the Province OR
 - Be resident in the Province OR
 - Have been born/ raised in the Province OR
 - Have a parent born /raised in the Province

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

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

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

4. ELIGIBILITY – SCHOOLS & COLLEGES TOURNAMENTS

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

4.1. John Waring Tournament

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

4.2. Schoolboys Tournament

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

4.3. Kate Russell (Schools Girls Tournament)

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

4.4. Irish Colleges

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

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

5. TEAM ENTRY

- 5.1.** At the start of the season, Provinces will be asked for their qualifying team entries for the various Irish Competitions, and the contact details for each Organisation or Provincial Team Manager.
- 5.2.** It is the responsibility of each Organisation to enter teams (subject to the qualification criteria) by the closing date requested.
- 5.3.** To improve the structure of the Senior and U21 Men's competitions, it has been agreed by the IHA Management Board that it is necessary to have four teams in order to have 2 matches a day for each team. To achieve this, a 'Guest' team will be invited to participate each season. See Appendix 2 for more details.

5.4. The Junior Interprovincial tournaments are intended to promote grassroots participation in hockey – and as such is not a High Performance selection path. The player eligibility rules and criteria are structured to reflect this position. Junior Provincial interprovincial teams are expected to be 'self-financing' as requested by the participating Provinces and supported by the IHA Board.

6. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

6.1. The dates for each Tournament will be set prior to the beginning of each season and published in the Events Calendar for the season and available on the IHA website.

6.2. Each Tournament will rotate around the Provinces as per the Rotation Schedule – see Appendix 1.

6.3. The match schedule for each Tournament will be determined by the Competitions Working Group and sent to the Team Manager (as notified to the IHA Office) and published on the IHA website a minimum of four weeks before the Tournament.

7. PRE-TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

7.1. At least eight days before the Tournament, each team manager must submit a list of up to 20 eligible players to the IHA Office as well as the names of the Management Team, so that the Tournament Program may be produced.

8. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

8.1. A Tournament Director will be appointed by the Competitions Working Group to run each Tournament. The Tournament Director has full power and authority of the Competitions Working Group in matters concerning the conduct of the Tournament in accordance with these IHA Tournament Rules and Regulations.

8.2. The Tournament Director shall appoint the Umpires (if no Umpires Manager has been appointed), Technical Officials (if required) to each match from those appointed to the Tournament.

9. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S (TD) MEETING

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

9.2. Each Team Manager must provide the 18 players to be used in the Tournament to the TD by the start of the TD's Meeting (see section 12 below).

9.2.1. Where the Guest team in the men's Senior or U21 Interpros is an Irish team (Ireland U21 and Ireland U18), then 20 players may be used for the Tournament.

9.3. Team colours for each match will be agreed at the TD's meeting.

10. BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

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

11. THE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION

- 11.1.** Each team will play one match against each of the other teams, unless an alternative format has been notified in advance.
- 11.2.** The points awarded for each match will be confirmed at the Tournament Director's meeting. The points will depend on the number of teams in the Tournament, with the recommendation as follows:
- 11.2.1.** Where teams only play each other once, then 3 points for a win and 1 for a draw
- 11.2.2.** Where there are less teams and they play each other twice, then 3 points for a win, 2 for a score draw and 1 for a no score draw
- 11.3.** The teams will be ranked according to:
- respective number of matches won
 - goal difference ("goals for" less "goals against")
 - goals for
 - result of match between the teams concerned
 - penalty shootout competition (in senior, U21, IHL tournament competitions), penalty stroke competition (in all other tournament competitions)

11.4. Interrupted Matches

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

12. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS FOR MATCHES

- 12.1.** A maximum of 18 players may be used by a team in a match, of whom 2 must be goalkeepers wearing full protective equipment. If one of the goalkeepers becomes injured during a tournament, 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 a match. If a player(s) has been suspended by the Tournament Director for one or more matches then, for those matches, the number of players the team concerned may use will be reduced by the number of players suspended.
- 12.2.** Players must wear numbered shirts with shirt numbers between 1 to 32.
- 12.3.** Each team must have a captain or acting captain who is responsible for the behaviour of the team players on the field of play and who must wear a distinctive band or ribbon while 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 band or ribbon and role of team captain.

- 12.4.** Each team must have a minimum of 8 players on the field of play for a match to be started or continued. In case a team does not fulfil this condition, the opposing team will be considered as having won the match by a score of 5-0, or by the score when the match was discontinued, whichever of the two scores will be more advantageous for the winning team.

13. DISCIPLINE

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

14. PROTESTS

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

15. DISQUALIFICATION OR FAILURE/REFUSAL TO PLAY

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

16. BREACH OF REGULATIONS & PENALTIES

- 16.1.1.** Any Organisation found by the Competitions Working Group to be in breach of the Tournament Competition Rules and Regulations may be subject to further penalties, as detailed below, in addition to any penalty imposed by a specific regulation herein.
- 16.1.2.** The Competitions Working Group shall at its discretion have the right to impose any penalty, including, but not exclusively, fines, suspension of players, or an Organisation for breaches of any or all of the IHA Tournament Rules and Regulations and/or the [IHA Code of Conduct](#).

17. APPEAL PROCEDURE

- 17.1.** Teams and players have the right to appeal against a decision of the IHA Competitions Working Group to the Appeals Committee of the IHA Board, in line with the Appeal process within the IHA Constitution as if the said decision of the Competitions Working Group was a decision of the Disciplinary Committee as described therein.
- 17.1.1.** Any other club that may be directly affected by an appeal shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be notified of the appeal and subsequently the outcome of the appeal

APPENDIX 1 – COMPETITIONS ROTATION

Each competition will rotate around the Provinces as follows:

Competition	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Senior (M & W)	No tournament	Tbd			
U21 (M& W)	Ulster	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	Leinster
U18/U16 (Girls)	Leinster	Connacht	Munster	Ulster	Leinster
U18/U16 (Boys)	Munster	Ulster	Leinster	Munster	Ulster
Junior (M & W)	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	Connacht	
Kate Russell	Leinster/South E.	Leinster	Connacht	Munster	Ulster
Schoolboys	Ulster	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	Leinster
John Waring	Ulster	Ulster	Ulster	Ulster	Ulster
Intervarsities	Munster	Ulster	Leinster	Connacht	Munster

Future of Senior Interprovincial Tournament to be decided by February 2013

APPENDIX 2 – MENS INTERPROVINCIAL TOURNAMENTS

Guest Teams

The High Performance Director or Chair of the High Performance Working Group will confirm to the Competitions Interprovincial WG Chair each of the Guest Teams for the Senior and U21 Men's Interprovincial Competitions by 31st July in the preceding season.

Note: For the season 2012/13, the Guest Teams will be as follows:

Senior: Irish U21

U21: Irish Boys U18

Winner

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

Guest Team Selection

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

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

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

Irish Team Selection

- Players selected for the relevant Irish squad will not be available for selection for the Interprovincial squads participating in the same Tournament
- The Irish Coach will name for each Irish squad no more than 22 players 6 weeks before the date of the competition. This will provide the Irish Coach with a maximum of 20 players for the Interprovincial Tournament and up to 2 substitutes to cover injury or withdrawals.

APPENDIX 3 – JUNIOR INTERPROVINCIAL ELIGIBILITY

Men

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

*Note: Players playing for a club playing in the ISC by virtue of having won the Irish Trophy in the preceding season are eligible to play in the Junior Interprovincial tournament.

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

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

Ulster: All players excluding those playing at Senior 1 level and above.

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

Women

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

*Note: Players playing for a club playing in the ISC by virtue of having won the Irish Trophy in the preceding season are eligible to play in the Junior Interprovincial tournament.

Leinster, Ulster, Munster

No player currently registered as a Division 1 player in their provincial leagues or registered for or played in the Irish Senior Cup or IHL in the current season are eligible (but see *Note above).

Connacht, South East

All players playing Domestic League in their province are eligible.