



BISHA REGULATIONS

League Application Regulations

1. League Applications

1.1. Key Dates

Prior to each new season, BISHA will set out a number of key dates and deadlines within the 'BISHA Key Dates' document. Clubs must then apply to enter teams into the leagues in advance of any deadline notified by BISHA. By so applying, clubs agree to abide by the Rules of Competition and all other rules and regulations set by the IISHF & BISHA.

1.2. To be eligible for league competition

- i. Pee wee U13, Youth U16, Junior U19, Women's Teams must have a minimum of six (6) registered players within the age group, including at least one (1) netminder.
- ii. Men's Teams must have a minimum of ten (10) registered players within the age group, as well as one (1) Netminder, and one (1) player who can deputise as a netminder if required.
- iii. Minnow U10 and Veteran's Teams have no minimum numbers to register.
- iv. Any outstanding club or team fines must be settled.

1.2.1 *Player Commitment & Registration Deadline (Proposed)*

All players must be individually registered and have paid their membership fees by the team registration deadline. Clubs must ensure that all players are fully committed to the team prior to this deadline to be eligible to register the team for league competition.

Team registration fees must include: (i) individual player membership fees, and (ii) a deposit covering the first two match fees. Teams failing to submit the combined fees by the registration deadline will not be eligible to compete.

1.3. League Entry Fees

When a team registers for the new season, they must pay team entry fee of £XXX and also the game fees for their last 2 fixtures of the teams season (either regular season or Play Offs if the team qualifies). These game fees will be kept as a 'Bond' and will not be returned if the teams pull out of the league mid-season. This bond cannot be used as a forfeit fee throughout the season.

1.4. Block Out Dates

Clubs will be given two (2) block out dates per team, whereby no fixtures will be scheduled. These block out dates must be submitted on or before the date specified by BISHA in the 'BISHA Key Dates' document. If specific dates are not given by a club or team, then it will be presumed that these clubs or teams do not have any dates that they cannot be scheduled in to play fixtures. Any fixtures that are then not fulfilled will be dealt with via the 'Forfeiture of Fixtures' BISHA regulations.

- 1.5. BISHA are not responsible for blocking out any dates on behalf of any team within the domestic season that has not submitted as block out dates by the teams. Those teams who have in the previous season directly qualified, or by default been selected to compete in a European cup will automatically have those dates blocked out in that age group only.

~~1.6. Officials~~

~~Each club should provide referees for the number of games that their club's teams~~

~~will play across the season.~~

~~Clubs who provide referees will be reimbursed a portion of their game fee periodically throughout the season.~~

~~When a club member referees a game, they will be given 1 point, the reimbursement will be worked out from this total.~~

~~The maximum number of points attainable will be equal to the amount of games a club has been fixtured across all age groups in the season.~~

1.6.1 Club Referees Requirement (Proposed)

All clubs registering to participate in BISHA competitions must have at least one registered referee. Failure to have a registered referee will render the club ineligible to register teams for league competition.

1.6.2 Referee Game Minimum (Proposed)

Each registered club referee must officiate at least half of the number of games played by the club across all teams in the season.

1.6.3 Travel Expenses for Officials (Proposed)

All referees and officials are entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses in accordance with the updated BISHA travel expense policy.

1.6.4 Club Timekeeper Requirements (Proposed)

Each club registering for BISHA competitions must have at least one registered timekeeper for every team entered into the league.

Each team must provide one timekeeper to officiate at the games in which they compete.

Disciplinary Regulations

2. Disciplinary Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

- 2.1. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to adjudicate on offences on and off the pitch against good sportsmanship, fair play, BISHA Regulations, IISHF Rule Book, specific Tournament Rules, discipline, honesty, player tapping, bribery, corruption, and any other offence which may bring the sport of Inline Skater Hockey into disrepute committed during any BISHA event, as well as well as committed during any other time. The Disciplinary Committee is entitled to open a Disciplinary Proceedings when they receive a written report from any BISHA club, member, official volunteer or BISHA board member.
- 2.2. Social media infractions can potentially fall under the category of bringing the game into disrepute and will be dealt with accordingly if they come to the attention of the BISHA disciplinary Committee.
- 2.3. The Disciplinary Committee will also adjudicate on any Black Card offences being awarded at any BISHA sanctioned fixture or event.
- 2.4. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to adjudicate on offences and to

impose penalties against any of the following:

- Clubs
- Teams
- Officials (Referee, Timekeeper, Team Manager, Coach, Assistant, Tournament Director, Tournament Assistant, Tournament Staff)
- Players
- Individual Persons (Spectators, others)
- In all cases the clubs have a vicarious responsibility for any disciplinary offences committed by any associated team, group or individual. Sanctions may therefore be imposed by BISHA on clubs as a means of enforcing disciplinary offences.

- 2.5. Disciplinary Committee Proceedings shall comprise of minimum three (3) independent persons. An independent person in this case is defined as a BISHA member who is not involved directly with any persons or events within the hearing. Each club will nominate one member over the age of 18 to be eligible to sit on a disciplinary hearing. BISHA reserve the right to ask for a new member to be put forward if they do not believe the member nominated is suitable.
- 2.6. A Disciplinary Proceedings must be convened by the National Technical Director or his/her Deputy with a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice to the selected members of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.7. A Disciplinary Proceedings must be chaired by a member of the panel as nominated by the National Technical Director or his/her Deputy.
- 2.8. Each member of the Disciplinary Committee selected for duty at a proceeding will have one (1) vote and the Chairman of the proceedings shall have the casting vote in the event of a tie.
- 2.9. Any disciplinary case must be opened within one (1) month from the date of the incident. For any Gross Match Penalty (Black Card) a disciplinary case is automatically opened.
- 2.10. For any Game Misconducts or Match Penalties for 'Abuse of Officials', a disciplinary hearing will be automatically opened.
- 2.11. Decisions of a Disciplinary Proceedings should be made as soon as possible within three (3) months from the date of the incident. If the decision is further delayed, the concerned parties must be informed and the reason must be stated. A decision must be made within six (6) months from the date of the incident.
- 2.12. Decisions of a Disciplinary Proceedings must be sent to the club of the accused in writing.
- 2.13. An appeal against any decision of a Disciplinary Proceedings is possible as defined in Regulation 5.

3. Execution of Proceedings

If a player receives a Gross Match Penalty (Black Card) during a BISHA sanctioned game, the player shall be suspended indefinitely. Each player awarded a Gross Match Penalty during a BISHA sanctioned game is subject to a BISHA Disciplinary Committee Proceedings and cannot play in a BISHA sanctioned game until the decision of the Disciplinary Committee Proceedings has been decided.

- 3.1. If a player receives a Match Penalty (Red Card) during a BISHA sanctioned game, the player shall be suspended automatically from playing his/her next two (2) BISHA games. The player can then play again.
- 3.2. If a player receives a Game Misconduct Penalty (Yellow Red Card) during a BISHA sanctioned game, they are not allowed to take any further part in the remainder of the relevant game but shall not be suspended from playing in any further games.

- 3.3. The Disciplinary Committee shall write to the club of the accused stating that the accused is subject to disciplinary action and that a Disciplinary Proceedings will be convened and offer the accused the possibility to attend in person or to forward a written statement within one (1) week of receipt of the information. The reason for opening the Disciplinary Proceedings must be stated by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 3.4. Video and film technology recordings are permitted as evidence considering the following procedural requirements:
- The evidence must be available in a playable version and in a common file format to the legal body to be decided. The legal body to be decided must be able to secure the evidence permanently.
 - The legal body to be decided shall finally decide whether the video or film technology is used as evidence. This decision is final.
 - The evidence may be used for and against the accused. Punishment based solely on video or film technology is not possible. The statements of the referees on the additional sheet "Special incidents" must be given priority.
 - Should the statement of the referees contradict to the content of the evidence, higher demands are to be placed on the video or film technology recordings so that the statement of the referees is no longer taken into account. In such a case, the evidence must undoubtedly refute the referees statement. In particular the evidence must show an unrestricted view of what is going on in incident to be dealt with, must be of a certain duration and must not raise the suspicion of forgery.
 - If the evidence is only brought for the first time into a proceeding to the Appeals Committee, and the Appeals Committee allows the video and film technology as evidence, the proceeding shall be returned to the lower court for decision to be made.
 - The legal body to be decided is free to evaluate the evidence.

4. Penalties

- 4.1. The following penalties are authorised:
- Reprimand
 - Ban on participation at BISHA sanctioned events
 - Exclusion from premises
 - Ban on holding office
 - Loss of points gained at a BISHA sanctioned event
 - Loss of titles gained at BISHA sanctioned events (including return of trophies or cups)
 - Other penalties
- 4.2. Secondary penalties may also be imposed.
- 4.3. Several penalties can run concurrently.

5. Appeals Committee and Appeals Procedure

- 5.1. The Appeals Committee shall have the power to adjudicate on appeals against any decision and penalty imposed by any BISHA bodies.
- 5.2. An appeal against decisions made by BISHA Bodies shall only be valid if it is sent by e-mail from an official stakeholder member within four (4) weeks after receiving the relevant decision. Each appeal must be accompanied by any relevant proof or evidence.

- 5.3. In addition to the appeal a Verbal Hearing may be requested at the same time as an appeal is lodged.
- 5.4. A valid appeal application will defer any penalty until the appeal has been heard and closed. An appeal against any suspension will not defer the suspension until four (4) weeks after the appeal.
- 5.5. Appeals Committee Proceedings shall comprise of minimum three (3) independent persons. An independent person in this case is defined as a BISHA member who is not involved directly with any persons or events within the hearing. Each club will nominate one member over the age of 18 to be eligible to sit on a appeal hearing. This may be the same member nominated to sit on disciplinary hearings. BISHA reserve the right to ask for a new member to be put forward if they do not believe the member nominated is suitable.
- 5.6. Meetings of the Appeals Committee shall be convened by the National Technical Director or his/her deputy with a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice to the Committee Members selected.
- 5.7. Each Appeals Committee Member shall have one (1) vote and the Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes, in the event of the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman will have the casting vote.
- 5.8. Decisions of the Appeals Committee must be made and published within three (3) months from the date of receipt of the appeal.
- 5.9. The Appeals Committee shall not be empowered to increase any penalty awarded by any BISHA body nor shall it disadvantage the appellant with regard to the original decision. The Appeals Committee can totally or partially accept or refuse the appeal. The Appeals Committee can also return a proceedings or decision to the Disciplinary Committee in order to correct or complete the decision.
- 5.10. The Appeals Committee is the supreme judicial authority of BISHA.
- 5.11. Any dispute arising from the BISHA Constitution or the BISHA Regulations which cannot be settled by the Appeals Committee shall be definitely settled by a tribunal constituted in accordance with the statutes and procedural rules of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, to the exclusion of any ordinary court or any other court of arbitration. The parties concerned shall undertake to comply with the statutes and procedural rules of this Court of Arbitration for Sport and to accept and enforce its decision in good faith.

6. General Regulations

- 6.1. The following regulations concerning BISHA proceedings and appeals are mandatory:
 - a) Decisions shall be given and explained in writing and countersigned by the the relevant BISHA Body, a statement of rights of redress must be given.
 - b) Decisions by any BISHA Body shall not give rise to claims for compensation.
 - c) A member of a BISHA Body may not take part in proceedings in which he himself/she herself/ or his/her is involved or by which he/she is affected.
 - d) Properly conducted proceedings closed by a decision of a BISHA Body can be re- opened if new, previously unknown facts or evidence are discovered or officially brought to the notice of that Body concerned. New evidence required for re-opening proceedings may be submitted by any party, the accused, or a member of the Body involved. The Body involved shall decide whether proceedings shall be reopened. An appeal against this decision is possible. An application for re-opening proceedings must be made within six (6) weeks of discovering new evidence, but not later than two (2) years after the relevant decision has come into effect.
- 6.2. Any correspondence between the BISHA Bodies and Clubs may be done by electronic mail, but in the case of announcements and other official documents then a confirmation of receipt may be requested by BISHA and sent by the Member.

- 6.3. All communications to club members and Individual Persons must be forwarded to them without any delay by the relevant club stakeholder. BISHA is not liable for consequences resulting of any delay.
- 6.4. All clubs must ensure that they can communicate electronically.

League Regulations

7. Player/Officials Registration

- 7.1. Each team official must have a valid DBS check with BISHA, failure to complete a DBS check through BISHA will mean that the team official will not be allowed on the bench for any BISHA sanctioned games. This could result in a forfeit of games due to the minimum number of bench officials required as per regulation 10.3.

7.1.1 DBS Renewal Cycle (Proposed)

All club coaches, team officials, and BISHA volunteers must maintain a valid DBS check. BISHA shall implement a renewal cycle whereby DBS updates are required every three (3) years, in line with national safeguarding best practice.

- 7.2. It is the responsibility of the team to verify that individuals are registered before they play and/or officiate in any game. A player ineligible to play will be deemed an illegal player and won't be allowed to play. A player must have paid all registration fees to be classed as 'registered'.
- 7.3. Players will only be eligible to register for one club and play for teams within that club in the age groups they qualify for depending on their date of birth. Cross registration will be allowed if the players primary club has not entered a team within the age group in question or with written consent from the BISHA Board. This can be to play up into the next age group up or down or to play for a men's/women's team not within their home club.

8. Player Transfers

- 8.1. Players wishing to transfer from one BISHA registered to club/team to another throughout the course of the season, may do so but the transfer must follow the below rules:
 - i. 'Player Transfer' form must be filled out and signed by the stakeholder member of the club the player is departing from confirming there is no outstanding debt.
 - ii. The 'Player Transfer' form must but completed and sent to BISHA 72 hours prior to playing for the new team.
 - iii. Players may not transfer back to the original team throughout the course of the season without exceptional circumstances and written consent from the BISHA Board must be sought.

8.1.1 Restriction Post-Registration Deadline (Proposed)

No player shall be permitted to transfer between clubs or teams following the team registration deadline and during the league season, except under extenuating circumstances formally submitted to and approved by the BISHA Board.

- 8.2. If any club officials are found to be 'tapping up' players to get them to transfer, this can be reported via the disciplinary procedures, unless there is a safeguarding issue, then it must be reported via the Safeguarding procedure.

9. **Goalkeeper Loans**

- 9.1. Goalkeepers may only be loaned if all registered goalkeepers in the current registered team list are unavailable, and all reasonable endeavours have been made to obtain a goalkeeper who is not currently registered with a BISHA club.
- 9.2. Teams will only be allowed to loan a goalkeeper on one (1) league day throughout a BISHA season. If a team has already used a goalkeeper loan, the team must play without a goalkeeper or forfeit the games.
- 9.3. The 'Goalkeeper Loan' form will need to be submitted to BISHA at least 72 hours prior to the game taking place, alongside the £10 loan fee.
- 9.4. A Goalkeeper can only play for one (1) team on a league day, and therefore cannot be loaned to another team while playing for their own team in the same league day.
- 9.5. Teams cannot loan any Goalkeepers who have played for BISHA Team GB within the last two (2) European Championships.

10. **Game Day**

- 10.1. At least half an hour before a team's first game on any league day, the team manager must present the timekeepers/Technical Director with a completed 'BISHA Team Sheet' form, stating which players will be playing and their shirt numbers. It will be the team manager's responsibility to ensure that if any players change for any subsequent games then this information is also given to the timekeepers/technical director.
- 10.2. Prior to each game, coaches will be required to sign the game sheet to ensure that their team list is correct for the game. If the sheet is subsequently wrong, then it will be at the fault of the team coach and not BISHA.
- 10.3. For any Minnow, Peewee, Youth or Junior game, each team must have at least one (1) bench official on the bench, failure to do so will result in the team having to forfeit the game. The Bench official must be registered with BISHA and have a valid DBS check.
- 10.4. Each team shall appoint one captain and only the captain, when invited to do so by the referee, shall have the privilege of discussing any point relating to the interpretation of rules. Any captain, assistant captain or any player who comes off the bench and makes any protest or intervention with the officials for any purpose shall be assessed a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct under rule 3.9. Should this protest continue, he may be assessed a misconduct penalty, and if it further continues, a game misconduct penalty shall be warranted.

A complaint about a penalty is not a matter "relating to the interpretation of the rules" and a minor penalty shall be imposed against any captain, assistant captain or any other player making such a complaint.

The captain shall wear the letter 'C' of a minimum of 10 cm in height and in a contrasting colour to the jersey, and in a conspicuous position on the upper left front part of the jersey. If the letter C is not worn, privileges under this rule will not be permitted.

Another player in each team shall be appointed as assistant captain and the assistant captain shall wear the letter 'A' on the jersey. Only if the captain is on the players' bench or is not available due to injury or penalty may the assistant act as captain.
- 10.5. Prior to each game, following the team warm up on the pitch, there will be a full team salute. Teams will form a line across the pitch in their own half across the pitch. The captains from each team will then shake hands and with both referees as a sign of respect.

- 10.6. At the end of each game, the team captains from both teams will be required to check and sign the game sheet and ensure they are happy with how the game has been recorded.

11. **Forefetur of Games**

- 11.1. If a team forfeits a game throughout the season, the forfeiting team will be assessed a 5-0 defeat and will be liable to pay the following game fees.

More than 4 weeks to the fixture date – 1.5x Game Fee

4-1 weeks prior to the fixture date – 2x Game Fee

Under 1 weeks prior to the fixture date – 2.5x Game Fee.

- 11.2. The minimum number of players to start a game is 3, if a team starts a game but cannot continue (Due to penalties given) the match with then be forfeit. If less than 75% of the game time has elapsed, then the team that has forfeit will then pay both teams game fees.

12. **End of Season Play Offs/National Championships**

- 12.1. If a team qualifies for the end of season Play Offs/National Championships, all fees due by the team must be paid in advance of the competition. If fees remain outstanding, the team will automatically be forfeit and the team they were due to play will receive a bye to the next round. If possible, the team next in the final league standings will be offered a place in the competition.

- 12.2. Any team that fails to attend the end of season tournament will not have their 'bond' used or returned.

- 12.3. No loan players or goal keepers will be allowed to play in the end of season competition.

- 12.4. To Qualify to play within the end of season competition, players must have played in at least 40% of their teams games throughout the season, for the avoidance of doubt, this means the following:

6 game season – 2 games played

8 game season – 3 games played

10 game season – 4 games played

12 game season – 4 games played

14 game season – 5 games played

16 game season – 6 games played

18 game season – 7 games played

20 game season – 8 games played

- 12.5. If a game is forfeited by the opposing team, all players registered within the non-offending team will be counted as playing that game. The players for the offending team will not.

12.6 Player Eligibility and Disqualification (Proposed)

For the purposes of qualifying for the end-of-season Play Offs/National Championships, all players must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Regulation 12.4, including the minimum number or percentage of league fixtures played. If a player is found not to be eligible for any reason, including attempts to miscount games or circumvent the rules, the

affected team may be subject to automatic disqualification from the playoffs, regardless of the stage reached.

13. **Entry into European Tournaments**

- 13.1. Team entry to European Cup tournaments for the following year will be determined by the final placings in the end of season play off tournament.
- 13.2. If there are more than one European Tournament at a specified age group (I.e. Men's European Cup & Men's Challenge Cup), then teams finishing 1st & 2nd will be expected to attend the premier tournament and will be seeding 1st & 2nd for the placings for this tournament. Teams finishing 3rd & 4th, will be seeded as 1st & 2nd for the secondary tournament. If a team who finishes 1st & 2nd in the end of season tournament decides that they would rather attend the secondary tournament, they will be seeded after the teams that finished in 3rd & 4th to ensure fairness to all teams.
- 13.3. All entry fee payments need to be paid prior to BISHA committing teams to the IISHF.
- 13.4. If teams decide not to attend a tournament following formal commitment, all fees and fines owed to the IISHF as stated in the IISHF regulations will be paid to BISHA from the team. Failure to pay any fees or fines to BISHA could result in County Court proceedings for the recovery of the debt.