



BRHA Rule Book

2023-24 Season (version 1)



The BRHA is an amateur sports association in Great Britain playing in accordance with International Ice Hockey Federation's (IIHF) rule book dated 2015/18 downloadable from <https://www.brha.co.uk/documents>. Where a conflict occurs, BRHA rules take precedent.

BRHA Limited is the acting National Governing Body ("NGB") and governs its subsidiary regions, hereafter collectively referred to as the "BRHA".

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To be confirmed.

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1. Club League Membership

- a) To be eligible to belong to the BRHA a club must be able to satisfy to the leagues Executive Committee that it has a formal structure of at least:
 - i. a manager;
 - ii. the minimum number of players sufficient to enable fixtures to be met.
- b) A club that registers more than one team in an age group is to register each as an individual team and therefore must satisfy the required management structure in their own right.
- c) Application to join the BRHA is in accordance with section 3 of the BRHA constitution.
- d) In the event that a club officer fails to meet the administration requirements of the association, a new club officer will be requested by the Executive Committee.
- e) Club teams registered with the BRHA may not play in a second league within the BRHA Ltd umbrella unless otherwise authorised in writing by the Executive Committee.
- f) Existing club membership will be automatically renewed subject to their compliance with the requirements of the constitution. All clubs may be asked to complete a Club Registration Form for the new season and pay all fees prior to a date published by the Executive Committee. Teams may not commence playing activity until all fees are paid.

2. The League Table

- a) The season will run each year with each team playing all others at least twice and a minimum of 12 games per league overall unless otherwise agreed with the registered club official.
- b) The total number of clubs will be divided into leagues and/or divisions, in a format to be outlined by the Executive Committee following the deadline of club registration each season.
- c) All new teams entering the BRHA will go into the lowest division unless determined otherwise by the Executive Committee. This will include teams joining from other associations. If a particularly large number of teams enter into one age group, the Executive Committee has the right to overrule (Section 2c ruling).
- d) In a normal league table:

- i. At a minimum, games played, wins, draws, losses, goal difference and points will be shown.
- ii. League table placement is operated on a point-based system:
 - a) Win: 2 points;
 - b) Draw: 1 point;
 - c) Loss: 0 points;
 - d) Forfeit: -2 points.
- iii. If teams are tied on points, the final placings will be decided by the following:
 - a) Goal difference (systematic);
 - b) Aggregate score of both teams in games played between them (manual);
 - c) If the teams are still tied overall goals scored shall decide;
 - d) Failing the above the teams shall be equally placed.
- e) League playoffs (if applicable):
 - i. Should a team that qualifies for the playoff's not able to participate then the team immediately below them in the league table will be eligible to take their place. If they too cannot participate in the playoffs, then the team below them will be eligible to take their place and so on down the remaining list. If the list of teams becomes exhausted and a replacement cannot be found, the team due to play against the original dropout team will record a 5-0 win.
 - ii. Players involved in playoffs must have played a minimum of 50% of regular season games to be eligible to participate.

3. League Fixtures

- a) Draft fixtures will be issued to all clubs at the earliest opportunity following the closure of club registration and any changes must be requested within seven days of issue.
- b) A maximum of five 'blackout' dates can be requested per team unless otherwise communicated by the Executive Committee. Every reasonable effort will be made by the leagues Fixture Secretary to accommodate these dates as part of the fixture-setting process.

- c) Fixtures are final once confirmed by team managers and published on the leagues website. Only in extreme circumstances or force majeure will these fixtures be changed once published.
- d) Once the fixtures are published, they may only be amended due to the non-availability of the facility, or in exceptional circumstances due to illness or other mitigating circumstances and agreed by the Executive Committee. Documentary evidence or other proof may be required. Managers must notify the region's General Secretary, who will present it to the Executive Committee for a decision. Their decision is final and not open to appeal.
- e) If for any reason a fixture is not able to be played and the reasons fall within league rules and constitution, the replay date will be forwarded by the General Secretary or Fixture Secretary.
- f) Fixture changes thereafter can only be changed within the same day's scheduled fixtures and only if all other teams and the Executive Committee agree to the change with written confirmation. Contacting of all team managers involved and the Executive Committee to gain the written confirmation must be carried out by the team manager wishing to change the fixture. This will not be carried out for them by the Executive Committee.
- g) All game fees must be paid to the BRHA within 7 days of the fixture, after which a late payment fee of GBP 20 may be charged at the discretion of the League Treasurer.

4. Team Structure

- a) There shall be a maximum of 18 players and 2 netminders registered per team in a season. A team official must present the team sheet to the timekeeper at least 30 minutes before the face-off of each game. The player's first name, last name and shirt number must be clearly written on the team sheet. In cases where two players share the same name, their date of birth will be required. The team bench coach and/or manager must fully check and sign each timekeeper game sheet to confirm their players are listed for each game. Mistakes could lead to penalties and/or a default game.
- b) Each team must assign 1 captain and 1 assistant captain, and the allocated players should have 'C' or 'A' badges on their shirts so they can be easily identified by match day officials. At the very least, this must be stated on the team sheet that is provided prior to warm-up and without exception.

- c) No other player may participate, and all listed players shall be deemed to have participated.
- d) Guest netminders shall be permitted if in accordance with guest netminder rule 7.k.
- e) Equipment must be used in accordance with IIHF rules. Where a conflict occurs, BRHA rules will take precedence.
- f) No player shall be permitted on the rink with equipment which in the referee's opinion could be dangerous to players, intend to cause injury or harm, or cause damage to the facility.
- g) Players should conform to the IIHF rule 307 for team uniforms, with exception of items covered within BRHA rule 6.
- h) Unnumbered players are allowed at the referees' discretion. Away teams must be aware of home team colours and in the event of a colour clash, they must provide an alternative or turn their shirts inside out.
- i) A maximum of two registered bench coaches can be present on the bench during a game. One extra helper may help on Youth team benches to help look after the young players.
- j) All team officials and helpers (including parent/guardians/guardians) on the bench and entering areas where child safeguarding may be compromised (e.g. changing areas) must hold a valid DBS Enhanced certificate. If this is not issued via the BRHA then it must be registered with the DBS Update Service.

5. Registration & Transfer

- a) Registration
 - i. Players at all levels will be registered with the league using the following rules:
 - a) Players and officials can register no less than 14 days prior to the final fixture of the regular season for the team in which they are registering.
 - b) All supporting documentation must be received by the Registration Secretary at least time of registration and may be otherwise refused.
 - c) Netminders are required to register as a Netminder in the age group they are playing in; however, this does not affect their option to play outfield

for their registered team in any way.

d) Any player who is also officials must add the referee and/or timekeeper league role to their Sportily profile in the respective region for the given season.

e) Any non-playing league officials will be covered by the league for their insurance but must register as a referee and/or timekeeper on Sportily and provide the relevant documents upon request by the Executive Committee.

f) At the end of each season, each club must provide (if applicable):

- a. Remittance for league and social fees.
- b. All outstanding fines and money owed.

ii. Documents from players/officials are as follows:

a) New players and officials must register on Sportily, and at the request of the Registration Secretary, the following documentation as stated in BRHA rule 5 must be received by the Registration Secretary at least 72 hours prior to the fixture to be eligible to play or officiate. Registrations may be received 24 hours prior to the team's first fixture of the season:

- a. Two Passport photos (NB: only passport format photos will be accepted);
- b. Copy of Birth Certificate (or alternative document if previously agreed with Registration Secretary);
- c. Officials to provide certification of required training where applicable.

NB: The status of a player's eligibility to play can be confirmed by the manager logging in to their BRHA Sportily account or by contacting the General Secretary.

b) Players and officials registered for the previous season for the same Club must register on Sportily. The following documentation to be received by the Registration Secretary 72 hours prior to be deemed eligible to participate. Registrations may be received 24 hours prior to the team's first fixture of the season:

- a. Sportily registration form with the appropriate league roles;

- b. Online credit/debit card payment for the registration fee(s).
- c. 2 Passport photos (NB: this is only upon special request by the Executive Committee. Only passport format photos will be accepted);

NB: The status of a player's eligibility to play can be confirmed by the manager logging in to their BRHA Sportily account or by contacting the General Secretary.

- c) Players changing age groups or teams prior to the start of the season: The following documentation to be received by the Registration Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the fixture before being eligible to play:
 - a. Sportily registration form with the appropriate league roles;
 - b. Online credit/debit card payment for the registration fee(s).

NB: The status of a player's eligibility to play can be confirmed by the manager logging in to their BRHA Sportily account or by contacting the General Secretary.

- iii. It is the responsibility of the team manager 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. The decision of the Executive Committee and/or league officials is final.
- iv. The Executive Committee reserve the right to refuse any registration of a player or official based on past conduct during any sanctioned BRHA, EIHA or IIHF event.
- v. A player's status is defined by their year-of-birth with the age group brackets automatically shifting by 1 calendar year with each season.

For the 2023/24 season, age groups classification is:

- Under 8: Born in 2015 or 2016
- Under 10: Born in 2013 or 2014
- Under 12: Born in 2011 or 2012
- Under 14: Born in 2009 or 2010
- Under 16: Born in 2007 or 2008
- Under 18: Born in 2005 or 2006
- Seniors: 16 years old on or before 1st January of the current season.

b) Transfers:

- i. No transfer shall be permitted when either the team leaving or joining has three or fewer regular season games remaining in that season.
- ii. Any players with outstanding debts or kit owing may not register with another club until the debt had been cleared or the kit returned. Team managers are required to complete
 - a) Player Club Release form if the player has no debts or equipment belonging to the club. The BRHA however will not collect these debts and may ask for written, signed and documented proof from the club claiming a debt before agreeing to suspend any player's transfer of registration.
- iii. A transfer fee of £10 fee will be added to the player's BRHA Sportily profile is payable to the BRHA to complete the transfer request.
- iv. The transferring team manager is required to complete a Player Club Release form and the receiving team manager is required to complete a Player Transfer Request form. Together, these forms provide the league with the required authorisation by club officials to complete the transfer request.
- v. No transfer shall be deemed complete until the new club is notified by the Registration Secretary. This normally being within 7 days from the Registration Secretary receiving the completed signed transfer request forms or written confirmation and receipt of payment of the transfer fee. The team that they are leaving must have played a minimum of 3 regular season games for a transfer to be authorised.
- vi. Player disciplinary points are transferred with the player.

c) Cross Team Registration (within the BRHA):

- i. Junior-to-Junior Cross Registration:
 - a) Junior players wishing to play up to an older junior age group must register for their club's team in the desired age group if one exists. If the club doesn't have a team registered in the desired age group, then the player is permitted to cross- register to another team. There is no restriction on how many age groups the junior player can play up to; however, the Cross Registration & Consent process must be followed, and written authorisation received by the Registration Secretary before the player is eligible to play for the cross-registered team.

- b) In all scenarios of cross-registration, the player's parent/guardian must complete a Cross Registration & Consent form. This acts as the trigger the process for the league to obtain written authorisation from the relevant team managers before providing written approval to all parties that the transfer request has been authorised. After which, the 'Player (Cross Registration)' role will be added to the player's BRHA Sportily profile.
- c) The cross-registering player will be treated as any other player in that age group, but they must abide by the equipment rules of their primary-registered age group.
- d) A netminder of any gender is eligible to play down one age group only. this is only for age groups at under 18 and lower.
- e) The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse cross-registration in circumstances where the player may be at risk of injury or is deemed unfit for the desired age group. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

ii. Junior-to-Senior Cross Registration:

- a) To be eligible to play up to a senior division, a junior player must be at least 16 years old on or before 1st January of the current season. In exceptional circumstances and with prior approval of the Executive Committee, a player aged 15 on or before 1st January of that season will be eligible to play in seniors subject to satisfactory completion of the 'Cross Registration & Consent' form.
- b) A junior player is not restricted to the club's senior team if he/she wishes to play for another team in a senior division, and the decision is at the digression of the player, the player's parent/guardian, and team managers; however, the Cross Registration & Consent process must be followed, and written authorisation received by the Registration Secretary before the player is eligible to play for the cross-registered team.
- c) A junior player can only play up to one senior team irrespective of division unless specifically for development purposed and in accordance with BRHA rule 5.c.iii.
- d) In all scenarios of cross-registration, the player's parent/guardian must complete a Cross Registration & Consent form. This acts as the trigger the process for the league to obtain written authorisation from the relevant team managers before providing written approval to all parties that the

transfer request has been authorised. After which, the 'Player (Cross Registration)' role will be added to the player's BRHA Sportily profile.

e) The cross-registering player will be treated as any other player in that age group, but they must abide by the equipment rules of their primary-registered age group.

f) The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse cross-registration in circumstances where the player may be at risk of injury or is not deemed suitable to participate in the desired age group. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

iii. Individual Development Cross Registration:

- a. For the sole purpose of individual development in the sport, a player may apply to register in more than one senior division but is required to adhere to all rules and regulations of their primary age group.
- b. A team official must provide the league with written justification of why they believe the player should participate in the desired division.
- c. The player's parent/guardian must complete a Cross Registration & Consent form.
- d. The team sheet may contain a maximum of two of such development player in regional games.
- e. Development players are not permitted to participate in league playoffs or national championships.
- f. The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse cross-registration in circumstances where the player may be at risk of injury or is not deemed suitable to participate in the desired age group. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

iv. Exception to the Cross-Registration rule:

- a) If a Junior player normally plays for a Senior Team whose club does not have a Junior team, they may play for a Junior Team whose club does have a Senior Team providing that they pay registration for both their Junior Club registration and Senior Club registration.
- v. Any player found to be registered to more than one club without completing the appropriate forms will be deemed to be an illegal player.
- vi. The senior team manager will be responsible for informing the junior team manager of all disciplinary points incurred by the player during senior fixtures. The

junior team manager is responsible for informing the player if they must sit any games due to disciplinary points. Sportily does provide functionality to enable the league to 'police' this but does not take responsibility for informing players of their suspensions. In the event of a player turning up at the rink on game day, the timekeeper and other league officials reserve the right to enforce any unspent suspensions without notice or consequence.

- vii. It is the responsibility of both Club managers to ensure the player does not play if they are subject to any disciplinary issues or not correctly registered.
- viii. Female player can play down one age group but must follow these rules:
 - a) Must wear all players equipment applicable to the participating group.
 - b) If they are registered to a Senior A or represent a national team, the player is not eligible to play down.
 - c) Once in seniors aged 17, the player is eligible to play down for up to 2 years.
- d) Transfer of registration fee:
 - i. Where a player has registered for a team and then ceased to play his registration may be transferred to another player so long as the following criteria is met:
 - a) The registration transfer is within the same team.
 - b) The team has six or fewer remaining registered players.
 - c) The team has more than four regular season games remaining in the regular season.
 - d) The player is not already registered or playing in any other inline or ice hockey league during the current season.
 - ii. A completed Registration Transfer Request form must be received by the Registration Secretary no fewer 7 days before the player is eligible to play. A £10 administration fee will be charged to the player's BRHA Sportily profile and is payable before the player is eligible to play.

6. Equipment

- a) The BRHA insurers require that players comply with the following equipment requirements to be insured by the BRHA:

i. Under 10 & 12:

Leg pads, protective box, protective shorts or girdle designed for hockey, long covers, a chest/shoulder protector, elbow pads, a throat guard, a helmet designed for hockey properly secured with a chin strap and a full-face visor or cage, and gloves designed for hockey.

ii. Under 14, 16, & 18

The same as Under 10 & 12 but minus the throat guard (although highly recommended). With the agreement of their parent/guardians or legal guardian, players under 18 may wear light-weight body armour when training or playing in a purpose-built rink.

iii. Under 21

The same as Under 14, 16 & 18, but minus the shoulder/chest protector & full-face visor or cage. However, a half visor is the minimum requirement for players. The wearing of protective shorts or girdle is optional.

iv. Seniors:

The same as Under 14, 16 & 18, but minus the shoulder/chest protector & full-face visor or cage. The wearing of protective shorts or girdle is optional. A half visor is strongly recommended.

v. Net minders:

Must wear full net minders kit. This includes an approved helmet, net minders throat guard that can be fitted to the helmet or around the neck. Full net minders leg pads, and catcher and a blocker. A chest plate and shoulder harness, a protective box, elbow pads, padded shorts and long covers or long socks. The back of the legs should be covered as well as the front plus a net minders stick. Cat's eye face cages are not permitted in age groups under the age of 18. Seniors may wear them at their own discretion although the BRHA recommend that they are not worn at all.

b) Helmets must be worn at all times by all players and officials. They also must conform to the relevant age group requirements.

c) No player shall be permitted on the rink with equipment which in the referee's opinion could be dangerous to players or damaging to the rink/sports hall.

d) All sticks must be fitted with a Butt End made of either plastic or tape of adequate size so as not to fit through a standard face cage.

- e) Players should respect any local rink/sports hall rules regarding stick tape colour if applicable.

7. Match Formalities

- a) All BRHA games shall be played with a Sonic puck or similar, of a colour that suitably contrasts with playing surface and the rink boards/walls of the playing facility. For further guidance on this please see the IIHF Rule book.
- b) Goals must have drop nets and be as close to the standard 6ft x 4ft size as possible. Framework must be of a suitably contrasting colour to the playing surface and rink boards/walls.
- c) Offsides are played unless the dimensions of the playing surface prevents the safe and free-flow play or otherwise communicated by the Executive Committee.
- d) Standard game format unless otherwise specified:
 - i. Seniors:
 - a) All senior matches will be played in 3 periods of 15 minutes with stopped clock. Warm up is 5 minutes prior to the first face-off. Intermission breaks are 2 minutes in duration.
 - b) A mercy rule will apply in all games resulting in a running clock if the difference in score is 8 goals or more. When the score difference is within 7 goals or fewer, the game will then revert to a stopped clock. Where the difference in score is 20 goals or more, further points scoring will cease and won't count towards team or player statistics. When the score difference is 19 goals or fewer, normal rules will apply and points scoring will resume.
 - ii. Juniors:
 - a) All junior matches will be played in 3 periods of 12 minutes with running clock. Warm up is 5 minutes prior to the first face-off. Intermission breaks are 2 minutes in duration.
 - b) During the last 2 minutes of the game, if the goal difference is 1 goal or fewer, the game will revert to a stopped clock. When the goal difference is 2 goals or more, the clock will revert to running clock when the referee drops the puck at the next faceoff.
 - c) A mercy rule will apply in all games where the difference in score is 20 goals or more in that further points scoring will cease and won't count towards team or player statistics. When the score difference is 19 goals or fewer, normal rules will apply and points scoring will resume.

e) Timeouts:

- i. Each team is entitled to one timeout of 1-minute per game.
- ii. Timeouts do not carry over between games.
- iii. The referee may call an officials timeout in the event of safety concerns to participants or spectators.

f) Officials

- i. Two referees of appropriate grade will control each game unless only one referee is available and both teams agree to it.
- ii. The referee's decision is final, and communication with officials is in accordance with IIHF rule 202.
 - a) Only registered bench officials, the team captain or the assistant captain may approach league officials in relation to a decision taken during game play.
 - b) Official queries and complaints should be directed to the General Secretary to be responded to by following the proper channel.
 - c) Abuse of an official will not be tolerated and continued abuse will result in a formal disciplinary review by the Executive Committee.
- iii. The referees may inspect the equipment of a player at any time and at their discretion.
- iv. One timekeeper will control each game unless otherwise deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

g) Game Sheet:

- a) A copy of the game sheet is accessible via the BRHA's website.

h) Netminder Statistics

- b) Net minders must play a minimum of 50% of their team's season's minutes on the rink to qualify for netminder stats.
- c) Guest netminders do not accumulate stats.

i) Playing Rules

- i. All games will be played in accordance with the current IIHF Inline Rule

Book & amendments and the BRHA league rules contained within this document.

ii. IIHF rules replaced by BRHA rules:

a) IIHF rule 603 - Excessive Roughness - Any player who commits an action not permitted by the rules that may cause or causes an injury to an opponent, team official or Game Official, shall be assessed a Match penalty. Where specific penalties relate to calling penalties under attempt to injure and deliberate injury under IIHF Rules 603 and 608, the reference will be to call a Match penalty under the new BRHA rule 603 "Excessive Roughness". (Rules affected are 606c, 607d, 617e, 623c, 633b and 634c)

b) The IIHF rule 608 heading is changed to "Head Butting" and section (a) is not applicable in the BRHA.

c) The IIHF rule 613 (a) and (b) are to be replaced by the following in the BRHA:

- a. An instigator of a fight will be assessed a Match penalty. Where an altercation happens between two opponents and an instigator is not identifiable both players shall be assessed Match penalties.
- b. (b) If a player retaliates to an instigator of a fight with a few punches a minor or double minor may be assessed, however if the retaliator continues they will be assessed a Major Plus Game Misconduct. If the retaliator becomes the aggressor of the fight or if he continues after the instigator has stopped, they shall be assessed a Match penalty.

d) The IIHF Icing rule (620) will not be used in BRHA league or play-off games.

a. the below added rule is to be included the BRHA rule book and in conjunction with IIHF 1072 rule:

v. If the puck hits/deflects/bounces off a referee and changes possession to give clear scoring advantage the referee will whistle, and a faceoff will take place to the closed face off were the Deflection happened.

iii. Should the puck hits the netminder's face cage, play is to be stopped and a face off at the nearest spot to be taken. If the puck hits the net minder's cage and deflects into the goal, the goal will be awarded.

iv. The BRHA Executive Committee reserve the right to amend or add rules throughout

the season under unforeseen, special circumstances or for safety reasons.

j) Stopped Game

- i. If a game is stopped through no fault of either team or spectators, and 66% of the game has been played then the game conclude and the then-current result recorded.
- ii. If the game is stopped for any other reason, the referees, timekeeper(s) and managers will submit a report to the General Secretary. The game will then be referred to the Executive Committee for review and may result in a replayed game and/or disciplinary action.
- iii. Failure to complete a game without adequate reason, as determined by the BRHA South Executive could result in disciplinary action being taken against the club.

k) Guest Netminders

- i. Guest netminders shall be permitted if the team's registered netminder is unavailable due to sickness, injury or prior commitments and there is no player who is registered as a netminder playing outfield for the game in question. The Guest must be registered as a net minder. Netminders are required to register as a netminder in the age group they are playing in.
- ii. Any club with more than one team in an age group must have at least one Netminder registered to each team.
- iii. A netminder may not guest against their registered team.
- iv. A guest netminder may only appear with the permission of his regular club management. Evidence of this permission must be demonstrated by completing a guest netminder form which must be approved by both team managers.
- v. All other rules on eligibility shall apply.
- vi. The netminder shall not appear on the scoresheet. Any stats for the netminder will be awarded to the team that he is guesting for not to the netminder except for accrued penalty points.
- vii. The circumstances of playing a guest netminder are specific and any evidence or misuse of this privilege may result in disciplinary action being taken by the league, which could lead to losing the game by default

- viii. Guesting of Netminders will be monitored by the BRHA South Executive and if any abuse of the rule is suspected, it will be investigated, and a ruling made.
 - ix. Clubs (including spectators) are to adhere to facility policies and rules. They are to show respect for other users of facility and are to refrain from using foul language.
 - x. Skates are only to be used in the designated areas.
- l) Playoffs & National Tournaments (all age groups):
- i. If after regulation time the result is tied then a best-of-three shootout will apply. The team official or captain is required to provide the match official with the jersey number of the three players participating in the shootout and the same three players must continue until there is a winner. The shootout becomes 'sudden death' after the first three penalties have been taken by each team.
 - ii. In after regulation time in the grand final, an additional 5-minute period will be played prior to the shootout.

8. Default Games

- a) Defaulted games may result in the following penalties against the offending team:

i. Sports Hall Fixtures

- a) Losing the fixture 0-5 unless the game was played, and the non-offending team achieved a more favourable result.
- b) 20 minutes added to their PIM.
- c) 2 league points deducted from their league total.

ii. Rink Fixtures

- a) Losing the fixture 0-5 unless the game was played and the nonoffending team achieved a more favourable result.
- b) 20 minutes added to their PIM.
- c) The defaulting Team being liable for 100% of the opposition's game fees in addition to their own.
- d) For repeated offence, the Executive Committee reserves the right to deduct points from the offending teams league standings.

- b) A £25 fine applies after an infringement has been assessed by the Executive &

Disciplinary Committees. This will be in addition to any other fine incurred. Other infringements include:

- i. Playing non-registered, suspended or illegible players.
- ii. Failing to provide the required registered match official (Referees or Timekeeper) without good reason.
- iii. Failure to present themselves ready to play within 10 minutes of the scheduled face-off time (Minimum Team plus registered Coach)
- iv. Failure of the home club (if playing in sports halls) to submit the score sheet within 7 days of a fixture. If the away team wishes they may submit the score sheet at any time before the official end of the season to gain benefit.
- v. Teams withdrawing from a match or tournament unconstitutionally, within 7 days of the date of the fixture may be liable to a minimum fine of £30 fine and liable for any additional facility costs incurred by the BRHA or opposing team.

9. Disciplinary System

a) Discipline points are awarded as below:

- Minor Penalty = 0 points
- Major Penalty = 1 Point
- Misconduct = 1 Point
- Game Misconduct = 2 Points
- Major Plus Game = 4 points
- Match Penalty = 5 points (must miss 1 games plus statutory fine as per Rule9e)

b) Accrued discipline points will incur game suspensions as below:

- 5 points - 1 Game Suspension
- 10 points 2 Game Suspension
- 15 points 3 Game Suspension
- 20 points 4 Game Suspension

- 25 points 4 Game Suspension
 - Any player accruing 25 points, or more is to appear in front of a disciplinary panel. (As per Rule 10)
- c) It is the responsibility of Managers to monitor the discipline points accrued by their players.
- d) Accrued disciplinary points are against the player irrespective of the division or age group in which they were given.
- e) Match Penalty fines are as follows and are based on a player registered age group:
- £7.50 for Under 10s & 12s
 - £7.50 for Under 14s & 16s
 - £15.00 for Under 18s
 - GBP 20.00 for Seniors and Under 21's
- f) Fines are charged to the member's BRHA Sportily profile and are to be paid within 14 days of the offence.
- g) If a club plays a player after their suspension but before the fine is paid the club is liable for the fine. The club will have a further 14 days to pay the fine to avoid further action.
- h) Points received in the final fixture of a season shall carry over to the following season plus any points gained during a post season BRHA Tournament. Any matches not sat shall carry over to the next season.
- i) Any player suspended must serve his suspension against the league age group in which he was suspended. During this period, he may not play in any other games. Points accrued at all levels shall be cumulative against the player.
- j) Fines are not paid on matches missed through accumulation of points.

10. Player Disciplinary Procedures

- a) Match Reports are to be submitted to the Disciplinary Secretary within 3 days, and these will be distributed to the Chief Referee, and nominated members of the Executive. Both referee's reports are required, but at the discretion of the nominated members they may proceed with one. The game sheet is available on the BRHA website if a copy is needed.

- b) A decision will be made by three independent Executive members as to whether a disciplinary hearing is required. If a hearing is required, the Disciplinary Secretary or delegated representative will be requested to arrange a disciplinary hearing and arrange three neutral Executive members or Club managers to hear the case.
- c) If the case involves a player from a club whom the Disciplinary Secretary is associated with, a member of the Executive will be requested to arrange the disciplinary hearing.
- d) All disciplinary hearing must be heard within 21 days of the offence; however, this may be extended with approval if the BRHA Chairman or General Secretary.
- e) The disciplinary hearing will be chaired by the Disciplinary Secretary or delegated representative, unless paragraph (c) applies.
- f) The Chair of discipline panel is to present the Game Sheet, Referee's reports and any other valid documentation to the panel; however, they may not be involved in any discussions or decisions regarding the case, but they are permitted to point out reference to any rules as required.
- g) The Disciplinary Panel has the authority to increase or decrease the penalty awarded and may request the player to attend the hearing.
- h) The Chair of discipline panel will inform the player of the outcome in writing within seven days of the hearing. An e-mail will also be sent to the player's manager.
- i) If a player finishes his suspension(s) before the disciplinary panel has sat, they may continue to play. However, if the panel increases the suspension, the additional games are to be sat following the Club Manager receiving notification by e-mail / phone & mail.

11. Player's Appeal Procedure

- a) If a player wishes to appeal the decision of the panel the following must be adhered to:
 - i. Payment of a GBP 20 will be charged to the member's BRHA Sportily profile and must be paid immediately Before any appeal documents are reviewed. This will be refunded if the appeal is successful, less any expenses incurred. The appeal fee may increase or decrease subject to any expenses incurred.
 - ii. New evidence not previously heard must be forwarded. If there is none, an appeal will not be permitted.
 - iii. If there is a query on the severity of the penalty, however in this case only the penalty may be appealed and not the verdict.

- iv. There is no right to appeal if the punishment is 10 accrued penalty points or less.
 - v. Any appeal must be forwarded in writing to the General Secretary within seven days from the date on the letter of notification of the discipline panel's outcome.
- b) A request for a personal hearing must be made in writing to the General Secretary.
 - c) If the request for a personal hearing is granted, the General Secretary will advise in writing of the date, time and facility of the appeal.
 - d) If the appeal is refused the General Secretary will advise in writing the reason why the appeal has been refused. There is no appeal against this decision.
 - e) Permission to have legal representation is not normally allowed and it is at the discretion of the BRHA Executive. The BRHA do not accept liability for any player's legal expenses regardless of the outcome of an appeal.
 - f) Appeal will be chaired by the Chairperson of the BRHA or delegated member of the BRHA Executive. The panel will comprise of the following:
 - i. Chair of the original disciplinary hearing. They may not be involved in any discussions or decisions regarding the case, but they are permitted to point out reference to any rules as required. They are to present the following documentation:
 - a) Referee's reports
 - b) Game Sheet
 - c) Minutes of the disciplinary hearing
 - d) Valid documentation previously presented to the disciplinary panel
 - e) New evidence (forwarded by the General Secretary)
 - ii. Three neutral Executive members or Club managers whom have were not involved in the case.
 - g) The Appeal Panel has the authority to increase or decrease the penalty awarded by the disciplinary panel and may request the player to attend the hearing.
 - h) The Appeal Panel will hear evidence as offered from the referees, club representatives, league officials, centre management and those players directly involved in the form of a written statement or in person as required.
 - i) The Appeal Panel has the right to call upon anyone they deem necessary to attend.

- j) No more than one representative per player will be allowed to attend without prior written approval of the Appeal Chair.
- k) Any decision made by the appeal panel is final and may not be appealed.

12. Clubs and Official's Disciplinary Procedures

- a) Allegations of inappropriate behaviour or conduct of an individual can be made by anyone. The Players, Parent/guardians, Coaches, Officials, Referees and members of the public are free to make an allegation in writing to the General Secretary
- b) All written complaints should be made in writing within seven days of the incident. The General Secretary will also be obliged to instigate disciplinary proceedings for Constitutional or League Rule infringements within seven days of the infringement being discovered.
- c) An Initial assessment will be made by the General Secretary and two other independent members of the Executive, who could then refer to a Child Protection Officer for guidance if required. Following the initial assessment, the incident will be directed in one of three ways:
 - i. Club resolution.
 - ii. BRHA Executive resolution
 - iii. Report to the Police
- d) Guidelines to help make the determination as to which way to resolve the complaint is as follows; however, the decision is final:
- e) Club resolution: -
 - i. Inappropriate language to players,
 - ii. Game Management Issues (e.g. players being repeatedly played on consecutive shifts beyond their endurance or players dressed but not played for the better part of the game).
 - iii. Equipment violation issues.
 - iv. Player registration issues.
 - v. Issues between coach and parent/guardians (might be escalated to the BRHA Executive if the Club is un-cooperative)

f) BRHA Executive resolution: -

- i. Issues involving members of the public.
- ii. Issues involving other BRHA officials (Inc Referees).
- iii. Verbal Abuse of any player, spectator or official.
- iv. Game uncompleted due to ejection of Coach.
- v. Issues which bring the BRHA into disrepute.
- vi. Any other issues not covered in section 1 or 3.

g) Reported to the Police: -

- i. Any time a person is physically assaulted by a coach.
- ii. Anytime a person is physically abused by a coach.
- iii. Anytime a coach's behaviour give cause to feel that a player or players are 'at risk' of physical or psychological harm.

h) If a Coach is alleged to be involved in any inappropriate behaviour due to child protection reasons they will be instantly suspended pending the outcome of the investigation and/ or a possible police enquiry. Coaches that play will also be suspended from playing.

i) Where a hearing is required resulting from breaches of The Officials Code of Ethics, The BRHA Constitution or Playing Rules, the BRHA Chair will be requested to arrange a disciplinary hearing and arrange three neutral Executive members or Club managers to hear the case (a minimum of one member of the Executive).

j) Not all breaches of ethics may be dealt with by this BRHA disciplinary procedure. When a serious complaint is made, it might be automatically referred to an outside agency or the police for investigation. Legal advice may be needed in such cases.

k) All disciplinary hearings will be held within 30 days of the offence. The date of the meeting may be put back at the discretion of the BRHA Chairman, if the appropriate information is not yet available.

l) If discipline panel requires an individual to attend the hearing, the General Secretary will inform the individual in writing and advise the date, time and facility of the hearing.

m) Team managers are invited to attend disciplinary hearings on behalf of their coaches /

officials. They shall decide if the club attendance is in the interest of their club/members and a club committee member may be designated to attend. In matters where club management is under scrutiny, the relevant managers must attend the disciplinary meeting if requested.

- n) Disciplinary hearings must be accompanied by corroborated written report or complaint. The complaint may come from anyone that comes in to contact with a club or officials during the ordinary workings of that club. The only exception to this will be where the hearing is held regarding a breach by a club of the BRHA Constitution or playing rules, where the General Secretary will automatically pass the case onto the disciplinary panel

for review. The only evidence required will be the evidence offered by the General Secretary along with any explanations from the clubs regarding the incident.

- o) The discipline panel has the authority to set a penalty depending on the nature of the offence which is in breach of the Official's Code of Ethics, the BRHA Constitution or Playing Rules or any other document that have been approved by the BRHA Executive. The penalty could include one of the following; however, penalties not included in this list may also be awarded:
 - i. Fine
 - ii. Suspension (temporary suspension of an Official, Manager or Club / Team by the BRHA)
 - iii. Permanent Exclusion
 - iv. Behavioural Bonds
- p) The BRHA Chair will inform the Club/Official of the outcome in writing within seven days of the hearing. An e-mail will also be sent to the Club manager and Official if possible.

13. Clubs and Official's Appeal Procedure

- a) If a Club/Official wishes to appeal the decision of the panel the following must be adhered to:
 - i. Payment of a GBP 20 applies. This will be refunded if the appeal is successful, less any expenses incurred. The appeal fee may increase or decrease subject to any expenses incurred.
 - ii. New evidence not previously heard must be forwarded, if there is none, an appeal will not be permitted.
 - iii. If there is a query on the severity of the penalty, however in this case only the

penalty may be appealed and not the verdict.

- iv. Any appeal must be forwarded in writing to the General Secretary within seven days from the date on the letter of notification of the discipline panel's outcome. The General Secretary will pass on the appeal application to the President of the BRHA or delegated member of the Executive.
- b) A request for a personal hearing must be made in writing to the General Secretary.
- c) If the request for a personal hearing is granted, the General Secretary will advise in writing of the date, time and facility of the appeal.
- d) If the appeal is refused, the General Secretary will advise in writing the reason why the appeal has been refused. There is no appeal against this decision.
- e) Permission to have legal representation is not normally allowed and it is at the discretion of the BRHA Executive. The BRHA do not accept any liability for any Club or Official's legal expenses regardless of the outcome of an appeal.
- f) Appeal will be chaired by the President of the BRHA or delegated member of the BRHA Executive. The panel will comprise of the following:
 - i. Chair of the original disciplinary hearing. They may not be involved in any discussions or decisions regarding the case, but they are permitted to point out reference to any rules as required. They are to present the following documentation:
 - a) Referee's reports
 - b) Game Sheet
 - c) Minutes of the disciplinary hearing
 - d) Valid documentation and evidence previously presented to the disciplinary panel
 - e) New evidence (forwarded by the General Secretary)
 - ii. Three neutral Executive members or Club managers whom were not involved in the case.
- g) The Appeal panel will hear evidence as offered from the referees, club representatives, league officials, centre management and those players directly involved plus the original complainants, whether they are members of the public or parent/guardians. The Chair of

the Appeal panel has the right to call upon anyone he deems necessary to attend

- h) The Appeal Panel has the authority to increase or decrease the penalty awarded by the disciplinary panel and may request the player to attend the hearing.
- i) No more than one representative per player will be allowed to attend without prior written approval of the Appeal Chair.
- j) Any decision made by the appeal panel is final and may not be appealed.

14. Online Misconduct Disciplinary Procedure

- a) The publishing of any comments or remarks in a public domain which are considered to bring the BRHA into disrepute or against and member of the BRHA can and will be referred to the BRHA Executive Committee and passed to the Disciplinary Secretary if necessary.
- b) Allegations of inappropriate behaviour or conduct of an individual can be made by anyone. The Players, Parent/guardians, Coaches, Officials, Referees and members of the public are free to make an allegation in writing to the General Secretary.
- c) All written complaints should be made in writing within seven days of the incident. The General Secretary will also be obliged to instigate disciplinary proceedings for Constitutional or League Rule infringements within seven days of the infringement being discovered.
- d) An Initial assessment will be made by the General Secretary and two other independent members of the Executive, who could then refer to a Child Protection Officer for guidance if required. Following the initial assessment, the incident will be directed in one of three ways:
 - i. Club resolution.
 - ii. BRHA Executive resolution
 - iii. Report to the Police

15. Online Misconduct Appeals Procedure

- a) Should an individual wish to appeal the decision of the panel the following must be adhered to:
 - i. A payment of GBP 20 applies and will be charged to the members BRHA Sportily

profile and must be paid immediately. This will be refunded if the appeal is successful, less any expenses incurred. The appeal fee may increase or decrease subject to any expenses incurred.

- ii. New evidence not previously heard must be forwarded, if there is none an appeal will not be permitted.
 - iii. If there is a query on the severity of the penalty, however in this case only the penalty may be appealed and not the verdict.
 - iv. Any appeal must be forwarded in writing to the General Secretary within seven days from the date on the letter of notification of the discipline panel's outcome. The General Secretary will pass on the appeal application to the President of the BRHA or delegated member of the Executive.
- b) A request for a personal hearing must be made in writing to the General Secretary.
- c) If the request for a personal hearing is granted, the General Secretary will advise in writing of the date, time and facility of the appeal.
- d) If the appeal is refused the General Secretary will advise in writing the reason why the appeal has been refused. There is no appeal against this decision.
- e) Permission to have legal representation is not normally allowed and it is at the discretion of the BRHA Executive. The BRHA do not accept any liability for any Club or Official's legal expenses regardless of the outcome of an appeal.
- f) Appeal will be chaired by the President of the BRHA or delegated member of the BRHA Executive. The panel will comprise of the following:
- i. Chair of the original disciplinary hearing. They may not be involved in any discussions or decisions regarding the case, but they are permitted to point out reference to any rules as required. They are to present the following documentation:
 - a) Minutes of the disciplinary hearing
 - b) Valid documentation and evidence previously presented to the disciplinary panel
 - c) New evidence (forwarded by the General Secretary)
 - ii. Three neutral Executive members or Club managers whom were not involved in the case.
- g) The Appeal panel will hear the original complaint and new evidence. The Chair of the

Appeal panel has the right to call upon anyone he deems necessary to attend.

- h) The Appeal Panel has the authority to increase or decrease the penalty awarded by the disciplinary panel and may request the individual to attend the hearing.
- i) No more than one representative per individual will be allowed to attend without prior written approval of the Appeal Chair.
- j) Any decision made by the appeal panel is final and may not be appealed.

16. Referees

- a) For all reference to referees' duties and grading etc. please consult the BRHA Chief Referee or delegated representative.
- b) For all clarifications of rules refer to the BRHA Chief Referee or delegated representative.
- c) Referees will be provided for all rink games and their fee will be included in the game costs.
- d) All games referees are to be on skates to keep up with the faster game, keep on top of the game for fairness and safety of all players of the BRHA. Referees for any level of game in a rink must be on skates.
- e) If circumstances arise where only one referee is available at the start of a game, the teams can go ahead and play the game with one official, only if both teams and the referee agree. If the teams or referee do not agree to go ahead with one official the game will be referred to the General Secretary for action in accordance with rule 8.
- f) Referees receive a token payment for officiating games, but are reimbursed for their expenses, based on the distance travelled. This will be on a sliding scale that will be found on the referee's expenses table.
- g) All referees must wear a helmet. All referees under the age of 21 will be required to wear no less than an approved half visor on their helmets until they are of a senior by the registration rules.
- h) Referees will be subject to the Referee Code of Conduct within the current BRHA Referee Manual.
- i) For all incidents except those classed as gross misconduct the incident will be dealt with using the BRHA referee performance procedure within the current Referee Manual.
- j) All incidents deemed to be Gross Misconduct will be dealt with by the BRHA

disciplinary committee under the BRHA.

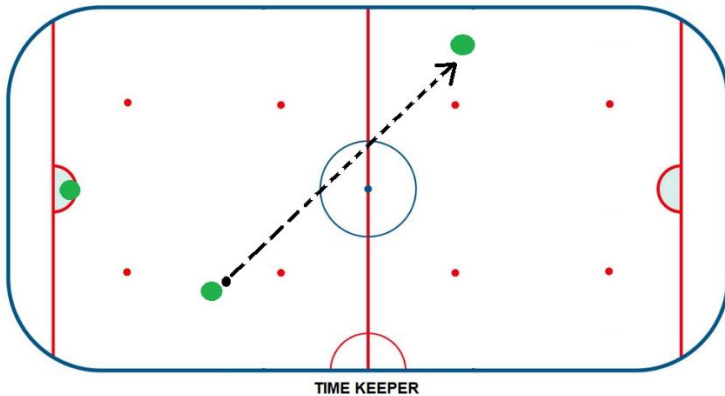
- k) When an incident is deemed to be severe the Referee will be suspended until the disciplinary panel sit, this decision will be made by the disciplinary Chair in conjunction with the Chief Referee.
- l) All BRHA disciplinary for referees will be dealt with within 21 days of the original notification of the incident.
- m) When the disciplinary panel sit to investigate and adjudicate on a referee disciplinary situation the rulings of the panel will either be a written warning, temporary suspension from refereeing or permanent exclusion from refereeing.
- n) When a Referee has had an adjudication made by the BRHA disciplinary panel they have a right to an appeal in the circumstances of temporary or permanent Refereeing exclusion only.
- o) This appeal will take place no more than 30 days from the original adjudication.

ANNEX 1: Understanding of the offside rule

Passing offside

Where the player with the puck passes the puck to a player already over the halfway line.

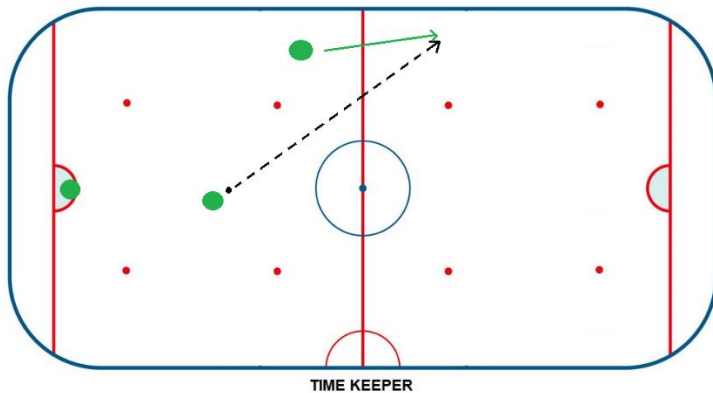
Example:



Passing onside

The player can pass the puck over the half way line as long as the player that receives the puck was onside at the time it was released and as long as the puck is released before the player crosses the halfway line.

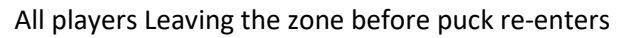
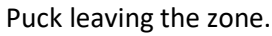
Example:



Power-play offside

If the puck leaves the offensive zone all players on the power play must leave the offensive zone, once the last player has left the zone they can go straight back in but the puck must have also left before it can be passed to in the offensive zone.

Example



GM / Game Misconduct = Ejected from the game (but able to play the next game subject to points accrued)
MP / Match Penalty = Ejected from the game + has to miss the Next game

MIN - Minor Penalty = 0 points
MA - Major Penalty = 1 Point
MIS - Misconduct = 1 Point
GM - Game Misconduct = 2 Points
MP - Major Plus Game = 4 points

Accrued disciplinary penalty points will incur game suspensions as below:

- 5 points - 1 Game Suspension
- 10 points - 2 Game Suspension
- 15 points - 3 Game Suspension
- 20 points - 4 Game Suspension
- 25 points - 5 Game Suspension