

Bye-Laws

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1 Playing Season

- 1.1 The Competition Year shall commence 1 September and end on 31 August the following year.
- 1.2 The Playing Season shall commence 1 September and end on 31 July the following year.

2 Affiliation of Clubs & Regional Associations

- 2.1 Club's and Regional Associations seeking to affiliate to the Association must complete and submit the official application form to the General Secretary, with;
 - (1) A copy of its Constitution.
 - (2) Payment of fees.
 - (3) Identification of its Registered Officials, including as a minimum it's;
 - (a) President/Chairperson
 - (b) Secretary
 - (c) Treasurer
- 2.2 Individuals seeking Associate Membership to the Association must complete and submit the official application form to the General Secretary, with
 - (1) Payment of fees.
- 2.3 The General Secretary will submit all applications to the Executive Committee for consideration, and will notify acceptance, or otherwise, in writing to the applicant.

3 Registration of Officials

- 3.1 All Officials must be registered with the Association ('Registered Officials'), including;
 - (1) Region Officers
 - (2) Club Officers
 - (3) Coaches
 - (4) Referees
 - (5) Timekeepers

4 Registration of Players

- 4.1 Affiliated Clubs must register all players with the Association, at least seven (7) days prior to their participating in any competition, by submitting the official application form with the prescribed fee to the General Secretary
 - (1) The applicant Club is responsible for;
 - (a) Certifying the accuracy of all information supplied to the Association (including identity, date of birth, contact details, etc.).
 - (b) Ensuring identifying photos of players are current and less than 5 years old.
- 4.2 Players shall be classified into the following Registration Grades, based on their age at the conclusion of the Competition Year:
 - (1) Under 9
 - (2) Under 11
 - (3) Under 13
 - (4) Under 15
 - (5) Under 17
 - (6) Under 20
 - (7) Senior (age >14 years)
 - (8) Veteran (age >38 years)
- 4.3 The General Secretary will notify acceptance, or otherwise, in writing to the applicant Club and issue a photographic Player Registration Card
 - (1) Players not citizens of the United Kingdom, that have not resided in the United Kingdom for at least three (3) consecutive years shall be classed as 'Foreign Players' and issued with a different Registration card to identify this status.
- 4.4 In order to participate in any match, the Player Registration Card, or a colour copy certified by the Club, must be presented to match officials prior to match commencement.

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4.5 Once a Club has registered a player with the Association, they may not play for another Club in any competition unless a Transfer or Loan has been approved by the Association, via the General Secretary.

- (1) Infringement of this Bye-law will result in;
 - (a) Suspension of the offending player, for a period of not less than one month, from all competition.
 - (b) Imposition of a fine on the offending Club, of not more than the amount of the annual affiliation fee, and suspension from competition for up to three months.

5 Player Transfers & Loans

5.1 A Registered Player may apply, via their new club, to transfer to another club by submitting to the General Secretary the official application form and the prescribed fee.

- (1) Players under a period of suspension by the Association, Affiliated Region or Club are ineligible for Transfer

5.2 A Registered Player may apply, via the club they are registered to, to be loaned to another club for a single Grade, by submitting to the General Secretary the official application form and the prescribed fee.

- (1) Clubs may only Loan Players when they have
 - (a) >2 players registered in that Grade
 - (b) No more than 1 goalie and 6 outfield players registered in that Grade.
- (2) Players on loan may participate in regional and national competition for the Grade they are loaned to the club for.
 - (a) Players may not play in more than one Region competition in the same Grade.
- (3) All Loans conclude at the end of each Playing Season.

6 Registration of Rinks

6.1 Each season, clubs must register their Home Rink with the Association.

6.2 The NRHA Executive shall approve all rinks and rink markings for the playing of Roller Hockey.

6.3 No affiliate may contest a match on a rink that is unregistered, unless permission has been obtained from the Association in writing.

7 Competitions

7.1 The Competitions Secretary shall maintain, publish and keep updated a calendar of all national and regional competitions and events.

7.2 The rules of all Association organised competitions shall be defined in the Competition Rules which shall be published in advance of each season.

7.3 All Competition Grades, Regional and National, must be aligned to the Registration Grades defined in Clause 4.2. [Effective Season 2018/19]

7.4 Clubs may only enter teams into competitions organized by their Region and the Association.

7.5 All competitions organized, on a tournament basis, by a Region or the Association must be presided over by a Tournament Head Referee, that shall;

- (1) Be the responsibility of the Tournament Hosts to organise, including paying all associated expenses, and identify them to the Chairman of Referees at least 7 days prior to the event.
 - (a) If the Tournament Host fails to do so, the Chairman of Referees will appoint a Head Referee and impose a fine on the Tournament Host of £200.
- (2) Hold a Referee accreditation of at least Grade 3, but has passed the Grade 2 Theory Assessment.
- (3) Not referee tournament matches.
 - (a) Excepting in emergency situations.
- (4) Be responsible for;
 - (a) Managing the match schedule of the Tournament.
 - (b) Ensuring that Referees provided by participants officiate the matches allocate do so and are properly attired.

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- (c) Policing the conduct of participants.
 - (d) Completing assessments of the performance of each referee and forwarding them to the CRHR.
 - (e) Coaching and mentoring the attending referees, explaining and discussing the correct application and interpretation of the rules.
- 7.6 All referees officiating at national or regional level [from season 2018/19], must wear the official uniform prescribed by the CRHR.
- 7.7 Any affiliate withdrawing from any competition or failing to attend an engagement without giving at least fourteen (14) days notice in writing to the organisers, shall;
- (1) Pay any match levy due or forfeit any competition fee paid at the discretion of the Discipline & Disputes sub-Committee.
 - (2) Be liable to suspension for up to six (6) months.
 - (3) Be subject to fine.

8 Committee of Roller Hockey Referees

- 8.1 A meeting of Accredited Referees shall be called annually, whom shall;
- (1) Receive reports from each Executive Committee member
 - (2) Appoint one of their number as Chairman.
 - (3) Discuss and make interpretations on the Rules of the Game.
- 8.2 The administration affairs of the Committee of Roller Hockey Referees (CRHR) shall be vested in an Executive Committee, which shall comprise of:
- (1) The Chairman
 - (2) The Referee Executives of each Region Affiliated to the NRHA
- 8.3 The Executive Committee, shall;
- (1) Have the following responsibilities and authorities;
 - (a) Determine matters relating to the Interpretation of the Rules of the Game.
 - (b) Advise Referees, registered players and affiliates concerning application and interpretation of the Rules of the Game.
 - (c) Appoint and accredit suitable persons as Referees.
 - (d) Submit reports to inform all Accredited Referees, the NRHA Executive and Annual General Meeting.
 - (e) Nominate suitable persons for International Referee tests.
 - (f) Appoint Officers to be responsible for;
 - (i) Accreditation of referees
 - (ii) Appointment of referees, to officiate national level competitions.
 - (2) Conduct primary hearings concerning any player, affiliate or other person associated with Roller Hockey in England, related to Disciplinary or Dispute matters.
 - (a) Such hearings shall consist of all four (4) Executive members, with alternate members being the Appointed Officers, whom may act as replacements in the event a member/s unavailable.
 - (i) In the event a member has a potential conflict of interest in hearing a matter they shall exclude themselves and the Chairman shall appoint an alternate in their stead.
 - (b) The committee may:
 - (i) Consider any dispute arising among affiliates or associates and, if unresolved, to make such decisions as deemed appropriate.
 - (ii) Fine or suspend for a period any member or affiliate proven guilty of misbehaviour, unfair practice or of acting in any way that is detrimental to the Association's objects.
 - (3) Each season, the CRHR Executive Committee will determine which Referees are put forward for international registration.
 - (a) To be considered, all candidates must in the previous season have;
 - (i) Refereed a minimum of five (5) Senior Premier League matches.

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- (ii) Acted as Tournament Head Referee on a minimum of two (2) occasions.
- (b) The Association shall pay International Registration fees of only these approved referees.

9 Disciplinary Hearings

- 9.1 The Committee of Roller Hockey Referees shall conduct all primary hearings concerning any player, affiliate or other person associated with Roller Hockey in England upon receipt of written instruction from the Executive Committee or report of a match incident.
- 9.2 Parties brought before a Discipline and Disputes hearing shall be given notice in writing of the charges against them, sent to their registered postal or email address, and given seven (7) days to provide a written statement and supporting evidence, prior to a determination being made.
- (1) a copy of this notice, and subsequent correspondence, shall also be sent to their Club and Region Secretary.
- 9.3 Accused parties may elect to attend a hearing to give evidence and call witnesses, by notifying the sub-Committee's Chairman in their written reply to the notification of charge/s.
- 9.4 The accused and their club shall be informed of the outcome of the hearing in writing within seven (7) days, including any fine or suspension that may be imposed.
- (1) All fines imposed must be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of the official notification.
 - (a) Late payments, the fine shall result in the fine being doubled and the club concerned and all its registered players will automatically be suspended until the fine is paid.
 - (b) A clubs affiliation with the association and or a player registration shall not be renewed until all fines are paid.
- 9.5 Suspension of any registered player by an affiliate for a period exceeding fourteen (14) days or more than five (5) matches must be notified to the Association and confirmed by a Discipline & Disputes hearing before suspension may take effect.
- (1) If confirmed, the suspension shall commence on the date of the hearings decision.
- 9.6 The Association shall pay no expenses to any party in respect of any Disciplinary Hearing, notwithstanding the decisions reached thereat.

10 Appeals

- 10.1 Every affiliate, registered player or other person shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee against fines, sentences of suspension or expulsion from membership of the Association.
- 10.2 An appeal must be made in writing and sent to the General Secretary within seven (7) days of the date of the notification of sentence.
- (1) All appeal applications must state full grounds of the appeal and be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
 - (2) The Executive Committee shall consider all appeals as soon as the General Secretary can conveniently convene it.
 - (3) If appeal is not lodged within the time limit, the sentence shall become binding upon all affiliates, players or other persons named in the relevant notice of sentence.
 - (4) If an appeal is upheld, the appeal fee shall be returned.
- 10.3 Once an appeal has been lodged with the Associations General Secretary, the decision of the initial disciplinary hearing shall be in abeyance until the Executive Committee has reached a decision.
- 10.4 The Association shall pay no expenses to any party in respect of any Disciplinary Hearing, notwithstanding the decisions reached thereat.

11 Sub-Committees

- 11.1 The Executive Committee shall annually appoint members to the following Sub-Committees, whom shall;
- (1) Appoint one of their number as Secretary of the sub-Committee.
 - (2) Carry out the directions of the Executive Committee.
 - (3) Submit reports to the Executive and presentation at the Annual General Meeting.
 - (4) Have the authority and responsibilities per below
- 11.2 Competitions Sub-Committee
- (1) Appoint such sub-Committee(s) as are deemed to be necessary.

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- (2) Administer the National Competition programme.
 - (3) Control the Association's trophies and awards.
 - (4) Co-ordinate the dates of the various national competitions.
 - (5) Co-ordinate and issue a calendar of Roller Hockey events.
- 11.3 Finance Sub-Committee
- (1) Appoint such sub-Committee(s) as are deemed to be necessary.
 - (2) Administer the financial affairs of the Association.
 - (3) Liaise with the Marketing sub-Committee concerning sponsorship.
 - (4) Negotiate with the Sports Council concerning grants.
 - (5) Arrange insurance cover against relevant risks.
- 11.4 International Affairs Sub-Committee
- (1) Liaise with the FIRS, CIRH, CERH, CIA, CEA and other international Roller Hockey Associations concerning all international aspects of the sport.
 - (2) Co-ordinate the training programme of the National Squads.
 - (3) Recommend to the Executive Committee for its approval or otherwise in liaison with the National Coaching Executive, selected persons to manage various international squads during training and when participating in international competitions.
 - (4) Liaise with CRHR concerning the interpretation of the rules of the game.
- 11.5 Marketing sub-Committee
- (1) Negotiate and develop sponsorship and undertake public relations activities on behalf of the Association and its affiliates.
 - (2) Develop, edit, publish and distribute publicity for the sport.
 - (3) Appoint a Press Officer who shall ensure regular and effective communication with the media.
- 11.6 National Development Sub-Committee
- (1) Develop and administer the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme
 - (2) Provide initial coaching for new clubs.
 - (3) Arrange for distribution of coaching videos, books, pamphlets and other material.
 - (4) Consider and approve the registration of Roller Hockey rinks.
 - (5) Co-ordinate the development of the sport in England.

12 Permits

- 12.1 Any affiliate may organise an inter-club competition but must;
- (1) Clear the date/s with the Competitions Executive and obtain a permit from the General Secretary.
 - (2) Ensure all clubs taking part are affiliated to the Association at least seven (7) days prior to the event.
 - (a) Where foreign clubs are participating, they must ensure they are affiliated to their national federation, which must be affiliated to the Federation Internationale de Roller Skating (FIRS)
- 12.2 Applications for permits must be submitted to the General Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the intended date of the event and include the prescribed fee.
- (1) In the most exceptional circumstances will an application be considered at shorter notice and a double fee may be payable.
- 12.3 The Association requires a deposit when application is made for issuance of a home tournament or a foreign visit permit. This deposit will be returned at the completion of the event and if cancelled, only if due to circumstances entirely beyond the control of the organisers.

13 Television

- 13.1 No affiliate or any member or official thereof shall contract to participate for pecuniary gain in any commentary or interview in respect of filming, broadcasting or televising on any aspect of Roller Hockey without the prior consent of Executive Committee.
- 13.2 Contracts agreed by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Association shall be signed and sealed in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association.

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14 Doping

- 14.1 Doping by any member of the Association, player or non-player, or by any official is strictly forbidden.
- 14.2 Doping is the use by or distribution at any time to a player or official of substance defined as being in contravention of the Regulations of the FIRS, International Olympic Committee or the Sports Council.
- 14.3 Players and officials must, if requested by a delegate authorised by the Association, submit to a doping control test.
- (1) Failure to take a test will be taken as if a positive test had been obtained.
 - (2) The identification of a forbidden substance and/or one of its metabolites, or the presence of specified amounts of endogenous substances subject to quantitative analysis, in a body fluid, will constitute an offence and the offender may be penalised.
- 14.4 Any person assisting or inciting others in the contravention of doping regulations shall be considered as having committed an offence against the Association's rules and may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 14.5 Any person found guilty of a doping offence shall be subject to an enquiry by the Discipline & Disputes sub-Committee who may fine, and/or suspend or recommend expulsion of the offender from the Association, according to the circumstances. The penalty, on proof of a second doping offence shall be permanent expulsion from the Association.
- 14.6 The full medical regulations of the FIRS shall be binding on all registered players and officials of the Association.
- (1) The Association's Constitution and Bye-laws shall take precedence over FIRS regulations where ever a difference in interpretation or in actual context appears.

