



SOUTH WALES WOMENS LEAGUE RULES 2014/2015

A. THE LEAGUE

1. The League will be called the South Wales Womens League and only clubs and registered players affiliated to South Wales and Wales can participate in the League. **Any clubs failing to affiliate before October 31st will be penalised**
2. All League games will be played in accordance with the rules of the game of hockey as issued by the Hockey Rules Board, including any mandatory experiments adopted by the National Association. All those participating in the league are bound by all Hockey Wales byelaws, rules and codes including Disciplinary, Pitch side, Conduct, Anti-doping and Safeguarding.
3. If a club from another league applies to enter the South Wales Womens League, the League Committee reserves the right to consider and decide the outcome of any such application, as and when it is submitted, on an individual basis

B. FIXTURES

1. All league games due to be played in the first half of the season must be played **before December 31st**. Games due to be played in the second half of the season must be played **before April 30th**.
Every effort should be made to play all fixtures by this date. The outcomes of any outstanding games will be considered by the League Committee on a case-by-case basis. Clubs should ensure that they can substantiate any claim to the points of such fixtures.
2. All league matches must be played on a full size (as per the Rules of Hockey) artificial turf pitch but all pitches used for league games must be of a good standard acceptable to both teams and umpires.
3. If on arrival the umpires decide the pitch is unsuitable in any way for a league game, the umpires must be asked to sign the League sheet to this effect giving reasons for their decision.
4. Any team wishing to play a League match on the Friday or Sunday of the same weekend instead of the Saturday must have their opponent's full agreement. Any such instance must be discussed and agreed by both teams **and any appointed umpires.**

5. The League Co-ordinator **must** be notified of the revised date immediately. This date then becomes an official league date and normal league rules will apply.
6. Teams wishing to start a match before **12pm** and after **4.30pm** on a Saturday or Sunday must have the full agreement of their opponents.

C. REARRANGEMENTS

1. All League matches **MUST** be played on the dates shown unless one of the following applies:
 - (a) A team has two or more players playing or officiating at National level. (includes all official squad sessions)
 - (b) A Club has a team entered in the U-15 or U-18 Clubs Championships
 - (c) A Club is playing in a National Competition match
 - (d) A Club is playing in a South Wales Indoor League match
 - (e) Bad Weather

Rearrangements are allowed during two Amnesty periods.

The 1st Amnesty period ends on October 10th and the 2nd begins on January 4th and ends on January 18th. Any club who wishes to rearrange a match is able to do so during these periods.

Rearrangements may be allowed for extenuating circumstances outside these periods but such rearrangements will very much be an exception.

If a club requests a rearrangement that is not covered by the rules and outside the amnesty periods and the request is granted, the requesting team may receive a 1 point deduction.

Any game that is rearranged must be played on or before the earliest available designated slip dates. For the purposes of this rule these will be:

**29th November
6th & 13th December
10th, 17th & 24th January
11th & 18th April**

If there are still outstanding games after the April 30th deadline, the teams in question will begin in the following season with a three point deduction.

Should a club wish to change a fixture they will need to contact their League Co-ordinator at the earliest opportunity to discuss their situation. All cases will be treated on an individual basis; however the decision of the League Co-ordinator will be final.

In the event that the rearrangement is agreed, the opposition will be OBLIGED to comply

Where a club has more than one team, they will be obliged to fulfil the higher level fixtures by promoting players upwards and **in normal circumstances will be allowed to rearrange a fixture in a lower division.**

Where a team is given permission to rearrange a fixture for whatever reason, a mutually convenient date should be agreed with their opponents within 10 days of the original date. The League Chair and if applicable, the appointed umpires, must be notified of the revised date immediately. This date then becomes an official league date and normal league rules will apply.

Failure to do this may result in the team postponing the match forfeiting the points for the match to their opponents.

2. A match may be abandoned only if both umpires agree.

- If the match is abandoned before the 60th minute, the match shall be replayed.
- If the match is abandoned from the 60th minute, the current score in the match shall be the final result of the game.

D. DELAYED START

If a team is not ready to start a game **20** minutes after the agreed starting time that team will concede the points to their opponents. If this rule applies, the team claiming the points must advise their opponents of their intention, as soon as their opponents arrive on the pitch

EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO PLAY THE GAME

E. UMPIRING

Premier 1 & 2 teams **MUST** nominate an umpire(s) by the agreed date, to fulfil all appointments allocated to their club. All umpires should be affiliated to Hockey Wales and the WHUA.

All nominations shall be provided to the South Wales Womens League Chair upon request

The South Wales Womens League reserves the right to request independent watchers to any game where the safety of the players may be compromised.

All other teams should use affiliated, qualified umpires.

Where a club is required to provide an umpire by the South Wales Womens League and fails to do so, that club will be treated as conceding a game. A financial penalty may also be imposed.

If a club has more than one team in Premier 1 and Premier 2, the 1st team will be penalised first and if the situation arises again, the 2nd team will be penalised in that instance and so on.

In the event of an appointed umpire failing to appear, the home captain should take steps to ascertain if there is another suitably qualified and affiliated umpire present in either team or amongst the spectators.

If there is a person willing to umpire then the game should go ahead as planned

If the originally appointed umpire subsequently arrives then they should take up the appointment at the earliest convenient opportunity.

If the 'substitute umpire' is a member of either team squad, then the opposing team shall, if necessary, withdraw one player to match. Again, if the appointed umpire subsequently arrives he/she shall take over the game at the earliest convenient opportunity and any withdrawn squad member may be reinstated.

The purpose of this rule is to get the match played on the due date should any unforeseen circumstances prevent an appointed umpire fulfilling their appointment. It should be noted that both teams need to be happy with the 'substitute umpire', however unless they are extenuating circumstances, it will be expected that the game be played.

F. HOME CLUBS RESPONSIBILITIES

1. It is the responsibility of the Home team to confirm the match.

IF UMPIRES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED FOR THE MATCH, THE HOME TEAM MUST ALSO CONTACT THESE UMPIRES TO CONFIRM THE ARRANGEMENTS BY THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE MATCH

2. Both teams **MUST** complete the league sheet before it is given to the umpires to complete their details.

Umpires must **PRINT** their names on the League sheets

ALL details **MUST** be completed.

Only official league sheets should be used.

It is the responsibility of the home side to ensure that a fully completed league sheet is sent to Judith Evans SW Womens League Chair, within 7 days of the game being played.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team being fined £5.

3. It is the responsibility of the Home team to ring in the result, failure to do so, by the deadline, will result in a £5.00 fine.
In the event of a postponed match, the Home team must notify Jen Barton of the postponement

ALL teams MUST telephone their League results to Jen Barton on 01633 216424 OR 07889 267182 by NO LATER THAN 6.00pm on the Sunday.

Any team amassing fines totalling £20.00 through failing to comply with rules F2 and F3 will have three points deducted

G. PLAYER OF THE MATCH

After matches, each team should nominate the name of their opponent's player of the match.

At the end of the season, the Divisional players of the season for each division will be announced.

H. KIT COLOURS

The **AWAY** team will change colours in the event of a colour clash.

I. CHANGING CLUBS

Transfers between clubs will be governed by Hockey Wales.

The League Committee may impose additional rules where necessary

J. ELIGIBILITY

Outfield players can only play ONE league match a day.

Clubs with 2 or more teams must abide by the '3 from 12' rule

If clubs have more than one team in the League, then in the event of one of their teams playing on a different day of the League weekend from the other team, those clubs must abide by the **'3 from 12'** rule

A 12 player squad, **which includes a GOALKEEPER**, must be named for each team **except the lowest**

A maximum of 3 out of the named 12 may play for the next side down in the club hierarchy

e.g. 3 1st XI players can play for the 2nd XI, 3 2nd XI can play for the 3rd XI etc.

Any named player may 'play up'; however, this situation will be monitored

A player **CANNOT** drop 2 teams down

In the event of a clubs lowest team being short of players (even after they have used their 3 from 12), it has been agreed that an OUTFIELD player from a clubs higher team can drop to their lowest team to play GOALKEEPER or a GOALKEEPER from their higher team can drop to their lowest team and play OUTFIELD.

In the event of this exception being used by a club the 'A player CANNOT drop 2 teams down' would not apply

ANY CLUB ABUSING THIS RULE WILL BE PENALISED

The purpose of these rules is to allow some flexibility to smaller clubs seeking to establish a second team, but to prevent bigger clubs continually, artificially strengthening their lower XI's

All teams will be monitored to check on named persons playing for other squads and if it is deemed necessary, may be asked to justify or change their named 12s

Clubs can change their named squads during the season (within reason)

K. LEAGUE RESULTS AND POINTS

Points will be awarded as follows:

WIN 3 points DRAW 1 point

If equal on points the following will be taken into account:

(a) goal difference, (b) goals for

If still equal and teams are involved in promotion or relegation a playoff will be arranged.

L. CONCEDED A MATCH

A team who concedes a game to their opponents will be penalised accordingly.

Initially, the penalty for conceding a match is a 2-0 win awarded to the opposition. The team conceding will also have a further 5 penalty points deducted.

Any team conceding 3 or more games during the course of the season will be automatically relegated

A League sheet must be completed explaining that the match has been conceded and sent to the League Chair.

Teams conceding games will be required to meet any actual expenses incurred by their opponents (i.e. hire of pitch/travelling expenses)

No team may concede a game without the permission of their League Co-ordinator or another member of the League Committee

M. DISCIPLINE

1. Cards issued throughout the season will be monitored to highlight any problem players, clubs, or umpires. If necessary, the League Committee will address any issues arising
2. An umpire involved in red carding a player or team official must send a full written report, within 48 hours, to Judith Evans, SW Womens Competitions Chair, in accordance with the disciplinary code operated by Hockey Wales.
3. The League Committee reserves the right to impose further disciplinary measures as and when necessary.

N. COMPLAINTS

Clubs who feel that they have a legitimate complaint should put it in writing and send it to Judith Evans, the South Wales Womens Competitions Chair.

P. GENERAL

- The League Committee will host a 'LEAGUE CLUBS MEETING' at the end of every season. All clubs entered in the league must send at least ONE representative.
- Any club has the right to appeal against any decision made by the League Committee involving that club
- The League Committee reserves the right to alter or modify these rules as and when necessary

IMPORTANT GUIDANCE for clubs when rearranging a match

There have been a number of disputes between clubs when a match has been rearranged and the HOME club has been charged for pitch hire when the AWAY team has requested the rearrangement. The charges for hiring pitches vary from pitch to pitch but the cancellation period varies greatly from eight weeks notice to the night before the match is due to be played. Please bear this in mind when you request a rearrangement, you may be charged for the cancelled pitch. Please ensure that you discuss this aspect when you confirm the match. An email will ensure that there is no misunderstanding.

Similarly, an AWAY club may travel to a match and when they arrive, the pitch or conditions do not allow the match to be played. In some circumstances the HOME club would be expected to contribute to their opponents travelling expenses.

UMPIRING GUIDANCE for clubs in the non-appointed divisions

There have been an increasing number of complaints where a HOME club has offered to provide two umpires at their HOME match with the condition that when they travel to their opponents, their opponents would then provide two umpires.

If one of the clubs is then unable to provide two umpires when they play at home, the South Wales Womens League would not become involved in the dispute as none of its rules have been broken. This is an informal agreement between those two clubs.