



SOUTH WALES WOMENS LEAGUE RULES 2018/2019

A. THE LEAGUE

1. The League will be called the South Wales Women's 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, Social Media, Pitch side, Conduct, Anti-doping and Safeguarding.
3. If a club from another league applies to enter the South Wales Women's 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
4. The League Committee reserve the right to alter the league structure, where necessary, without prior consultation with its clubs. However, the aim is to promote/relegate TWO teams each season

B. FIXTURES

1. All league games due to be played in the first half of the season should 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 (sand-filled, sand dressed, or water based) but all pitches used for league games must be of a good standard acceptable to both teams and umpires
3G pitches are NOT suitable for competitive hockey and should NOT be used

3. The match will be played as two halves, each of 35 minutes.
4. 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.
5. 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**.
6. 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.
7. 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 may be allowed for extenuating circumstances outside these conditions, but such rearrangements will very much be an exception.

If there are still outstanding games after the April 30th deadline, the teams in question may begin 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 before asking their opponents. All cases will be treated on an individual basis; however, the decision of the League Co-ordinator will be final.

If 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 (including their umpire) is not ready to start a game **15** 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 must be qualified and affiliated to both Hockey Wales and the WHUA.

All nominations shall be provided to the South Wales Women's League Chair upon request

All other teams should use affiliated, qualified umpires.

The WHUA only consider umpires to be qualified if they are both members of the WHUA and Hockey Wales

Clubs should not change umpires at half-time (umpires should umpire whole match. They should not umpire half a match and play half a match)

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

Similarly, in matches where the South Wales Women's League have not appointed umpires and clubs are responsible for providing their own umpire, if their umpire fails to appear then that club will also be treated as conceding the game

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 suitable 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(s) 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.

PARTLY QUALIFIED UMPIRES

Partly qualified umpires may be used in Division 3,4 and 5 ONLY
They can only be used in a match where the other umpire is fully qualified

If both teams want to use partly qualified umpires, then the HOME team MUST provide the fully qualified umpire allowing the away team to use the partly qualified umpire

Teams wishing to use a partly qualified umpire must inform Chloe McCall FIVE days before the scheduled match date.
The details will be recorded, and Chloe will address any disputes

THE USE OF PARTLY QUALIFIED UMPIRES IS RESTRICTED TO DIVISION 3,4 AND 5 ONLY.

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

When confirming the details of the match, the deadline for postponing the game without being charged for pitch hire must be discussed and whether a charge for pitch hire will be forwarded to your opponents if they postpone after that deadline

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

Umpires must **PRINT** their names and **state their WHUA/Hockey Wales Registration/Affiliation number** on the League sheets

ALL cards must be recorded on the league sheet

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 Women's 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 text or telephone their League results to Jen Barton on 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.

NO transfers will be granted AFTER December 31st except in exceptional circumstances.

The League Committee may impose additional sanctions where necessary

J. ELIGIBILITY

Players can only play for the club that they are affiliated to

ALL PLAYERS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE GOALKEEPER, IN THE PREMIER 1 NAMED SQUADS CANNOT PLAY IN ANY OTHER DIVISION

The 'gist' of the previously used '3 from 12' rule will be retained but it will change it to **'2 from 12' for the remaining divisions**

Clubs with 2 or more teams must abide by the '2 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(s), those clubs must abide by the **'2 from 12'** rule

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

A maximum of 2 out of the named 12 may play for the next side down in the club hierarchy

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

A player **CANNOT** drop 2 teams down

Outfield players can only play ONE league match a day.

Named GOALKEEPERS CAN play more than ONE league match a day in goal but they still cannot drop down two teams

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

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.

Repeated offences may incur a points deduction

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

Youth players who play for their clubs Youth team cannot play Senior hockey for another club

Players under 13 years old are not allowed to play in Senior Competitions

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 considered:

(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 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

- **ALL CARDS MUST BE RECORDED ON THE TEAM SHEET.**
- A 'Totting Up' system of disciplinary cards will operate throughout the League. Players who persistently receive cards will be suspended and their teams may be penalised if those players continue to offend and receive further cards
- An umpire involved in red carding a player or team official must send a full written report, within 48 hours, to Jane Price, SW Women's Disciplinary Officer, in accordance with the disciplinary code operated by Hockey Wales.
- The League Committee reserves the right to impose further disciplinary measures as and when necessary
- Any Club requesting a SWWL observer to attend a SWWL game will be required to pay the travelling expenses of that representative

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 Women's 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 should send at least ONE representative.
- **Each CLUB is entitled to ONE vote at the South Wales Women's League Clubs meeting**
- Any club has the right to appeal against any decision made by the League Committee involving that club
- Club contact details will be shared with all other clubs in the SWWL, Hockey Wales and WHUA
- League sheets will be shared with Hockey Wales and WHUA
- Other information / correspondence may be shared with Hockey Wales, WHUA and or other clubs, if appropriate
- The League Committee reserves the right to alter or modify these rules as and when necessary