



KENT LADIES OUTDOOR LEAGUE RULES (2019)

1. Name

The Kent League, if sponsored, shall take the name of that sponsor and whatever its title shall thereafter be referred to as The League.

2. Management/Liaison

- a. The League shall be governed by the K.H.A. A sub-committee shall be formed and comprise of the League Secretary and the Divisional Reps.
- b. Rules may be altered at the AGM or a special league meeting convened for that purpose. Any club having an item for the agenda must advise the K.H.A League Secretary 14 days before the meeting. All clubs shall be entitled to have access to an agenda via the Kent Hockey website.
- c. All Senior teams must have a cancellation telephone number shown on their website or team pages of the Kent Hockey website. Each team will be responsible for notifying their umpire and Divisional Rep of the postponement and the re-arranged date.

3. Membership

All clubs participating in the League must be affiliated to the K.H.A and have paid their League subscription before the first game is scheduled to be eligible to play in the League. Failure to pay the league subscription by this date may result in all teams in that club being unable to participate in league games until payment is made .

4. Fee

All clubs participating in the Ladies League shall pay an entry fee by the first league game in September each year. The entry fee shall be reviewed annually. (See Rule 3)

5. Structure

- a. The League shall be divided into divisions, each with its own winner's trophy. At the conclusion of the season, promotions and relegations for the senior league shall normally be 2 teams promoted and relegated from ALL divisions. Except for Premier division which is normally only one team promoted to the East League.
- b. The league Sub-Committee may increase or decrease the number of divisions within the league depending on teams leaving or new teams being entered.
- c. If a team fails to honour 3 fixtures in one season The League reserves the right to automatically relegate that team at the end of the season regardless of their finishing position. Teams who continually fail to honour fixtures (i.e. more than 3) may ultimately be disqualified from the Kent League.
- d. In the case of a tie in the senior league divisional placings the club with the better goal difference shall be in the higher the position. In the event of a further tie the club with the most goals shall be deemed to be the higher. If the teams are still equal, leave the position as a tie, unless the position is one for promotion or relegation, in which case the following order should be considered (i) the result of the games between the teams concerned, (ii) a re-match, (iii) penalty stroke competition.
- e. Any club wishing to resign shall send their resignation to the League Secretary copied to their Divisional Rep, and all results so far will be declared null and void. This club shall be deemed to be a relegated club in its relevant division and there shall consequently be one less relegation to each lower division.
- f. The senior premier division winners as at the final published league game of the season will be eligible to be promoted to the East League division (2SE).

6. Scoring System

Points will be awarded as follows: 3 points for a WIN. 1 point for a DRAW. 0 points for a LOSS.

7. Umpires

- a. Each team must register and use a qualified umpire for all leagues as follows:
 - i. **Premier** – Umpires must hold a Level 1 or above to umpire in the pool.
 - ii. **Division One to Bottom Division** – Umpires holding Level One or above (see v).
 - iii. League umpires shall register themselves initially each season and through the Umpires Association as required. Failure to register and use a qualified umpire will result in the loss of one point for each occasion. The Kent Umpire Appointments Coordinator will appoint umpires for Premier league fixtures and these appointments take priority over other umpiring commitments (i.e friendly games). Appointed umpires will be

paid per appointed game directly by K.H.U.A, the sum as approved by the K.H.U.A at their AGM.

- iv. Clubs will provide a qualified umpire as rule (ii) for league games in Division One to the bottom division.
 - v. In Divisions 4, 5 and 6, with the permission of the Divisional Rep, unassessed L1 umpires may umpire a maximum of 3 games. One of these games should be used to assess the umpire in order to achieve assessed status.
- b. The League reserves the right to ask the K.H.U.A to approve standards of all pool umpires by a watching and grading session. All umpires attached to clubs gaining promotion to the divisions in rule 7(a)(i) must make themselves available for assessment prior to the next league season.
- c. The league reserves the right to disqualify any team who persistently fail to register and use a qualified umpire with the league.

8. Players

- a. All clubs must register those members intending to play in the Senior League with the Divisional Rep by the agreed date. There is no upper limit to the number of players who can be registered. All players **MUST** have a registered number. Failure to do so will incur a £25 penalty per team.
- b. When a club enters 2 **or more** squads: - **All but the lowest squad must** include a minimum of 12 names. National League and East League teams must be listed in the Kent registration form including GK's. No player can be registered in more than one team on a Kent League Division registration sheet.
- c. In addition to playing for her nominated team, a player may only play for a higher team in any league fixture taking place on the same day. This includes National and East League fixtures and players. A league game (including National and East on parallel dates) originally scheduled to be played on a published league or reserve date and subsequently cancelled, shall be deemed to have been played for the purpose of this rule.
- d. At the beginning of the season players playing in the National League and East Teams shall be registered on the Kent Registration Sheet as per Rule 8(b) (along with the other Club Teams in the Kent League). **For National League Team, eleven of these players should be starred and cannot be dropped to a Kent side.** The other players should be dropped to East first in accordance with East Rules (separate from Kent). If a need arises for a National League player to be dropped to a Kent League (i.e. rehabilitation after significant injury, months away from EHL hockey etc) then **permission must be sought from the Kent League Secretary.** There is no requirement to star East League players, these players can be dropped for injury or team selection purposes but **only with the agreement of the League Secretary.** If dropped they may only play for one Kent

team on any Saturday. Any changes to EHL (National League) starred players can be made during the Christmas break.

- e. Teams should review all player registrations during the Xmas break and re-register players according to where they are playing a majority of their games. I.e. players registered in a Kent side but who are consistently playing ***for an East team will be deemed to be playing for that team for selection purposes and cannot be dropped to Kent without permission.***

Likewise a player registered in a lower Kent side but playing a majority of their games for a higher Kent side will be deemed to be playing for that team for selection purposes and should be re-registered at the appropriate time.

- f. GKs playing in the East League or above must be registered in the East/EHL team and may not play in goal in a Kent League game (see Rule 8(d)). Permission to play outfield must be sought from the Divisional Rep.
- g. Any clubs found abusing this rule may be disciplined and points may be deducted (See Rule 17).
- h. No player shall play League matches for more than one Club at any one time.
- i. Any player changing clubs once The League has commenced can be registered with the Divisional Rep, and once registered is eligible to play immediately. If the player is transferring having played in the East League the East League rules must be followed and an online transfer request undertaken. See the East League Rules for details.
- j. Any club found playing a member who has not registered fully or who is in breach of Rules 8 (c), (d), (e) and (f) will be penalised. The original match and the score will be replaced with a 4-0 win to the offended team with 3 points awarded (unless the original score is more advantageous). A further 3 point deduction will be made to the offending team. Players involved i.e. not properly registered, may be suspended for two league games following the incident by the League Secretary.
- k. Any team caught consistently breaching this rule may be automatically relegated or disqualified from the league.
- l. In line with England Hockey guidance, Junior players must be 13 years of age to play in Kent Senior games.

9. Conduct

If any player receives a red card or if there is any dispute a report must be sent within 24 hours by the umpires and Captains to the Kent Disciplinary Officer who will instigate any disciplinary action within five days of receiving the report

10. Playing Kit

- a. Teams playing in the League must wear a proper club kit at all times consisting of a skirt/skort or shorts, shirt and socks.
- b. In the event of a colour clash, shirt or socks, the away team **MUST** change their strip otherwise the game cannot commence unless both umpires agree.

11. Matches

- a. All games will be arranged on the league dates decided by the K.H.A including reserve league dates which **MUST** be used for postponed games. Friendly matches must be cancelled if necessary. If a mid-week or Sunday fixture is deemed more convenient and can be played **BEFORE** the next available reserve date, it should be mutually agreed by both teams, both umpires, and the Divisional Rep. If all League reserve dates have been used from replaying **POSTPONED** games, a date agreed by both clubs and the Divisional Rep and the League Secretary will be used. However, Fixture Secretaries will be responsible for the final arrangements necessary to play each fixture on these dates. All senior league games should be completed by the last weekend in March where possible. Any games to be played after this date must be agreed by the Divisional Rep. Disputes over dates should be referred to Divisional Reps
- b. If the home pitch is known to be unfit or unavailable by Thursday p.m preceding the game and the away team can provide suitable facilities, clubs should switch venues.
- c. A synthetic surface must be used for all games.
- d. Any games to be played on a synthetic pitch must be booked with a starting time between 10.00am and 4.30pm or any time mutually agreed between the two teams.
- e. Pitches used for league games must be properly marked. The pitch should comply with the EH specifications and markings as per the rules for the game of hockey.
- f. The League reserves the right to insist that a team whose pitch does not comply with 11 (e) provides an alternative compliant pitch or plays all home fixtures away.

12. Postponement or cancellation

- a. Any game not played will be declared null and void. In the event of adverse weather over a prolonged period, the completion date for games could be

extended at the discretion of the League Secretary. No league game shall be postponed except:-

- i. When the ground is not available owing to circumstances beyond the control of the home team.
 - ii. In the opinion of the team official, groundsman, or umpire for the match, ground conditions would make play impossible. However, Clubs/Teams should ensure that the pitches are inspected in good time in the event of inclement weather and the opposition teams notified as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary travel.
- b. When League matches have to be arranged, friendly matches must be cancelled.
- c. Dispensation for postponements other than (i) or (ii) must be sought from the Divisional Reps or League Secretary by the club concerned and in normal circumstances at least 7 days in advance of the fixture.
- d. The Divisional Reps must be notified on the day of the original fixture of any cancellations or postponements and where possible, the date of the re-arranged game. The next available reserve date should be used.
- e. If a date was not agreed at the point of cancellation the date for the replay must be agreed between clubs **within 14 days** of the original cancelled league date and the Divisional Rep notified.

13. Abandonments

In normal circumstances the away team must be notified at least two hours before the agreed match time of any cancellation. In the event of both teams being on the field and the conditions becoming bad, the umpires only shall decide whether play shall commence or continue. No points will be awarded unless a game is at least 20 minutes into the 2nd half.

14. Failure to Honour a Fixture

It shall be illegal to postpone a game by reason of either side being unable to field a full team. 3 points and 4 goals shall be awarded to the opposing team.

15. Notification of Results

The **HOME** team must **input** the result to Fixtures Live by 8.00pm on the Saturday of the match and the **AWAY** team must post or email in a suitable format, a match day form with the match result, team list and signatures to the appropriate Divisional Rep to arrive by the **WEDNESDAY** following the match. Failure by either team to complete and post or email the form or input the result to Fixtures Live by 8.00pm on Saturday **WILL** incur a loss of 1 point for each late result or sheet. Note: in the event of a technical problem at Fixtures Live the result may be phoned in on that occasion.

16. Hospitality

Home clubs are expected to offer hospitality before and after the match to visiting clubs and umpires, and should ensure guests are met on arrival and looked after for the duration of their visit. Visiting teams who do not intend to go back to the opposition's clubhouse for hospitality must ensure their hosts are aware before the date of the fixture.

17. Binding Force of Rules

Each club by its entry into The League shall be deemed to have given its consent to the Rules of The League, and to any amendments which may from time to time be adopted in proper form, and shall be deemed to have been agreed to abide by the decisions of the K.H.A Committee in accordance with Rules 2 and 3.

The K.H.A shall have the right to discipline any club found to act in any way contrary to the spirit or letter of these rules or who has acted in a way thought likely to bring the game into disrepute, and this may include deductions of points , automatic relegation, suspension or expulsion from the League.

18. Disputes/Appeals

Any player or club shall have the right to appeal a decision to deduction points or outcome of a dispute to the League Secretary (if not involved in the decision) or to the Ladies Vice President Kent whose decision is final. The appeal must be made in writing within 7 days of communication of the decision. Contact details can be found on the Kent Hockey Website.

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