



## Constitution

1. The Association shall be called Eastern Counties Roller Hockey Association, the short title being ECRHA
2. The objective of ECRHA shall be to govern and to promote the game of roller hockey in the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Norfolk – to be called Eastern Counties
3. The ECRHA shall be an association of clubs and leagues resident or playing in the above counties
4. Membership shall be open to all clubs outside the region by invitation of the Executive Committee
5. The ECRHA Executive Committee comprises of members of affiliated clubs within the region. Official roles within the Committee can be taken by any member deemed most suited to that position regardless of club association. Should a club have more than one associated representative serving, only one will be granted voting rights at each meeting.

After all roles have been filled, should any club not be represented then a member may be elected - 'general member'. Each general member must commit to attend and help at at least one EC run event, ie Cup Qualifiers, Jubilee Cup and Cup Finals. Failure to adhere to this will make them ineligible to sit the following year. All Committee members must provide a report at the ECRHA AGM outlining their activities for the year.

General membership will only be granted once all official positions have been filled.

Club association will be defined by which club the member or a relative plays for unless they have been specifically appointed to represent another club.

- President
  - Vice President
  - General Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Competitions Secretary
  - Referees
  - Disputes Officer
  - Development Officer
  - Fundraising Officer
  - Publicity Officer
  - Child Protection Officer
  - Web site co-ordinator
6. ECRHA Committee members must show impartiality and may not take regional executive action in matters relating to their own club but should, as appropriate, refer the matter to another Officer(s) (from another Club) or refer the matter to the full Committee and abstain from any voting that may result

7. Five members shall form a quorum for all Committee meetings; the President shall be entitled to a casting vote
8. The ECRHA shall be affiliated to the National Roller Hockey Association and shall abide by their rules
9. The Executive Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter not covered by these rules
10. Any league or team wishing to resign from the Association shall give 28 days written notice to the General Secretary
11. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times in each season and more often if required
12. The Annual General Meeting shall be held before the AGM of the National Roller Hockey Association
13. Twenty-one days notice shall be given to all affiliates of the AGM
14. All affiliated leagues and clubs shall be entitled to a vote at the AGM provided that they have paid dues in full and have a club representative, who is not a member of the EC Executive Committee present
15. Clubs must have a representative present at the EC Fixtures Meeting to allow their entry into EC Leagues
16. Fees shall be decided by the members at the AGM

#### **LEAGUES – NRHA Rules with the following exceptions**

1. Before the start of the season and first tournament each club must submit team lists to the Competitions Secretary. A date will be set after which defaulting clubs will not be allowed to enter teams
2. The team lists and individual players within each team will be assessed by the committee. One vote per eligible committee member with a majority required, as to their suitability for any particular league or division
3. Final team lists, approved by the committee, will be circulated to each club before the first tournament
4. No player may play for any other teams, other than those for which they are registered or second claimed to
5. All player registration cards or colour copies must have player photographs which must be no older than five years attached. Failure to do so will make the player ineligible to play
6. Second claim cards/players can only be issued once confirmation of first registration is received by the Competitions Secretary
7. Players may only play in more than one division on the basis that outfield players may only play in goal in another division and vice versa. Such dual team registrations must be brought to the attention of the Competitions Secretary at the time of team registrations at the start of the season or as soon as known
8. Late additions to teams after the start of the season can be discussed and decided upon via email, within reasonable notice or at any of the four Executive meetings. These must be agreed by at least three EC Executives (not including the Competitions Secretary)
9. No new player can play until agreement has been given and recorded by the Competitions Secretary and all Clubs are notified with the amended team list(s)
10. A team will consist of a minimum of four players on the day of the tournament. The game may only be deemed as a friendly should injuries reduce a team further
11. If a team only has five players available for a tournament they can play a player up from their club to complete their team. A club can only do this twice during a season providing they use different players. If any player repeats this change (ie plays up twice), they must then remain in the higher league team. Exception only being for England development teams competing in the region, as they are also permitted to play for their own club in whichever league they have been listed

12. No team shall take part in any match unless players and team are registered with both the ECRHA and NRHA
13. Girls may play above their age category limits in Eastern Counties leagues only, as follows:
 

Under 11's	-	one year older
Minors	-	one year older
Intermediates	-	one year older
Schoolboys	-	Under 25 on 1 September

This applies to all girls playing either on pitch or in goal
14. In U11, Minors and Intermediates, clubs can play a MAXIMUM of two over age girls per match per team. This applies to previously registered players and does not include those who are included in rule 15 below
15. Any first time player – boy or girl – can play one year BELOW their age group for their first full or part season of registration to aid development. This will be their only league
16. No player under the age of 14 will be considered to play EC Division One. Players aged 13 could apply for lower divisions with the completion of an age permit submitted to the EC Exec
17. All teams shall be ready to play 15 minutes before their match is scheduled to start. Failure to take to the floor at the appointed time will lead to the forfeiture of the points and a fine
18. **From 2016/17 season, Senior EC leagues will not be decided by goal difference but on a head to head basis.** In the event of a points draw at the end of the season for remaining leagues a decision will be made in the following order:
  - The highest number of wins, but only between the level teams
  - If time allows a play off at EC Cup Finals
  - Lastly, if all above fails it will be declared a joint placing
19. Should injury force the instant halting of a game, a 10-0 win will be awarded to the 'surviving' team
20. New teams/clubs will normally be placed in the lowest division and gain promotion on final placing. The Executive Committee has the right to start such new teams in an appropriately higher division where the identity and standard of the player is known to them. Thereafter, such teams would be subject to the current rules of promotion and demotion
21. **From 2017/18 season, every EC Club must supply two way radios for referees and timekeepers at their home tournaments. The penalty for not providing these will be £100.**
22. **From 2017/18 season a player cannot play for more than one team in the same tournament.**

## REFEREES

1. Every game is to have two referees
2. Every team has to supply a referee (not necessarily from their own club)
3. If a team does not supply a referee a £50 fine per game will be imposed
4. The referees should submit their registration cards to the timekeepers prior to refereeing their first game
5. The grade of the referee for the various leagues will be set out by the ECRHA Referee Officer. However any referee of the correct standard and over the age of 14 will be permitted to referee at any level as long as it is agreed by the other referee and both teams playing
6. Referee dress code: White/Black EC Referee polo shirt with black trousers and black shoes. Black Shirts to be worn at all times unless a team kit is black in which case the referee will wear their white shirt. Both referees must wear the same colour. No National or other region shirts are permitted. Please contact the ECRHA Executive regarding obtaining shirts

7. Failure to wear correct dress will incur a £50 fine per tournament.
8. For health and safety reasons, no walking aids may be used by referees on the rink. No referee may officiate should they have any form of plaster cast. The referee must have the ability to keep up with play.

## CUP COMPETITIONS

As agreed at the 2011 AGM the procedure for drawing pool placing for Cup Qualifiers will be carried out by the EC Committee and based on the following:

- All team lists must be submitted with the team entries prior to the draw
- If a team should pull out prior to the event a £100 fine will be imposed with no refunds of team entries

Because of the NRHA change of National Calendar where all Regional Knock Out Cup Qualifiers are to be held on one weekend, it was agreed at 2015 AGM that these will change to a true knock out format

## FINES AND DISCIPLINE

1. Failure to honour dates of tournaments shall result in fines payable as follows:

- Non-attendance £50.00 to ECRHA
- PLUS: Hosts lost rink time (payable to host team)  
Charged per hour of venue's hourly rate £35.00 per hour (maximum)
- Non-attendance at a Knockout match or  
qualifier tournament (unless 21 days notice  
of withdrawal has been given to the  
Competition Secretary) £100.00

All fines must be paid in full prior to the ECRHA AGM to allow entry to leagues for the following season.

2. If any club within or out of region, withdraws from an EC league after the fixtures meeting, they will forfeit their league entry fee
3. Appeals against fines may be made to the Competitions Secretary who, in the case of genuine reason for non-attendance, may waive, vary or suspend fine in consultation with the Executive Committee. A minimum fine equivalent to the tournament hall hire cost lost due to late cancellation will always be applied, payable to the home club
4. All regional match sheets must be returned to the EC Competition Secretary within 14 days of competition or a £20 fine will be imposed
5. Should a goalkeeper receive a blue card the following process applies:
  - The goalkeeper must leave the rink
  - The team has the option to have three minutes to change an outfield player.
  - Players will have three minutes to change back at the first natural break after the two minutes have been served
  - Play will resume after the three minutes each time whether the player is ready or not
  - Should a team have a second goalkeeper they must replace the goalkeeper who has been sent off
  - Alternatively the team can choose to play two minutes with no goalkeeper
  - A team can forfeit the game if their goalkeeper is sent off and a 10-0 win given to the opposing team
6. Although any EC player that is given a red card serves a minimum one match ban, the EC Committee retain the right to apply a fine or additional match bans for any serious incidents on or off the rink

7. As per the ECRHA AGM 2013, if a player receives a red card, the ban must be served within their next match of the same age group. Should the card be issued in the last game of the season the ban will carry over to the following season.
8. The process and procedure for red card and possible appeals are as follows:
  - In the event of a red card all paperwork, including referee reports, will be forwarded as soon as possible to the EC Competition Secretary who will pass the relevant information to the CRHR Secretary
  - The CRHR Secretary will forward these, along with any other relevant paperwork to the CRHR Disciplines and Disputes Officer
  - The Discipline and Disputes Officer will form a Committee and decide if any further information, witness statements, player statements etc are required
  - Once a decision has been made the CRHR Secretary will be advised and forward this to the relevant club(s), the player involved and the ECRHA Competition Secretary who will ensure all clubs at the relevant tournament are informed in which game(s) the ban will be served
  - Should it have been decided a further punishment/ban is to be served the player/club has a right to appeal
  
  - To appeal a decision, a letter of appeal, along with a cheque for £40 payable to ECRHA should be sent to the CRHR Secretary
  - As written in the NRHA Bye-Laws a written appeal must be received within seven days of the notification of sentence
  - The appeal is not in place until the letter AND cheque is received
  - The Secretary will forward this to the Discipline and Disputes Officer who will form a different Committee from the one that made the first decision.
  - Their decision will be sent to the CRHR Secretary
  - If the appeal is won the CRHR Secretary will notify the player/club and return their cheque
  - If the appeal is lost the CRHR Secretary will inform the player/club of the outcome and send the cheque to the treasurer of ECRHA
  
  - The player is permitted to play, after they have served their automatic one match ban, once the appeal has been lodged, until the final decision is reached

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Only the use of non-distractive and non-marking wheels and toe stops will be allowed. Any team contravening this rule will be fined an amount to be decided by the Discipline & Disputes sub-committee
2. Home clubs will be responsible for the proper organisation of their league home tournaments including the provision of timekeepers and ensuring that the rink and match equipment (eg balls, goal, nets) are serviceable and up to match standard
3. In line with international rules, shirts can be numbered 1-99, with goalkeepers wearing 1, 10, 20, 30 etc
4. As per International rule 2.6 "Light helmet to protect the head, made of non rigid plastic or leather", approved helmets for players, may be worn in Eastern Region competitions/hockey only
5. The following protective equipment must be worn by all outfield players: Gloves, Knee Pads, Shin Pads
6. Eastern Counties will allow the use of old size pads for EC regional competitions
7. Any amendments to the Constitution must be notified in writing to the General Secretary at least six weeks prior to the AGM for notification to all affiliated clubs.

*December 2016*