

SHA Ladies Outdoor League Rules (last updated May 2011)

Administration

1. The Suffolk Hockey Association Ladies Outdoor League (hereinafter referred to as SHALOL) shall run in accordance with the current rules of Hockey as published by the Hockey Rules Board for the FIH, incorporating any amendments as notified by England Hockey. The SHALOL shall be governed by the SHA through the Ladies Outdoor League Committee appointed by the SHA Committee. The said Committee shall be formed as per the SHA Constitution. The Standing Committee will appoint its Secretary and make regular reports to the SHA Executive Committee as required.
2. Rules may only be altered with the approval of the SHA Committee. Any club wishing to submit a proposed rule change to the Committee should do so in writing to the County Secretary.
3. Each club by its entry into the League shall be deemed to have given its consent to the rules of the SHALOL, and to any amendments that may from time to time be adopted in proper form, and shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the SHA Committee in accordance with Rules 2 & 5.
4. Any club shall have the right to appeal on any disputed point by submitting that disputed point in writing to the SHALOL Secretary. The Ladies Outdoor League Committee's decision is final.
5. The SHA Committee and the SHALOL Committee shall have the right to discipline any club found to act in any way contrary to the spirit or letter of these rules & this may include fines and or suspension from the League.
6. It is a mandatory requirement that clubs with one or more teams participating in the SHALOL send an accredited representative to two SHA Committee meetings and to the SHA Annual General Meeting. During the 2011/12 season these meetings should be held on 8th Nov 2011, 6th March 2012 and 8th May 2012, starting at 7.30pm at locations to be advised in good time. An individual may only represent their own SHALOL club and no other SHALOL club at the meetings. Apologies for absence are not acceptable and a fine of £50 will be levied on the club in the event of non-representation. A failure to pay any such fine within 30 days will result in a doubling of the amount and a deduction of 3 points from the club's highest placed team in the SHALOL.

Entry

7. All clubs participating in the SHALOL must be affiliated to England Hockey, the ERHA and SHA and have paid their Affiliation Fee. The League entry form must be submitted to the SHALOL together with the fee requested by the date instructed. If affiliation fees have not been paid League matches will be played but no points will be awarded to the non-subscribed team and they will have deemed to have lost by 3 goals to 0, unless losing by more goals.

Registration

8. Clubs will be required to supply a list of registered players this season. This should be sent to the SHALOL Secretary before the start of the season. No Registration Fee will be required for the 2011/2012 season. This will be reviewed annually.
9. All players must be assigned an individual Club Registration (RN) number by their club. The RN shall not be transferable to any other within the club and should be quoted on all team sheets.
10. When a club enters a team for the National League (EHL) they are required to submit to the SHALOL League Secretary a list of players registered for that Higher League for the purpose of ensuring fair conduct as per Rule 5. Any player on this list will not be eligible to play in the SHALOL.
11. The general principle is that a player should play one game for their club on any one playing day in a team that is selected from the top downwards on ability and merit. The following mitigations for "doubling up" of players have been endorsed:
 - One East League* (or a comparable league for Newmarket teams) player can play down in Suffolk Premier (subject to no more than 12 players on higher team's sheet e.g. East team) and there are only 11 players on the Suffolk Premier team sheet.
 - Two Suffolk Premier players can play down in Division 1 (subject to the Division 1 team only having 11 players on the team sheet). Any players "doubling up" to be marked on SHA team sheets.Note – A player doubling up can be a goalkeeper.

*Clarification: in the interest of fair play 'doubling up' should be viewed as the exception rather than the norm. Clubs are expected to field full individual teams whenever possible. Any 'doubling up' deemed by the league manager to be contrary to the spirit of the rule will be viewed as a breach of league rules (rule14 applies).
12. All clubs must select their teams on playing strength so that the strongest available side is put out at each level commencing with the first team. A club may not gain, or seek to gain, unfair advantage by dropping a player or players to a lower team than that for which they normally play. If any of a club's league teams are not involved in a league match, the club shall not endeavour to strengthen its lower sides by selecting the members of that team and thus potentially gain an unfair advantage. **The SHALOL Committee will closely monitor this rule.**
13. Players may only play one Suffolk League fixture on any given day, other than in the circumstances defined in Rule 11.

- 14 **Any team found to be in breach of Rules 10, 11, 12 or 13 will lose any game involved 3 – 0, unless they have lost by a bigger margin, and be fined 3 points. Further penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the SHALOL committee.**

Playing Colours & Numbers

- 15 All players shall wear the uniform notified to the SHALOL Secretary and printed in the handbook, which has been previously approved by the County Committee. Uniform to consist of shirt, skirt & socks; an alternative strip must be available and colours, which must be distinctive from the first strip, of shirt & socks, must also be notified to the SHALOL Secretary & printed in the handbook. All players must be clearly identified by a shirt number, which being not less than 8" in height & contrasting colour of the shirt shall be permanently attached to the garment at all times throughout the League matches. This shirt number may be a squad number, but this shirt number must be clearly shown on the match report sheet alongside the player's club registration number. Goalkeepers must wear colours contrasting to those of both teams; must wear protective equipment as specified in the Rules of the game. It is the responsibility of both teams to check any possible colour clash and act in accordance with Rule 15.
- 16 In the event of a colour clash, shirt or socks, the AWAY TEAM MUST CHANGE their strip. If the away team does not comply with this rule a fine of £10 will be imposed.

Players

- 17 No player shall play for more than one club at any one time. Any player wishing to change clubs must have the agreement in writing of both clubs. The SHALOL Secretary must have these agreements from each team by the Wednesday prior to playing for the new team. No transfers for registration will be accepted after 1st February of the current season. **Any club found playing a team member who has breached this rule will lose any resulting game or games by 3 – 0 or by the score if more and lose three penalty points.**

Fixtures

- 18 All fixtures will be arranged by the SHALOL Secretary on the dates decided by the SHA Committee. Clubs must post all match start times and venues on 'Fixtures Live' at least 21 days before the start of the season. (i.e., no later than 27th August 2011 for the 2011/12 season)
- 19 Any emergency changes to these details must be notified to the SHALOL Secretary by email, and to the opposing team by telephone and email giving at least 21 days notice, giving the reason for the change.
- 20 Matches must start within 10 minutes of the agreed time, unless prevented from doing so by a previous late running game. Matches in the Premier Division must be played on an artificial surface. Start times for artificial pitches may be between 10am & 4pm. Dispensation for matches starting outside these times must be sought by application in writing to the SHALOL Secretary giving at least 4 weeks notice.
- 21 **Any match not being completed due to the late arrival of a team shall result in that team forfeiting the match, the opposition being deemed to have won 3 – 0.**
- 22 Should a SHALOL umpire fail to arrive in time for a full match to be completed, then the match shall be postponed and re-arranged (see Rule 28). A report must be sent to the SHALOL League Secretary giving details for the postponement, within six days. This report must be sent by the club supplying the defaulting umpire.
- 23 In the event of adverse weather over a long period, the completion date for games could be extended at the direction of the SHA Committee.
- 24 A fixture may only be postponed for the following reasons :-
- 1 When the ground becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond the control of the home team.
 - 2 In the opinion of the team official, grounds man or umpire that the state or condition of the pitch would make play impossible or unsafe.
 - 3 An umpire fails to turn up (see Rule 22).
 - 4 In the event of a club having players committed to a County, Regional or International event. In this case postponement must be sought at least 10 days in advance of the fixture from the SHALOL Secretary.
 - 5 In the event of both teams being on the field and the conditions deteriorating, the umpires ONLY shall decide whether play shall continue. In these circumstances no points will be awarded unless both teams are in agreement the score at the point of abandonment may stand.
- 25 It shall be illegal to postpone a game by reason of either side being unable to field a full team or supply an appropriate qualified and registered umpire. Teams being in default shall forfeit the game to their opponents by a score 3-0. **All subsequent lower teams from the same club will also forfeit the game to their opponents by a score of 3-0. This will also apply if a team from a higher league fails to fulfil a fixture.**
- 26 If the home pitch is known to be unfit by Friday 6pm preceding the game, if both sides can agree the venue can be changed.
- 27 If the game is postponed under Rule 23, the game will be re-arranged by the SHALOL Secretary, and the teams notified of the date. **The SHALOL Secretary must be advised of the venue & time for the re-arranged game within SIX days. Failing to do so will incur a penalty of £10.**

Failure to Honour a Fixture

- 28 A team that forfeits three matches in the league will be automatically withdrawn from the League and all previous results will be rendered void. Participation of that team in the league in the following season will be at the discretion of the SHALOL committee. A team in Division 1 of the SHALOL that forfeits three matches **may** be withdrawn from the league at the discretion of the SHALOL committee. At the end of the season, any points awarded, or goals scored for or against, in any match involving a team that has failed to fulfil three or more fixtures, will be removed for the purpose of determining promotion places.
- 29 The home club is entitled to charge the cost of the hire of the pitch if the visiting side has failed to honour a fixture and has notified the Home club of this less than 48 hours before the scheduled start time.
- 30 If the home team causes the away team to travel unnecessarily, the away team may claim reasonable travelling expenses at a rate of 15p per mile for a maximum of 3 cars.

Umpires

- 31 All Umpires must be members of a County Hockey Umpires Association. Any breach of the rules relating to use of umpires will result in the match being awarded to the opposition. Further penalties may be awarded at the discretion of the SHALOL committee.
- 32 Umpires officiating in the SHALOL Premier Division must be qualified at level 1 or above; or have passed their England Hockey Level 1 exam (L1T) and be working towards qualification at Level 1.
- 33 Umpires officiating in the SHALOL Division 1 must be qualified at level 1 or above; or have passed their England Hockey Level 1 exam (L1T) and be working towards qualification at Level 1.
- 34 It is a condition that when an L1T status umpire is being assessed for full L1 qualification, the game must be an SHALOL Premier game or at least equivalent level, as recognised by the SCHUA.
- 35 Clubs **must** submit to the Suffolk County Hockey Umpiring Association (SCHUA) Secretary, a list of personnel who are likely to umpire matches in the SHALOL. This list must be provided before the start of the season and comprise of all umpires at Level 1 and Level 1T (under training) that clubs wish to register to officiate at SHALOL matches and who are endorsed by the SCHUA as 'active'. Contact details for those personnel (including an e-mail address where possible) should also be submitted to the SCHUA Secretary at that time. This list must be updated during the season, with any amendments notified to the SCHUA Secretary as soon as they occur. Clubs must pay the invoice issued by the SCHUA Treasurer immediately it is received.
- 36 The League Secretary will have the right to appoint neutral umpires to games that are considered to be 'sensitive' to either promotion or relegation issues. In other cases two neutral umpires can be supplied to crucial games if BOTH teams are in agreement and at least two weeks notice is given to the League Secretary.

Notification of Results

- 37 The HOME team must send both League forms with the match result, team list and signatures to the SHALOL Secretary to arrive by the Wednesday following the match. **Failure to comply with this will result in an automatic £10 fine.**
- 38 The HOME team must also notify the result by text message to 'Fixtures Live' by 7 pm on the day of the match. Details of postponed or abandoned matches, together with the reasons for such, should be notified to the SHALOL Secretary as soon as practicable, and at the latest by 7 pm on the day of the match. **Failure to comply with this will result in an automatic £10 fine.**

Other

- 39 Points will be awarded as follows:
3 points for a WIN; 1 point for a DRAW; 0 points for a LOSS
- 40 The SHALOL shall be divided into Divisions each with its own winner's trophy.
Promotion & Relegation to be on the basis of:-
Premier: Bottom two relegated.
Division 1: Top two promoted.
In the case of a tie, the club with the better goal difference shall be in the higher position, in the event of a further tie, the club with the most goals FOR shall be deemed the higher. PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY DEPENDING ON THE EAST WOMENS LEAGUE.
- 41 Any team wishing to resign from the League will send their resignation to the SHALOL Secretary and all results so far will be declared null & void. This team will be deemed to have been relegated.
- 42 All games must be completed by Sunday 15th April 2012.