

GIBRALTAR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1. THE ASSOCIATION

- a) The association shall be known as the Gibraltar Hockey Association (GHA) and will be controlled by an Executive Committee, to be known as the Executive Council.

2. OBJECTIVES

- a) The objectives of the Association are to promote and control Hockey as a sport in Gibraltar.
- b) To develop and promote all aspects of the game of Hockey in conjunction with the Gibraltar Hockey Umpires Association, all registered clubs and both the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the EuroHockey.
- c) To control all monies derived from club registrations, individual membership fees, fines, and any other means of revenue, which the Association may derive.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership will cover the period of one year from 1st October to 30th September of the following year.
- b) The annual subscription of teams, members and players shall be determined at Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings of the Association.
- c) Members will be registered and issued with a membership number and list of registered players that will have to be produced at all games to allow the Judge/Umpires to register the player on the match sheet.
- d) No Clubs or individual member will be allowed to organise or participate in any organised competition and/or match in or away from Gibraltar without the approval of the Council, other than GH competition.
- e) Affiliation of teams to the Association is as follows:
 - 1) First Division Teams – Two Hundred Pounds (£200).
 - 2) Second Division Teams – One Hundred and Fifty Pounds (£150)
 - 3) Under 16 Teams – One Hundred Pounds (£100) for participating in the Ladies and Youth development league.
- f) Players Registrations are as follows:
 - 1) First and Second Division players – Sixty Pounds (£60)

- 2) Local Students – Sixty Pounds (£60)
 - 3) Non-playing members – Fifteen Pounds (£15)
- g) The amounts stated in paragraph (e) and (f) above can be modified according to paragraph (b) above.

4. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND POWERS

- a) The Executive Council will be composed of the Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, Public Relations Officer, and Assistant Fixture Secretary. The President of the Gibraltar Umpires Association and the Youth Development Officer (Appointed by the Council). The Youth Development Officer will not hold Executive powers but may be called upon by the council to assist.
- b) The Association may elect an Honorary President. This position will carry no executive powers and will not form part of the Executive Council. However, the Honorary President may assist if called upon by the Council.
- c) The post of Honorary President will be voted at the AGM and the incumbent of the post will form part of the Association's representation at FIH and EuroHockey forums. This post will be held on a two-year term. The post will be a non-executive post with no voting rights.
- d) The Executive Council will control all aspects of hockey in Gibraltar.
- e) The Executive Council will ensure compliance on the safeguarding of its members under eighteen years of age and will abide by its safeguarding policy.
- f) The Executive Council will be elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Association and will serve for two consecutive years. Only fully paid-up members of the Association will be eligible for election and to vote.
- g) The Hon. General Secretary shall call for meetings of the Executive Council with prior approval of the president. The Hon. General Secretary shall keep record of all such meetings. The quorum for such meetings will be three members.
- h) The Hon. Treasurer shall keep records of the accounts of the Association finances and shall present audited statements of such accounts at the Annual General meeting.

5. ANNUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall normally be held in September.
- b) The Hon. General Secretary shall keep written minutes of AGMs and EGMs.
- c) The quorum for an AGM will be twenty (20) members and this will include the Council. Only registered and fully paid members of the Association will be allowed to vote or speak at the AGM.

- d) The Hon. General Secretary of the Association shall give fourteen (14) days' notice of the AGM in the local press and shall notify in writing of the date and place of the AGM to the representative of each affiliated Club and the Umpires Association.
- e) The Council may convene an EGM provided fourteen (14) days' notice has been given by an advert in the local press.
- f) Any member wishing to convene an EGM may do so provided he/she submits an application for the said EGM with twenty-five (25) signatures of fully paid registered members, quoting their membership number and name, specifying the reason for the EGM.
- g) The Hon. General Secretary of the Association shall then place an advert in the local press notifying members of the EGM quoting the Agenda and shall do so within fourteen (14) days of receiving the relative application.
- h) The quorum for an EGM called by members shall be twenty-five (25) fully paid members, including the Council, of whom twenty (20) members must be signatories to the application for the EGM. If the Council calls the EGM then twenty (20) fully paid members including the Council shall constitute a quorum.
- i) Any additions, deletions and/or alteration to the Articles of the Constitution of the Association may be carried at the EGM specially called for that purpose.

6. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- a) There shall be a GHA Disciplinary Committee. The GHA shall pursuant to point (b) below appoint annually an independent chairman of the Disciplinary Committee to be known as the Disciplinary Chairman together with a minimum of three (3) independent Disciplinary Committee Members. The Disciplinary Chairman, with the approval of the GHA, shall appoint annually up to six (6) persons as Disciplinary Committee Members. The quorum for the Disciplinary Committee is three (3) members.
- b) The GHA when appointing a Disciplinary Chairman and Disciplinary Committee shall procure that the following criteria is met:
 - i. The Disciplinary Chairman and Disciplinary Committee Member is not nor has been a member of the Gibraltar Hockey Association in the past.
 - ii. Does not have any immediate family (for the purpose of this section only immediate family member shall construed to mean, a son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandson or grand-daughter, father, mother, brother and/or sister) actively participating in any locally registered hockey team.
 - iii. Does not have any vested interest in any club or team participating and registering in any GHA competition.

- c) The Disciplinary Chairman may nominate a deputy, who may sit as Chairman should the Disciplinary Chairman be unable to attend any meeting.
- d) The Disciplinary Chairman and/or Committee member who has a vested interest either in the incident been brought to them and/or the person being disciplined should make this known to the Council at the earliest opportunity and recuse himself from attending the Disciplinary Hearing.
- e) The Disciplinary Committee must not be comprised of registered members of the association and its members must not have a direct affiliation to any registered club or to the alleged offender.
- f) Any player(s) expelled from the field of play must leave the precinct of the stadium and is subject to an automatic one match suspension.
- g) The Hon. General Secretary will send a report of the offence to the Disciplinary Chairman within 48 hours, and the Disciplinary Chairman, in consultation with the Disciplinary Committee will decide whether a Disciplinary Hearing is required or whether a one match ban is sufficient.
- h) If the Disciplinary Committee requests a hearing, the expelled player(s) must be allowed to attend and can be accompanied by one club representative. The committee should meet within 72 hours of notification that a hearing is necessary. In any case, the Disciplinary Committee must meet prior to any game which the expelled player may take part in after the automatic one game ban.
- i) The Disciplinary Chairman may, upon an application in writing, and in consultation with the Disciplinary Committee, stay the one match suspension if there are exceptional grounds of doing so.
- j) If necessary, the Disciplinary Chairman will inform the Hon. General Secretary of the time and date of the hearing, who will in-turn inform the player(s) concerned verbally or in writing, as well as the Umpire(s) concerned.
- k) The Umpire must attend the Disciplinary Committee hearing to expand on his reason for dismissal of the player(s). The Disciplinary Committee will use the Code of Conduct as a guideline when sentence is awarded.
- l) The Disciplinary Committee may call upon any person whom it deems fit to give evidence and any person may request to be heard and will be allowed to address the committee should the interest of fairness require them to do so. The Disciplinary Committee shall in accordance with paragraph 6(m) below consider any relevant video or photographic evidence made available to them.
- m) Where the player, the club representatives and/or the Umpire or reporting person wishes to present any evidence supporting their case, the Disciplinary is obliged to accept submission of the evidence and duly consider such evidence when considering the appropriate sanction or whether to sanction or not the alleged offender.

- n) The finding of the hearing will be notified to the Council after the hearing and confirmed in writing by the Hon. General Secretary of the Association to the representative Club(s)
- o) Three (3) yellow cards in any one competition will be a one (1) match suspension. (If a yellow card is followed by a red card in the same match, the yellow will not count towards the accumulation of yellow cards.) Once the member serves the match suspension, his/her record is set back to zero (0).
- p) Notwithstanding the above provisions of Disciplinary Committee shall ensure that the principles of natural justice and fairness are adhered to strictly.
- q) A suspended player(s) is not allowed to take part in any domestic competition organised by the GHA. The 7-a-side or the 11-a-side Lightning Competition will count as one (1) match.
- r) Only matches played by the team in which the player is registered will count towards the total match suspension.

7. APPEALS

- a) There shall be GHA appeal panel. The GHA shall appoint annually an independent Chairman of the Appeal Panel to be known as the Appeal Chairman. The Appeal Chairman, with the approval of the GHA, shall appoint annually up to six (6) persons as Appeal Panel Members. The quorum of an Appeal Panel is three (3) members.
- b) Paragraph 6(b) shall apply equally to the Appeal Chairman and Appeal Panel.
- c) The Appeal Chairman may nominate a deputy, who may sit as chairman should the Appeal Chairman be unable to attend any meeting.
- d) The Appeal Panel must not be comprised of registered members of the association and its members must not have a direct affiliation to any registered club or to the alleged offender.
- e) No person who has previously been involved in an adjudicating on the subject matter of the appeal or is directly concerned in the incident that led to the decision being appealed against should be a member of the Appeal Panel.
- f) Should a player(s) wish to appeal against a suspension, he/she must do so within 48 hours from the time of notification of the result of the hearing.
- g) The Appeal must be in writing and addressed to the President of the Association and must be accompanied by the prescribed fee of fifty pounds (£50). The appeal notice should state whether the appeal is in respect of the whole decision or of the sanction imposed. The appeal should also state whether an oral hearing is requested.
- h) The Hon. Secretary will then inform the player(s) or member(s) either verbally or in writing of the time, date and venue of the Appeals Committee hearing.

- i) The Appeal Chairman may, upon an application in writing by the appellant, stay or vary any sanction which is the subject of the appeal pending determination of the appeal. The Appeal Chairman may also extend the time period for filing the notice of appeal.
- j) The Appeal Panel may call in any person(s) whom it thinks fit to give evidence and will have the power to alter, rescind or confirm the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be communicated to the player(s) within 24 hours of the hearing and confirmed in writing.
- k) The prescribed fee for an appeal may be altered in any AGM of the Association.
- l) Notwithstanding anything contained in these provisions, the Appeal Panel will ensure that the principles of natural justice and fairness are adhered to strictly. In the event of an allegation of a breach of natural justice, the Executive Council may, upon an application in writing by the aggrieved party and if satisfied that a breach may have occurred, declare that the procedure is void and refer the matter back to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration as if it were a new report.

8. NATIONAL SELECTOR AND REPRESENTATIVE SIDE

- a) The council will appoint the Nation Selector(s) and he/she will be solely responsible to the Council.
- b) He/she will be responsible for the GHA Nation Squad at the level appointed and of any other representative squad he/she might be instructed by the Council to take charge. He/she will be responsible for the selection of players in consultation with the Council.
- c) The National Selector(s) may appoint a Trainer and/or Coach or any person he/she thinks qualified to help him/her but he/she must submit his/her nomination(s) to the Council for its approval.
- d) He/she will have the right to discipline and player(s) for the lack of effort at training or matches or any action, which might hinder the efficient running of the squad(s).
- e) Should he/she have a cause to discipline any player(s) he/she will inform the Council of his/her actions and the Council will have the prerogative of taking further action against the player(s) concerned if the gravity of the offence so warrants it.

9. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- a) No reserve side will be eligible for promotion to First Division Competition.
- b) If the First Division League comprises of three (3) teams, any eligible team, subject to (a) above, can apply to the Council for promotion into First Division.
- c) If the First Division League comprises of six (6) teams or more, the Second Division League

Champions, provided it does not infringe (a) above, will be automatically promoted to the First Division and the last placed team in the First Division League will be relegated to the Second Division.

- d) Should the Second Division League Champions be a reserve side, all the honours will be given to them but the next placed team eligible for promotion will play the last team in the First Division League for a place in First Division.
- e) The Executive Council shall be empowered to incorporate any other division within the framework of local competitions.

10. QUALIFICATIONS FOR NATIONAL STATUS

- a) FIH Rules will be observed.

11. NATIONAL COLOURS

- a) White and/or Red shirt, alternating with Red or White shorts/skirts and Red, Blue or Red/Black hooped socks.

12. EUROHOCKEY REPRESENTATIVES

- a) The First Division League Champion will represent the GHA at the EuroHockey Club Championships at the higher level.
- b) The First Division runner up will represent the GHA at the EuroHockey Club Championships at the lower level.

BYE LAWS

1. RULES, REGULATIONS AND TRANSFERS

- a) All teams, players, managers, coaches, assistant coaches, and members are to be registered with the Association and registration fees paid before the commencement of each season. The official season will be between the 1st day of October and the 30th day of September (both days inclusive). Additional players and members must be lodged and paid for forty-eight (48) hours before any official match. Registration forms and disclaimers must be signed and returned to a member of the Association.
- b) Transfers in general and new signings will not be permitted after 15th March, in line with EuroHockey regulations. Players signing for a Second Division or Development team, will not be restricted to when they can sign up to a team. These players will not be allowed to play in any EuroHockey competition that season.
- c) Once transferred, a player will not be able to be transferred back to his original side during that season.
- d) Every transfer must be in the prescribed form and have the authorisation of a team official and must be accompanied by the transfer fee.
- e) If a player wants to transfer and he/she is not allowed by his/her team, he/she has the right to appeal to the Chairman of the Association, who will hear his/her appeal with the Council. No fee is charged for this appeal.
- f) First Division teams must nominate a first team squad of at least twelve (12) players before the start of the league. A maximum of three (3) players from this list can play for their reserve side in any particular fixture. The list of players will be scrutinised by the Council to ensure propriety.
- g) Any First Division team will be allowed to have a reserve side in the Second Division and shall be called “..... Reserves”.
- h) No reserve side will be allowed to be promoted to the First Division. The Reserve side will, however, count as members of the First Division squad for the European Competitions.
- i) Any team who fails to turn up for a scheduled official game without prior authorisation from the Fixture Secretary will be fined one hundred and sixty (£160) pounds. A win will be recorded to the opposing side and five (5) goals given to them. Should a team fail to turn up for a second time in the same competition, they will then forfeit the right to participate in the said competition.
- j) Teams wishing to change their fixtures must notify the Fixture Secretary and complete the Request to Change Fixture at least four weeks before the date of the match. The Fixture

Secretary, may consult the Council, will then decide whether there are any grounds for postponing the fixture. Otherwise, the date sanctioned will be adhered to.

- I. Request to Change Fixture form must be completed and agreed to by both teams.
 - II. Any applications sent after the four-week deadline will not be considered.
 - III. In extreme circumstances the Fixtures Secretary may postpone a match at short notice.
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- k) All trophies remain the property of the Association, but should a team win any competition five consecutive seasons, a replica of the trophy will be presented to this team in recognition of their achievement.
 - l) Any of the Association's Bye Laws may be amended, deleted and any new one introduced at the EGM or AGM of the Association.
 - m) No mixing of sexes will be allowed in any official competition unless otherwise specifically organised by the council.
 - n) Second Division Reserve side players may play for their own respective First Division teams.
 - o) Players under the age of eighteen (18) before the start of the official season will be allowed to play in both divisions with no restrictions of number of matches.
 - p) Any Gibraltar student studying overseas will be allowed to play in the local competitions as long as they are registered with a local club and are fully aware that if they are playing for any other team abroad it is their responsibility to inform the association of the club's name and should understand that they **will not be able to play for any of the local sides in any European Competition** during that season.
 - q) No person who is not a registered member of this Association will be allowed to play, manage or coach. They will not be able to include their name on the match report and will therefore not be permitted to sit on the team bench.

ANNEX A

RULES FOR FIRST AND SECOND DIVISION LEAGUES

1. Teams to be at the ground 10 minutes before the start of the game.
2. All players of the same team (except the goalkeeper) must wear the same colour numbered shirts, short/skorts and socks. Goalkeeper tops must not clash with the opposing team's colour.
3. In the event of teams having the same colours, the away team (second mentioned) will have to change.
4. Players are allowed the use of "Cycling Shorts" so long as they are of the same colour as the shorts/skirts worn on top.
5. Teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start a game. If there are less than eight (8) players, the Umpires will wait a maximum of five (5) minutes, at the end of which time, the team failing to field the eight (8) players will be dealt with as per Bye Law paragraph (i).
6. Team sheets to be handed to the delegate before the start of the game, failing this, the game will start, and the team captain will not be allowed to play until such time as he/she provides a team sheet.
7. Home team (first mentioned) must produce to the Technical Delegate or Umpire a match ball before the start of the game.
8. Duration of matches will be dependent on the score board being in use. Matches where the scoreboard is in use will run as per FIH rule 5.1, A match consists of four quarters of 15 minutes, an interval of 2 minutes between quarter 1 and 2 and between quarter 3 and 4 and a half- time interval of 5 minutes between quarter 2 and 3. If the scoreboard is not in use, each quarter will be 17 minutes and 30 seconds with the same intervals as before.
9. Goal difference will count in order to decide the League positions should any ties on points occur. Should a tie still persist, then the following will be observed in order to settle the tie:
 - a) Goal in favour.
 - b) Goal against.
 - c) Personal result between both teams.
 - d) Penalty Shoot-out on completion of the last game.
10. The Council's decision on any other matters not listed above is final.

ANNEX B

RULES FOR THE GHA CUP

All rules for the cup will be played in accordance with those for the League with the exception that the cup will be structured by the Committee depending on the number of teams entering each division.