

APPENDIX

Please note that before reaching its final decision the HKHAWS considered the following alternatives:

Extending the season beyond 31 May 2020

After a break of over 3.5 months from hockey, it would be difficult to ensure the health and safety of participants in the warmer conditions coupled with the ongoing uncertainty about the impact of Covid-19.

Playing shortened rounds (e.g. half rounds/grand champs amongst top 4)

As team sports remain suspended there will not be enough time for teams to resume training and complete these matches.

Declaring winners and losers after round 1 games

Teams have been competing on the basis of two full rounds and to change the rules mid-season after the fact on how to determine a league winner or loser is arbitrary and unfair as it does not provide a true reflection of the competition and the same rule must also be applied across all divisions. In addition, by declaring a winner it is implied under the bye-laws and promotion guidelines that the relevant team deserves promotion and that a team at the bottom should be relegated. This is too subjective given that the majority of teams have played less than 65% of their matches. Furthermore, examining leagues around the world facing a similar situation, first round results only has not been selected as an option to determine winners and the HKHAWS does not want to be the only one to deviate from these general principles of fairness and integrity of the competition.

It is noted that one football league determined final league standings based on points per game ratio after the league was abandoned but this professional league needed to determine a final ranking in order for teams to qualify for European football competitions. In addition, a higher percentage of games had been played.

Determine the competitions abandoned with insufficient games played to award division champion to any team and no promotion or relegations.

This is consistent with the approach taken by other sports globally as highlighted below and deemed the fairest way to resolve the matter.

For reference here is a brief summary of some of the other sports looked at, both in Hong Kong and internationally:

Hong Kong Rugby	Season has been concluded with winners declared only for those divisions that had been decided prior to Chinese New Year.
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Hong Kong Cricket	League and cup events null and void except for those already completed.
Belgian Hockey	Higher grades cancelled with no winners declared but relevant clubs nominated to play in the EHL
Dutch Hockey	Null and Void – relevant clubs had already qualified for EHL
Irish Hockey	All hockey deemed finished and EYHL 1 and 2 null and void
Scottish Hockey	Premiership, national, regional and championship leagues suspended. District hockey leagues declared null and void.
England Hockey	All regular premier league games played but not play off matches and other leagues generally only have one or two games unplayed – remaining games will not be played – Premier champions declared – promotion and relegation will occur according to details published by England Hockey.
French Hockey	All leagues are cancelled. It is not possible to declare winners or losers or promote/relegate teams.
England Football	Non-league divisions - null and void. National league – remaining games cancelled – decision on how to determine season is pending. Premier league – suspended.
Dutch Football	Top two Dutch leagues abandoned with no promotion or relegation and no champions.
French Football	Top two divisions abandoned and final standings decided by a points per game system.