

Convenors' Meeting Notes

2026 Season

1. League Structure

Please refer to the attached League Structure document.

2. Round-Robin Format

This season, Divisions 2 to 6 will each play a full double round-robin (home and away). For the Premier League and Division 1, teams will be split into three pools for the second round: Prem A, Prem B, and Div 1B. Each pool will be made up of 6 Teams.

3. Fixtures

Please refer to the attached fixture list. The finalised version, and any subsequent changes, will be posted on the website.

4. Changes to the Competition Bye-Laws

Please refer to the attached document for the updated Competition Bye-Laws.

5. Face Masks When Defending a Penalty Corner

Defenders must wear a face mask while defending a penalty corner (PC). Any defender without a face mask must retreat to the halfway line. Face masks may only be removed once the penalty corner is complete — please refer to the FIH Rules of Hockey for the definition of a completed penalty corner.

6. Bad Weather Arrangements

Under Competition Bye-law 12.4: if a Black Rainstorm Warning or a Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above is in force at the scheduled starting time, the match will not commence. Unless the Committee announces otherwise, matches are expected to proceed as scheduled, and umpires will make the final decision at the pitch.

Play will resume two hours after a Black Rainstorm Warning or Typhoon Signal No. 8 is lowered.

7. E-Match Cards

- The home team must enter the umpires' registration numbers before submitting the match card.
- Both team captains must be indicated on the match card.
- The home team captain is responsible for ensuring the umpires submit the match card before leaving the venue. Late submission may result in a penalty for the home team.

8. Walkovers

A team conceding a walkover must inform the Committee at least 24 hours before the scheduled start time; otherwise it will be recorded as a no-show. Outside office hours, please WhatsApp any of the MS committee member.

9. U21 Player Eligibility

U21 players may no longer play for two teams on the same day. However, to support player development, the player movement rules have been relaxed: a U21 player may play up to 8 games for a team in a higher division before being automatically registered to the highest-ranked team they have represented.

10. Police and Ambulance Call-Outs

If a team calls the police or an ambulance during a match, please inform the Committee within 24 hours so the matter can be followed up. If calling an ambulance at HKFC, please inform HKFC staff first.

11. Player Identity Checks

- All teams must prepare a team list with player photos for every match and produce it upon request.
- If a team has doubts about an opponent's player's identity, the captain may ask the umpire to check that player's identity.
- A player who fails to prove their identity (a document with a photo) when requested, for any reason, will be regarded as an ineligible player, and the MS Committee will act in accordance with Competition Bye-law 21.1.
- Identity checks may be requested before the match, and at the quarter and half-time breaks. Captains must raise any identity query before the start of the fourth quarter, unless the player concerned arrives late.
- Umpires and captains must record any failed identity check in the match card remarks.

12. Umpire Identity Checks

If there is any doubt about an umpire's identity, team captains may ask the umpire to show their Hong Kong Identity Card. If the umpire cannot provide proof of identity, teams may request that the umpire stop officiating; the match will then continue in accordance with Competition Bye-law 13.2 (umpire failing to appear).

13. Playing Kit

The home team must wear its first-choice strip colour, unless both teams agree otherwise.

14. Player Misconduct on the Pitch

Complaints about an opponent's misconduct on the pitch must be supported by video evidence; without it, the Committee will not be able to open an investigation.

15. Red Cards

A player who receives a red card must leave the playing area immediately. At HV1, HV2, LF, and BS, the player must remain outside the pitch fence. At HKFC and KP, the player may retreat to the spectator stand.

16. Disciplinary Records

Disciplinary records are circulated and updated on the website every month. For enquiries about a specific player, please email the office to confirm eligibility before the match.

17. Umpiring Duties

- Each club must register at least one umpire per team it fields (e.g. a club with 3 teams must register at least 3 umpires).
- Each umpire may be registered to one club only.
- Clubs that do not meet this requirement before the season starts must do so by the end of the season.
- Clubs that cannot meet the requirement, or that have difficulty registering for an umpiring course, should inform the Committee at least 7 days before the course begins.
- Only umpires registered to a Club, Divisional, or Premier Panel may officiate for that club.
- The list of Premier and Divisional Panel Umpires is available on the website.

- To raise standards, the Umpires Section (US) will soon launch a training programme for new umpires and TPs. Details will follow in a separate US circular.

18. Pitch Booking Sign-Off

The home captain of the first match of the day must sign for the full-day pitch booking under HockeyHK. All home team captains are advised to confirm the pitch booking has been signed before their match begins.