



Ulster Hockey Ltd  
Byelaws

Adopted 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## **1.0 TITLE**

- 1.1 The company's name is Ulster Hockey Ltd and it is the governing body for hockey in Ulster.
- 1.2 'Hockey', in this document, includes all forms of hockey recognised by the Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH), the European Hockey Federation (EHF) and Hockey Ireland, to which the charity shall be affiliated. The responsibility of Ulster Hockey shall be the governance and administration of hockey in Ulster.

## **2.0 MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 Membership of the Ulster Hockey will be open to any club, school, third level college or university situated in Ulster and wishing to participate in the game of hockey. Any such club, school, third level college or university shall agree to be bound by the Memorandum & Articles of Association and Byelaws of Ulster Hockey and Hockey Ireland.
- 2.2 Such affiliated club, school, college, or university shall provide to Ulster Hockey 31st May in each year, the name, postal address, email address and telephone number of its Honorary Secretary (or teacher in charge of hockey in the case of schools) to whom all correspondence shall be sent.

## **3.0 NEW CLUB**

- 3.1 Application for a new club to join the Ulster Hockey must be made in writing stating:
  - a. names and addresses of the officers of the club and particulars of the clubs of which they were last members, if any;
  - b. situation and means of access to their ground;
  - c. proposed club colours and details of the proposed design of playing kit;
  - d. nature and situation of dressing accommodation;all of which must be approved by the Competitions Committee.
- 3.2 At the same meeting there must be presented a proposal for admission signed by the honorary secretaries of two (2) affiliated clubs or by two officers of the Company. If the application is approved the club shall be admitted upon payment to Ulster Hockey of their first annual affiliation fee as may be fixed by a General Meeting.

## **4.0 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY / REGISTRATION**

- 4.1 A player can only be registered for one club in Ulster at any one time and are also subject to the Registration and Transfer rules of Ulster Hockey.
- 4.2 No player may play in any Ulster Hockey competition unless they have been registered with Ulster Hockey, have met all Hockey Ireland membership requirements, and been provided with a Hockey Ireland membership number.

## **5.0 BOARD**

- 5.1 The Board shall be responsible for the governance and oversight of Ulster Hockey in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (or any statutory modification or re-enactment for the time being in force thereof).
- 5.2 The Board will be constituted as follows:

- a. Chair
- b. Vice-Chair
- c. Director of Finance & Governance
- d. Director of Communications & Marketing
- e. Director of Coaching & Pathways
- f. Director of Participation & Development
- g. Director of Inclusion & Welfare
- h. 2 Non-Executive Directors

5.3 And/or such positions as the Board may determine from time-to-time and as appointed to the relevant Committee (where appropriate)

## **6.0 COMMITTEES**

6.1 The Board shall establish Committees as may be required for the governance and management of Hockey in Ulster to include Committees with responsibility in the areas of:

- a. Finance & Governance
- b. Communications & Marketing
- c. Coaching & Pathways
- d. Participation & Development
- e. Inclusion & Welfare

6.2 Each of these Committees will have agreed terms of reference and will be chaired by the relevant Board Director and supported where appropriate by members of the Ulster Hockey Executive on an advisory, non-voting basis.

## **7.0 SUB COMMITTEES**

7.1 Ulster Hockey will establish sub-committees and/or working groups as may be required for the operation of Ulster Hockey to include committees with the responsibility in the areas of:

- a. Competitions
- b. Schools Hockey
- c. Youth Hockey
- d. Umpiring and Officiating
- e. Disciplinary
- f. Risk Management

and other such areas as may be deemed necessary by the Board from time to time. Each Sub Committee will report into an agreed Committee.

## **8.0 EMERGENCY SUB COMMITTEE**

8.1 The Emergency Committee shall comprise of the President, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Board, the Director of Finance and the Chief Executive and shall have the power to deal with matters requiring immediate attention between Board meetings.

## **9.0 DISCIPLINE**

- 9.1 Disciplinary matters are covered under the Ulster Hockey's Competition Rules and Regulations, Ulster Hockey's Code of Conduct and Ulster Hockey's Disciplinary Regulations and Procedures.

## **10.0 DISCIPLINARY SUB-COMMITTEE**

- 10.1 The Disciplinary Sub-Committee is appointed by the Ulster Hockey Management Board to deal with and make decisions relating to charges of misconduct, breaches of Ulster Hockey's Code of Conduct, breaches of Ulster Hockey's Articles of Association, Bye-Laws or any other matter referred to it by the Ulster Hockey Management Board.
- 10.2 The Disciplinary Sub-Committee will operate in accordance with Ulster Hockey's Disciplinary Procedures & Regulations that will be annually reviewed by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee and presented to the Ulster Hockey Management Board for approval.

## **11.0 APPEALS COMMISSIONER**

- 11.1 The Ulster Hockey Management Board will appoint a suitably qualified Appeal Commissioner to serve for a prescribed term as agreed between the Ulster Hockey Management Board and the Appeal Commissioner. The position of Appeal Commissioner may attract an honorarium.
- 11.2 At the end of the prescribed term, it will be the responsibility of the Ulster Hockey Management Board to appoint or re-appoint an Appeal Commissioner to serve another agreed term. No Appeal Commissioner may serve more than 2 (two terms), not exceeding 5 (five) years.
- 11.3 The Appeal Commissioner will be responsible for investigating, requesting evidence and representation, and adjudicating on the issues raised in Appeal.
- 11.4 The Appeal Commissioner will perform their duties in accordance with Ulster Hockey's Appeal Regulations that will be periodically reviewed by the Ulster Hockey CEO and presented to the Ulster Hockey Management Board for approval.

## **12.0 APPEALS**

- 12.1 A member, as defined and in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association of Ulster Hockey, shall have a right of appeal to the Appeals Commissioner against a decision of any Committee, Sub-Committee, or the Ulster Hockey Management Board on payment of the applicable fee to Ulster Hockey.
- 12.2 Third Parties also have a right of appeal to the Appeals Commissioner against a decision of any Committee, Sub-Committee, or the Ulster Hockey Management Board on payment of the applicable fee to Ulster Hockey.
- 12.3 All appeals must be forwarded in writing to the Ulster Hockey CEO within fourteen (14) days of the date on the notification of the decision together with the payment of the applicable fee. This fee shall be forfeited to Ulster Hockey unless the appeal is upheld or the Appeal Commissioner decides otherwise.
- 12.4 If an appeal is withdrawn or rendered void before the Appeals Commissioner has considered it, or if, for any reason except withdrawal thereafter, the appeal was not heard, the fee may be returned, less any costs incurred.
- 12.5 If an appeal is upheld, the fee shall be returned.

### **13.0 APPEALS ARBITRATION**

- 13.1 All decisions issued by the Appeals Commissioner may be appealed by any party involved in the matter under consideration for final arbitration in accordance with the rules of Sports Disputes Ireland OR Sports Resolutions UK.

### **14.0 UMPIRE PANEL**

- 14.1 All clubs with a 1st XI team playing senior hockey in the Men's EYHL, Premier or Intermediate league and / or in the Ladies EYHL, Premier, Senior 1 or Senior 2 league MUST have at least one graded umpire (minimum National Panel 2 or a National Candidate Panel Umpire waiting for assessment) per 1st XI team, to be available to take umpire appointments for the Ulster Umpire Men's and / or Ladies' panels every week (Saturday) during the season.
- 14.2 ALL 1st XI matches, played in any other senior league, in the absence of appointed panel umpires, must be umpired by registered club umpires. Clubs MUST ensure that their appointed club umpire(s) has/have attained, as a minimum, a candidate umpire qualification in the last 2 years AND has/have a valid Ulster Hockey Umpire Registration number.
- 14.3 Adherence to Byelaws 14.1. and 14.2. will be assessed at two review points during the season (December & April/May) by:
- a. In the case of Byelaw 14.1. examining the availability of a club's nominated panel umpire(s) to take appointments.
  - b. In the case of Byelaw 14.2. examining match cards to confirm fixtures have been umpired by qualified (as detailed) club umpires.
  - c. Clubs who fail to meet the availability target recommended by the Umpires' Committee and approved by the Ulster Hockey Board will be deemed not to have complied with Byelaw 14.1.
- 14.4 Any Club / 1st Team failing to adhere to ByeLaw 14.1, or 14.2 or 14.3, may be sanctioned by fine as recommended by the Umpires' Committee and approved by the Ulster Hockey Board.

### **15.0 EQUITY**

- 15.1 Ulster Hockey respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of the sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social /economic status.

### **16.0 ANTI DOPING**

- 16.1 In the area of an-doping, the Ulster Hockey defers to the jurisdiction of the Hockey Ireland. Further to this clause;
- a. the an-doping rules of the Hockey Ireland ('the An-Doping Rules') apply to hockey in the province of Ulster and Northern Ireland; and
  - b. persons participating in the sport of hockey under the jurisdiction of the Ulster Hockey who qualify as 'Participants' (as that term is defined in the An-Doping Rules) are bound by and must comply in all respects with the An-Doping Rules.

- 16.2 Ulster Hockey shall recognise and take all necessary steps to give full force and effect within its jurisdiction (a) to the An-Doping Rules; and (b) to any sanction(s) imposed under the An-Doping Rules

#### **17.0 CODE OF ETHICS AND GOOD PRACTICE FOR CHILDREN IN SPORT**

- 17.1 Ulster Hockey subscribes to the IHA Code of Ethics for young People in Hockey as well as the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport as set out jointly by Sport Northern Ireland and Sport Ireland.

#### **18.0 INSURANCE**

- 18.1 All clubs affiliated to Ulster Hockey must have Public Liability Insurance in force at all times with terms and conditions as shall be determined from time to time by the Board. Clubs shall submit written evidence of this insurance if requested to do so.

#### **19.0 SPONSORSHIP**

- 19.1 No club or school may enter into any form of sponsorship which would conflict with sponsorship agreements or the objectives of the Ulster Hockey; and
- 19.2 No club or school should enter into any form of sponsorship which may be determined by the Ulster Hockey Board to be unethical or bring the sport into disrepute.

#### **20.0 COMPETITIONS**

- 20.1 All competitions operated under the jurisdiction of Ulster Hockey and clubs participating in the competitions are bound by the Competition Rules and Regulations.