

Southern Counties Hockey Association

South JAC Championship Rules

1. The Championship

- a. The South JAC Championship will be run by the South Junior Committee (SJC) of the Southern Counties' Hockey Association (SCHA).
- b. In the SCHA region, it is the JAC Competition Phase of the Single System – Player Pathway.
- c. These rules will be under the control of the SJC and any amendments shall be approved by the SJC.
- d. The competition will be administered by the Junior Management Committee (JMC). The JMC will appoint a Championship Co-ordinator (CC) and may delegate any of their powers to the CC, other such persons that they appoint or the SJC as they from time to time decide.
- e. The standard structure of the Championship will be a single division round robin.
- f. Where there are too many teams for this to be run effectively, the JMC will annually determine the optimum format for each age group.

2. Entry to the Championship

- a. The CC shall invite all Junior Administrators (JA) at counties affiliated to SCHA to request the number of teams they wish to enter for the forthcoming season.
- b. The CC shall set a deadline for such applications that shall be no earlier than 15th July prior to the following JAC season.
- c. Where a County requests to enter more than one JAC team for a particular age group then:
 - i. The JMC will consider the each request and will permit those where they think that the additional teams will be competitive and enhance the championship.
 - ii. At the county's discretion, players within the county shall be allocated in such a way that the teams will be of equal strength.
- d. Withdrawal of a JAC team after the deadline for entries will be dealt with under clause 11 Breach of Rules.

3. Eligibility of Teams and Players

- a. By entering, each JAC is deemed to have consented to and be bound by these rules and will nominate a JA, by the 31st December prior to the following JAC season, who will be the sole point of contact with the CC.
- b. The championship shall be run at U13, U14, U15, U16 and U17 levels for both boys and girls, the qualification date is 01 January of the year in which the championship is being played. The relevant age qualifications are:

2015-16 Age Qualifications:	
Age group	Born on or after 01 Jan
U13	2003
U14	2002
U15	2001
U16	2000
U17	1999

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- c. Where a county has the same number of JACs at all age groups then a player may only play for one named JAC during the season.
- d. Where a county runs a different number of JACs at different age groups the county shall specify before 01 February (29 February for the 2016 season) which JAC a player can play for that season in such a way that a player is only eligible for one JAC at each age group. In this case the squad member names should be passed to the CC.
- e. A player is normally expected to play for the age group for which they were selected.
- f. No player shall represent a younger age group to the one that they qualify for. They may represent an older age group.
- g. Where a county is unable to field a full playing squad (either 16 outfield and 2 keepers or 17 out field and 1 keeper) the following approach shall be taken:
 - i. Replacements should be taken from the following sources to bring them up to these levels from:
 - 1. Those who attended the JDCs run by that JAC
 - 2. Their associated county and not selected for a JAC.
 - ii. Where a JAC has more than one team in a single age group they cannot transfer players between the two teams. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no recourse to applying to a committee to request such a move.
 - iii. Each county JAC team is considered as a single entity and bound by the same rules as if it was from another JAC.
 - iv. A player only plays for one squad per day.
- h. Without specific dispensation from the CC, a player must play for one of the JACs that are run by the county whose JDCs it last attended, in the case of those who have reached JRPC this will relate to the JDC from an earlier season. Counties will advise the CC where exceptions need to be made so the best interest of the player is fulfilled. i.e. possible house/school moves.
- i. Players currently in the National Age Group Squads (NAGS) are not eligible to play in the JAC Championship. Players invited to become part of the NAGS Programme part way through become ineligible as soon as they accept their invitation, but can train with the JAC if they want.
- j. Players participating at either the NAGS Academy or Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) who are not part of the full NAGS squad may participate in the Championship, though to do so must attend the training as a phase of the JAC programme.
- k. On match days each JAC is allowed a playing team of up to 18 players. All teams must play a fully kitted goalkeeper.
- l. It is recommended that match day squads include at least 2 regular goalkeepers.

4. Fixtures

- a. The dates on which the championship shall be played shall be decided by the SJC.
- b. The order of the fixtures shall be set by the CC and published on a suitable website as selected by the JMC.
- c. By 31 January each year the JA is responsible for booking pitches for the matches that their JAC is hosting and communicating these to the CC in the form that the CC specifies, these will be included on the fixture website.

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- d. By 28 February each year, or 14 days before the first match if earlier, the JA shall provide contact details (email and phone) of each of their squads.
- e. Each host JA is responsible for confirming with the JAs from the visiting JACs details of their home matches at least fourteen days before the fixture. At the same time reminding each other of the team colours and ensuring each Team Manager has correct mobile phone contact numbers required for any emergencies on the match day particularly in the case of dubious weather or other travelling issues.

5. Matches and Conditions of Play

- a. All matches shall be played in accordance with the rules of hockey, except as hereafter provided.
- b. The host JAC shall be responsible for the provision of an adequate supply of suitable hockey balls for each game.
- c. Each team player shall wear a shirt bearing in the centre of the back in Arabic/English numbers of at least seven inches (18 centimetres) in height and contrasting in colour to the shirt with no two players wearing the same number. Returning substitutes shall wear the same number previously used by them. Bibs with numbers may be used as an alternative.
- d. In the event of a potential clash of colours of shirts and/or socks, unless otherwise agreed, the away named team shall change. Umpires will decide if closely match colours constitute the need for a colour change.
- e. All matches shall be played on acceptable artificial pitches. Floodlights may be used if acceptable to the appointing umpiring Association.
- f. Matches will be scheduled to be started at any time between 11:00 and finish no later than 17:00 (the CC needs to approve any matches that fall outside these times).
- g. The standard length of JAC games is 25 minutes each way with 5 minutes at half time. Teams are entitled to 20 minutes before their first game for warm-up and 30 minutes between games for rest/warm-up. Head-to-head games (as opposed to those as part of a triangular) must use the same match length as other games to ensure equality should goal difference be required to ascertain final positions at the end of the season. Where the CC has used his dispensation to vary the structure of the tournament in rule 1, the CC may also specify a different match length.
- h. The minimum number of players to start or continue a game shall be eight, which includes a fully kitted goalkeeper. If after ten minutes there is less than eight members then that side shall be considered as unable to fulfil the fixture with the appropriate penalty applied.
- i. Players injured or suspended during a game shall count towards the minimum number required to continue a game or start a subsequent game on the same day.
- j. If a member of a team bench is removed or suspended by an umpire, a playing member of the relevant team must be removed from the pitch for the duration of such suspension or removal.
- k. At least 2 adults, up to a maximum of 3 adults, should be in charge of a team for all matches. All coaches will be expected to have current DBS clearance less than 3 years old.
- l. JACs are strongly advised to ensure all their players wear all appropriate forms of protective gear e.g. shin pads, gum shields, masks etc.

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- m. The exemplary conduct of coaches as defined in [EH Code of Behaviour for coaches, managers and teachers, leaders and adult helpers](#) is considered to be a key element of the JAC Competition. Where umpires consider that coaches have not reached the required level of the EH Code of Behaviour they should immediately deal with this during the matches, and where appropriate, raise a report to the CC. The CC can refer to the SJC any breach of the guidance that the CC warrants further action. Penalties against the JA may be applied by the SJC through the Breach of Rules process.
- n. All matches will be played under the auspices of the [EH Code of Behaviour for spectators and parents](#). Umpires will advise the CC of any breach of these guidelines through their report. The CC can refer to the SJC any breach of the guidance that the CC warrants further action. Penalties against the JA may be applied by the SJC through the Breach of Rules process.

6. Umpires

- a. Host JAs must apply to their local Hockey Umpires' Association (HUA) for umpires for the fixtures, host JAs must give visiting JAs at least 10 days' notice if the HUA is unable to appoint. If 10 days' notice is given each team must provide an umpire, if 10 days' notice is not given the hosts must supply all the umpires.
- b. The CC may vary the required notice period for re-arranged games where the ten days is excessive in relation to the overall period available to set the game up.
- c. Umpires supplied by JACs should be qualified to at least Level One.
- d. JA to advise umpires and umpires associations that a player may not umpire matches involving teams that she/he has played or will be playing on that day.
- e. Where junior umpires are employed there should be an appropriate senior mentor to be available to assist the junior umpire.

7. Postponement and Abandonment

- a. A JA may request to the CC postponement of a fixture due to clashes on the Centralised Calendar if it affects their ability to raise a side before the start of the JAC Competition. Upon agreement from the CC, the fixture will automatically be assigned to a slip date where available. Where a Slip Date is not available then the CC will facilitate the liaison between the affected JACs to agree a new date.
- b. A hosting JA may postpone a match due to the pitch being unfit for play either through adverse weather or short notice events beyond their control. If they so decide they must immediately inform the umpires, the visiting JA and the CC.
- c. Any JA may request the CC to postpone games based on adverse weather making it inadvisable to travel.
- d. A match may only be abandoned once it has started by the unanimous decision of both umpires, the Team managers/coaches of both teams shall be deemed to have transferred their powers in this respect to the umpires jointly. The umpires are requested to advise the Team managers/coaches of the reason for their decision.
- e. Any match postponed or abandoned shall be played on the next designated spare date.
- f. Notwithstanding the CC may make such directions as considered fit as to the outcome of an abandoned match subject to information collated from all parties.

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8. Results

- a. Team Managers must confirm the score with the umpires straight after the final whistle and submit them to their JA. The JA must submit the results for all matches hosted by their JAC to the CC by 20:00 on the day of the match. This will include matches that they hosted but in which they did not participate.
- b. Results must be communicated in such a way they are time stamped to confirm compliance.
- c. The penalty for failure to report results is a deduction of one point per set of matches (either a head-to-head or triangular) for which one or more results is outstanding.
- d. Results submitted missing either the gender or age group will be treated as un-submitted and may result in penalties as defined in 8 c.
- e. The CC will ensure that the results submitted by 20:00 are displayed on the JMCs chosen website by 23:00 on the day of the matches.

9. Position in League

- a. In formats where a pool or league is used the following procedure will be used to determine the position within the pool or league:
 - i. **Points**

The following points will be awarded per game

 - 3 for a win
 - 1 for a draw
 - 0 for a loss.
- b. The winner of a pool or league will be the team with the highest number of points.
- c. If teams are equal on points, the tie will be broken using the first one of the methods below that produces a winner:
 - i. The team with the greatest goal difference
 - ii. The team who scored the greatest number of goals
 - iii. If it is still a tie then the above will be repeated only taking into account the matches between the teams who are level.
 - iv. Thereafter a tie.

10. Default

- a. In the event that a JAC team fails to fulfil a fixture without good reason, then the opposing team shall be awarded a 5-0 victory and be awarded three points. The team who default will record a 0-5 defeat and have no points. If a team turns up late, or with an incomplete team (as defined in rule 5a above) or fails to turn up at all, the above will apply.
- b. Should any team fail to fulfil a fixture on more than one day they will be scratched from the competition and all their results expunged. In addition, any missed fixture will be referred to the CC for further review and action.

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11. Breach of Rules

- a. If a team so conducts itself or its administration such that a match cannot be played or completed in accordance with these rules, the Rules of Hockey or of England Hockey, then that team shall suffer a mandatory deduction of three points per affected match and the match shall be played at a later date as directed by the CC. Additional financial penalties will normally be imposed.
- b. If a match is completed but a team is subsequently found to have played an ineligible or suspended player then that team shall suffer a mandatory loss by 5-0 or the actual score if a higher or equal winning goal difference results (with the opposing team deemed to have won the match by the same score). Additional financial penalties will normally be imposed.
- c. In these circumstances and all others, the SJC may impose such additional penalties as are suitable including:
 - i. a fine of up to £100
 - ii. liability for reasonable costs
 - iii. any fine levied by the HUA for cancellation or non-use of umpires will be passed on
 - iv. loss of points, relegation, suspension or expulsion from the Championship.

12. Protest and Appeals

- a. Protest or appeals may only be made by participating JAs.
- b. Protest or objections to the CC must be lodged within seven days of the relevant match or occurrence or of the time when the circumstances became known to the complainant.
- c. A team may appeal through the Secretary to the JMC against the decision of the CC, within fourteen days of notification of such decision and upon deposit of £100 payable to SCHA which may be returned in whole or in part at the discretion of the appeal committee.
- d. The JMC may refer such appeal to a committee of three persons (nominated by South Management) which shall act with expediency and in its own discretion may hold a written or an oral hearing. The decision of the appeal committee shall be final.

13. Financial

- a. All JAC squads shall pay a fee as determined by the JMC. This fee will be invoiced and is due by the end of February or within 21 days of being invoiced if this is later. If not paid, such subscription will increase by £10 per team on 1st day of each subsequent month after the notified date. Any team not having paid by the commencement of the first round matches may have all results nullified.
- b. SCHA shall indemnify its committee members and any person appointed by and acting on behalf of the SJC or SCHA against any claim which may arise from any action taken with the authority of the Championship.

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Notes to JACs

These are issued by the JMC and CC generally to highlight things that they wish particular attention paid to or to indicate the more likely ways in which they expect they will use any discretion available to them.

These notes do not form part of the Rules.

Explanations

1. We want to encourage juniors to umpire – however they may not umpire those players who they have played or are scheduled to play that day.
2. The JMC have selected to use Fixtures Live to publish the fixtures, the intention is to allow JACs to enter their own venues and times, but we are having issues with the games 'in the middle of the triangle' and may have to revert to supplying details to the CC for entry.
3. JACs may include a feed from Fixtures Live to display their fixtures and results or the complete table.
4. Matches must be played on the day scheduled unless weather renders the pitch unfit (save for exceptional circumstances or prior application to the CC and approval given).
5. Whilst the JA is the sole official point of contact, in the run up (72 hours) to games especially where there may be issues with the weather the team coach may be included for expediency.

Things to Highlight

1. Host JACs must report all scores from the matches at their venue, this includes games in which they themselves are not playing.
2. Any postponed/abandoned match must be played on the first designated spare date as agreed by all JACs prior to the competition or as otherwise directed by the CC.
3. Host teams must allow their opponents time to warm up and practice on the surface prior to the starting time.
4. Teams involved in floodlit matches to which recognised umpires would normally be appointed must check in good time whether the appointing HUA will appoint and if not ensure that the games are played in daylight.
5. Teams must abide by any local rules or requirements relating to pitches, particularly in the use of correct footwear and off pitch spectator/officers arrangements.
6. The Single System recommends that players play in the natural age group but does not prevent them from being selected for an older age group. If they are so selected they must receive the same pitch time opportunity as the remainder of that squad and their onward selection for JRPC must not be jeopardised.
7. The Coach contact information will only be distributed to JAs and other county coaches. JACs may add this information to the team's online record, SCHA will not do so without a specific request from the JA or coach concerned.

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8. When submitting results a single email (or single attachment to an email) is preferred containing all the results for matches that a JAC has hosted. If results are submitted individually then please ensure that the age and gender is on the result, there are often 10 games 'a v b' on a given day.

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GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PITCHSIDE CONDUCT

The EHB (pitch side) Code of Conduct is to be observed by all Spectators, Managers, Coaches and Players.

- a. Team Managers are responsible for ensuring that this occurs.
- b. It is the responsibility of all JAC squads to ensure that good manners and courtesy prevail towards the opposition, umpires and other officials before, during and after the game. Once the pitch is available, the match Delegate (if appointed) or Host Team Manager shall assume authority for the pitch and its surrounding area. Counties are advised to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover and that they are aware of local health and safety legislation regarding the pitch and their facilities. CC will advise if a TD is to be appointed.
- c. Team Managers, Umpires and the match delegate (if appointed) should:-
 - i. Agree the location of managers, coaches, substitutes and suspended players during their suspension and from where substitutions will take place.
 - ii. Satisfy themselves as to the quality and safety of the pitch and its facilities and ensure that other pitch side furniture is removed to the safest location.
 - iii. Check the availability and location of an emergency telephone and first aid.
 - iv. Agree with the host team officials the location and allowed proximity of spectators.
 - v. Substitutes should warm up in clothing in a colour other than the participating teams in the agreed area of the pitch side.
 - vi. Coaches and managers must remain in their designated area. i.e. from half way line to 23m line on one side unless otherwise advised.
 - vii. Vocal communication by team officials and players on the bench must not, in any way, be directed at the umpires or players of the opposing team.
 - viii. Players not taking part in the game, or those in subsequent or previous matches, must not knock up or cool down on or near the pitch whilst the match is in progress.
 - ix. Post-match inquest should be held away from the pitch.
 - x. Spectators should be advised, if necessary, of matters relating to their conduct and particularly in so far as this affects the game in hand.
 - xi. Small children should not be allowed to wander freely around the perimeter of the pitch whilst games are in progress. Children should remain under the control of the parent/guardian at all times.
 - xii. Babies in push-chairs should not be left parked on the side of the pitch. In accordance with the Southern Counties Hockey Association's Child Protection Policy clubs must provide an area where junior players, when suspended, can be supervised. (*"Young players must not be left alone on the side-line without guidance or supervision, and they must wear adequate clothing in accordance with the weather conditions."*)
 - xiii. Suspended players must not be allowed to go behind the back-line or goal.
 - xiv. Captains, coaches and managers should be responsible for their own conduct and the conduct of their players at all times.
- d. Contraventions of the Guidance Notes of Pitch Side Conduct should be included in any report.
- e. Umpires should advise County Officials of any abuse of these Guidance Notes.