

TEAM PLACEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE GUIDANCE:

This document outlines those precedents and guidelines adopted by the Team Placements Sub-Committee (“TPSC”) for the placement of teams in Tiers and Division between seasons.

The document should be considered in two distinct parts, namely:

1. Placement of teams into Tiers; and
2. Placement of teams into Divisions *within* Tiers

The placement of teams into Tiers should **always** be carried out before the placement into divisions. Updates to the placement into Tiers **must** then be followed through to the placement into divisions.

1 PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO TIERS

1.1 Basic Principal

Promotion and relegation (“P&R”) between Tiers between seasons will take place in accordance with the Rules of the League, which assumes no team withdrawals and that one team is relegated to the DWHL from the EHL. In summary:

Promotion:

- The teams finishing in 1st and 2nd positions in all divisions will be promoted by one Tier;

Relegation:

- The teams finishing in the bottom two positions in every division in Tiers 1, 4, 6, and 7 will be relegated by one Tier¹;
- The teams finishing in the bottom three positions in every division in Tier 3 will be relegated by one Tier; and

¹ Where the number of divisions in a Tier is fewer than the Tier above it, no relegation will take place from the Division in the “Stream” which is discontinued unless a new division is to be created in the lower Tier. (I.e., no relegation would take place from The Marches 2 (Tier 7) unless The Marches 3 (Tier 8) was to be created).

- The teams finishing in the bottom four positions in every division in Tiers 2 and 5 will be relegated by one Tier.

1.2 Overload of Teams within a Tier

Where a tier has an overload of teams, due to additional team relegations from the EHL or a higher Tier (or any other factor), one additional team shall be relegated from that Tier below (e.g. if Tier 1 has an overload of teams, one extra team will be relegated from Tier 1 to Tier 2).

The additional team shall be identified as the team with the worst percentage record (by points) of those finishing immediately outside of the normal relegation places in that Tier. The geographical location of the side will not be considered.

1.3 Shortage of Teams within a Tier

Where a tier (other than Tiers 7 or 8) has a shortage of teams, due to fewer team relegations from the EHL or a higher Tier, or team withdrawals, one team fewer shall be relegated ***from*** that Tier to the Tier below (e.g. if Tier 3 has a shortage of teams, one fewer team will be relegated from Tier 3 to Tier 4).

The team which shall be identified as the team with the best percentage record (by points) of those finishing within the normal relegation places in that Tier. The geographical location of the side will not be considered.

- Should no team be relegated from the EHL, one team fewer from each Tier (relative to those relegated as described above) shall be demoted by one Tier. The team which is “saved” relegation shall be identified as the team, within the defined relegation places, with the best percentage record (by points) in that Tier.
- P&R in divisions containing less than 12 teams shall remain in accordance with the guidelines above, save for when a team withdraws from that division.
- If a team withdraws from The League after the fixture list has been published, that team shall be deemed to have finished in last place in its division for the purposes of P&R.

2 PLACEMENT OF TEAMS INTO DIVISIONS WITHIN TIERS

2.1 Basic Principal

Each Tier shall be comprised of a given number of divisions as follows:

- Tier 1 One Division (12 teams)
- Tier 2 One Division (12 teams)
- Tier 3 Two Divisions (24 teams)
- Tier 4 Three Divisions (36 teams)
- Tier 5 Three Divisions (36 teams)
- Tier 6 Six Divisions (72 teams)
- Tier 7 and below Up to six Divisions (up to 72 teams)

In Tiers 1 and 2 there is no requirement for placement into divisions – all teams in those Tiers will play in one division.

In Tier 3 and below, teams will be grouped into divisions based upon the following two criteria:

- The physical location of each team;
- The road infrastructure linking any one team with those other teams within the tier to allow teams which are geographically remote to be placed in the same division due to a more favourable transport route than with a geographically closer team