

In order to help continually improve club's understanding and increase transparency of the League's Rules Sub Committee (RSC) here is the 2019/20 updated guide to penalties and sanctions for the most commonly breached League rules.

Where a side is deducted points this will be applied to the following season **if** in the current season the deduction would not materially impact on the side i.e. the side is already mathematically promoted / relegated and the points deductions can't alter this. Alternatively the side has already mathematically achieved 'mid table safety' and the deduction will have no impact on that position.

It is important to note that any sanctions listed below are not written in 'tablets of stone' - they are merely a guide. The League Committee delegates to the RSC the right to increase, decrease or change penalties depending on individual circumstances.

Rule	Penalty	Rationale
<p>Failing to fulfil League fixtures:</p> <p>Rule 11.1 Only the Area Secretary may authorise the postponement of a match.....</p>	<p>First Offence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 5-0 walkover will be issued to the opposition • Match day expenses are awarded (if relevant) to the opposition • A £20.00 administration charge will be levied. <p>Second Offence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 5-0 walkover is awarded to the opposition • Match day expenses awarded (if relevant) to the opposition • 3 points deducted for the offending team • A £20.00 administration charge will be levied • A final warning is issued to the club. • The RSC will consider if this is a 'club' problem. If deemed to be so, 3 points deducted from all other sides in the offending club. <p>Third Offence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 5-0 walkover is awarded to the opposition • Match day expenses awarded (if relevant) to the opposition • 3 points deduction for the offending team • A £20 administration charge will be levied • The club will be advised a recommendation is being made to the full committee that the lowest team be suspended from the League. • The RSC will again consider if this is a 'club' problem. If deemed to be so 3 points deducted from all other sides in the offending club. <p>Rearranged Games.</p> <p>If any team other than the lowest team in the club defaults on a rearranged game the following penalties shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 5-0 walkover is awarded to the opposition • Match day expenses awarded (if relevant) to the opposition • 3 points deduction for the offending team • A £20 administration charge will be levied • The RSC will consider if this is a 'club' problem. If deemed to be so, consideration will be given to a 3 point deduction from all other sides 	<p>For clarification failure to fulfil a fixture refers to any team within the club, they do not have to relate to the same team.</p> <p>Such a stance is taken as the League Committee feels by allowing a team to remain in the League is unfair on all the other teams in the division. Players of these clubs are being deprived of a game of hockey, often at short notice when their own club could have been able to organise something else. Equally other clubs have paid to play in that division and are now not getting the fixtures promised to them placing the League in a difficult position in terms of offering 'value for money' for its' subscriptions.</p>

	in the offending club.	
<p>Rule 7.2(c): If a club has a deficiency of players, it shall cancel its lowest team(s)'s match(es) first.</p>	<p>The following penalties will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The game not played will be awarded 5-0 to the opposition • All lower team fixtures which were played will be reversed to show 5-0 to the opposition (unless the original score was higher) • The team which did not play will be deducted 3 points • Consideration will be given to a 3 point deduction from all lower teams. • A £20.00 administration charge levied 	<p>Clubs should not play lower team fixtures on a day when a higher team fixture has been postponed without prior approval from the area secretary.</p> <p>It is the Leagues' view that this rule is very explicit with regard to the expectations of clubs who find themselves in the position of having a deficiency of players. The RSC attaches huge importance to this rule as by breaking it a club is laying itself open to numerous other rule breaches including, but not limited to, 7.2(a) and 7.3.</p>
<p>7.2(a) & (b) Selection</p> <p>Clubs shall not strengthen a lower team with players from a higher team to gain an advantage at any time.</p>	<p>The following penalties will be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The match in question will be awarded 5-0 to the opposition (unless the original score was higher) • The offending team will be deducted 3 points • A £20.00 administration charge levied. • For subsequent breaches of this rule in the same season clubs can expect an escalation of the above penalties and the RSC will consider if this is a 'club' problem. If deemed to be so, consideration will be given to a 3 point deduction against all other sides in the offending club. 	<p>It is the committees view that clubs are deemed to have 'loaded' a side if players drop down a side and subsequent match cards submitted to Area Secretaries do not indicate the players have remained in that side for a <i>reasonable</i> period. The RSC will take a view of each individual circumstance with regard to the number of players involved.</p> <p>If a player is intending dropping down more than one team in any given week or returning from injury for example and plans to play in a team more than one side lower than match cards indicate is his 'usual' side clubs should consult their Area Secretary first otherwise clubs will be assumed to have 'loaded' a side.</p>
<p>7.3 Playing for more than one team</p> <p>No player may play for more than one team in scheduled League matches in the same weekend.</p>	<p>The following penalties will be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The match in which the player played second will be reversed 5-0 to the opposition (unless the original score was higher) • The side for which the player played second will be deducted 3 points • A £20.00 administration charge will be levied. <p>For subsequent breaches of this rule in the same season clubs can expect an escalation of the above punishments with also a club wide points deduction being imposed.</p>	<p>By playing in two games, for different teams, in any given League weekend without first gaining the express permission of the relevant Area Secretary, is deemed by the committee as nothing more than trying to gain an unfair advantage over opposition.</p> <p>For clarity this rule includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a player participating as a

	<p>For the avoidance of all doubt a player whose name appears on a notional match card will be treated as if they have physically played a match in that particular League Week.</p>	<p>goalkeeper in one match and as an outfield player in another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> where a club has teams playing a re-arranged game within the same league week as regular fixtures, players may not “play down” in the second fixture of the league week.
<p>8.1(b) Qualified umpires</p> <p>Umpires must be qualified to at least Level 1 assessed except at Tier 6 and below where one umpire can be Level 1 unassessed.</p>	<p>The following penalties will be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The match will be reversed to a 5-0 win to the opposition (unless the original score was higher). All teams will be deducted one point. A £20.00 administration charge will be levied. 	<p>It is incumbent upon clubs to ensure they have sufficient suitably qualified umpires to meet their weekly requirements. When a club has to provide umpires for a game it is their responsibility to ensure their umpires are appropriately qualified. A breach of this rule is considered to be a club issue.</p>
<p>10.2 Match cards</p> <p>Both captains shall fill in the names and the shirt numbers of all their players, including substitutes. All players named will be deemed to have participated.</p>	<p>The following penalties will be implemented for incomplete or inaccurate information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team which submitted incomplete or inaccurate information in relation to the participating players will see the result of the match in question reversed 5-0 against them (unless the original score was higher) The team which submitted incomplete or inaccurate will be deducted 3 points A £20.00 administration charge will be levied. <p>For subsequent breaches of this rule in the same season clubs can expect an escalation of the above penalties with also a club wide points deduction being imposed.</p> <p><i>N.B. Where a club is able to demonstrate there has been a genuine administrative error and/or the RSC feels it is able to differentiate between an administrative error and a deliberate attempt to cheat by a club then the sanction may be re-scaled accordingly.</i></p>	<p>Match cards remain the corner-stone of ensuring the committee runs a credible and fair League.</p> <p>Inaccurate and/or incomplete match cards mean Area Secretaries are severely hindered in the running of their areas. The rules regarding the completing of match cards are explicit and any clubs failing to for fill this obligation will be considered to have something to hide.</p> <p>A team should also ensure that match cards are fully completed with all the relevant details e.g. match number, division, umpires etc.</p>
<p>10.1(a) Reporting of results</p> <p>Following each League match, it is the responsibility of both the home and away team to report the result of the match to the League through the online reporting via the website no later than 8:00 pm on match day.</p>	<p>The following penalties will be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A late entry on the day of the game will incur a financial penalty of £10.00. For a result reported after midnight of the day of the game this will rise to £20.00. A second offence is £20.00 regardless of the amount of the first offence. Any further offences will be referred to the RSC for consideration of a 1 point deduction 	<p>Results of games and accurate League tables are essential.</p>

<p>10.2(d) Match cards</p> <p>The card is received by the Area Secretary within 48 hours of the match date.</p>	<p>A late match card will attract a financial penalty and continued non-receipt of a card may lead to a points deduction.</p>	<p>Match cards remain the corner-stone of ensuring the committee runs a credible and fair League.</p>
<p>2.1e Membership</p> <p>Any club wishing to withdraw a team from the League shall notify the League Secretary, in writing, or by email, no later than two weeks after the last scheduled League date.</p>	<p>Should a club withdraw its lowest ranked team from the League outside of the stipulated timeframe the following penalty can be expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The club will not be eligible to enter a new side into the League for a minimum of 2 years. • The club will remain liable for the annual subscription for that team. <p>If a club withdraws a team other than its' lowest ranked team from the League at any time the following additional penalties can be expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 10 point deduction from all teams below the one being withdrawn. • An additional points deduction to reflect the difference in divisional placements between the team being withdrawn and the lower team(s). 	<p>Withdrawing any team other than its' lowest team from the League has consequences which can be far reaching for other sides. This is not desirable when a fair and equitable League system is trying to be achieved.</p> <p>Clubs are urged to forward plan in regards to the anticipated membership size.</p>
<p>3.2 Area Meetings</p> <p>Clubs which fail to attend or send a bona fide member of their club to their area meeting will be liable to a fine</p>	<p>The following penalty will be implemented for non attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to attend will attract a minimum £50.00 fine. • Those clubs that have not attended previous years will also see each team in their club deducted a point for every previous consecutive year that has not been attended. • Those clubs who do not attend and also have a trophy to collect may face additional points/financial sanctions as well as having to collect the trophy at their own cost. 	<p>Area meetings are a vital form of communication between the committee and clubs. Failure to attend puts the smooth and fair running of the League at risk which is to the detriment of all involved.</p>
<p>Administrative rules</p>	<p>There are several rules regarding administrative requirements which are not individually specified above. Non-compliance will generally, but not exclusively, result in financial penalties and multiple breaches may lead to a points deduction.</p>	<p>To ensure the smooth running of the League.</p>