



North East Premier League Governing Rules and By-Laws

Article I

Name

The North East Premier League (“NEPL”) is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the following mission statement:

To provide a competitive post-collegiate (non-NCAA) league in Boston and to promote field hockey within our community.

Article II

Definitions

Wherever used in these Bylaws, or as may be hereafter adopted in any policies, administrative manual or standing rules, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. USFHL: United States Field Hockey League
2. FIH: Federation Internationale de Hockey
3. NCAA: National Collegiate Athletic Association
4. USA FH or USFHA: USA Field Hockey Governing Body
5. Community: Locally organized field hockey for adults which can be an Association, Organization, Corporation, League, or Region. Most recognized through league-type competition.
6. Coed League: Competition of teams made up of both women and a limited number of men that play each other over the summer months for a championship
7. Standalone Tournament or Standalone Play: An NEPL Standalone Tournament or Standalone Play is separate from the league structure and rules.
8. Advisory Board: Representatives elected from Community participating or engaged with NEPL.
9. Executive Board: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee Chairpersons, and any other elected board member

Article III

Rule Summary

The purpose of all NEPL rules is to be inclusive, but designed to follow the NEPL mission statement, keep play fair and encourage the growth of local field hockey for adults.

Article IV

Objectives of the Events

NEPL organizes a competitive co-ed field hockey league made up of independent teams from the Boston area. Based on the regular season's standings, the top eight teams will compete in a cross-over tournament (“playoffs”) for elimination play. The winner of the playoffs will be determined the “Champions” for that year and will earn a bid to the USFHL National Championship the following year. NEPL also organizes standalone



tournaments or play dates as part of meeting its mission. NEPL is designed to bring the highest competition level of club teams in the Boston region.

Article V

Athlete Eligibility

Section 1: CO-ED LEAGUE

A. DEFINITIONS:

1. Roster Player: A player that is both listed on the roster submitted by the Team Manager prior to the start of the season AND has signed the Liability Waiver (electronically) prior to their first game. A Roster player can play for only one team in the Coed League within the same calendar year/season. A Roster player must play on the designated team for a minimum of two games to be considered eligible for Playoffs.
2. Substitute or Sub (for Regular Season): A player that is both not designated to any specific team AND has signed the Liability Waiver (electronically) prior to their first game. Substitute players cannot be listed on a roster, however, they are permitted to play on multiple teams during the regular season.
3. Eligible Sub for Playoffs ("ESP"): A Sub that plays on a team more than two games is eligible to play on that team for Playoffs. An ESP can only have substituted for a maximum of four teams. An ESP has to be assigned to one Playoff team and cannot play on multiple teams. When an ESORP qualifies for multiple team for playoffs, the athlete has the choice to select.
4. Goalie or Goalkeeper: A player with goalkeeping privileges that wears protective equipment compromising at least headgear, chest protector, leg guards and kickers AND has signed the Liability Waiver (electronically) prior to their first game. Goalies can be listed on a submitted roster; however, they are permitted to play on multiple teams. Goalies are also not limited to one team during playoffs and can play on multiple teams. Goalie subs are not required to play a minimum of two games during the regular season to be eligible for playoffs.
5. Kicking Back: A player with goalkeeping privileges that wears protective equipment compromising at least headgear when defending a corner or stroke in their defensive circle AND has signed the Liability Waiver (electronically) prior to their first game. A male kicking back does count towards total tally of men permitted on the field. A kicking back during the Playoffs must be listed a Roster Player or ESP.
6. Field Player: A player that is that does not have goalkeeping privileges.
7. Team Manager or Captain: Representing individual for each team registered in an NEPL's event. Individual will submit a roster, manage weekly player attendance, and communicate important announcements from NEPL Administrators to the rest of their players.
8. Technical Officer: Official or League Administrator during the game that is authorized to make a judgement call regarding Rule interpretations.

B. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY:

1. All players must have exhausted their NCAA eligibility and/or have no conflict with NCAA standings.
2. All players must sign the Liability Waiver. When prompted to enter a Team, Subs must register as "SUBS" in order to be permitted to play on multiple teams.
3. A maximum of twenty-two (22) players will be permitted on a team as Roster Players for the regular season. Team Managers will resubmit the roster for playoffs, adjusting as needed and adding Eligible Subs for Playoffs.
4. Team Managers must submit roster of the players prior to the start of the season and up to the week of their first game.



- a. Rosters not submitted by the start of the 2nd game will be considered a forfeit in record.
5. Team Managers must notify NEPL Administrators on duty prior to the start of the game if any Subs are playing that game. NEPL Administrator must register Subs for Playoff eligibility.
6. In the event that a team cannot fill the Goalie position during either regular season or playoffs, that team may use a kicking back with goalkeeping privileges, which requires the use of a chest protector and helmet. The kicking back falls under the Goalie Sub rules, meaning he or she is not required to play in two games during the regular season. Regardless, the kicking back cannot be a Roster Player from another team.
7. Player(s) joining your club/team in the middle of the season wishing to participate in the Coed League as a Roster Player(s) are permitted to do so by following instructions:
 - o Team Managers must submit a written notification to the NEPL Administrators
 - o If not done so already, new player must sign the electronic Liability Waiver.
8. Any player wishing to switch teams must first submit a written request to the NEPL Secretary (at northeastpremier@gmail.com). After confirmation of no pending financial obligations to the team, players will be allowed to switch only once per season.
9. Only eligible ESP or Roster Players will be allowed to participate in the playoffs games.
10. Any other exceptions to the player eligibility noted above will be considered by the NEPL Admin AND discussed for approval by both of the Team Managers prior to the start of the game.
11. A minimum of **7 field players** are required on the field at the start of the game, if not it will be considered a forfeit. Refer to Article 6 Section 10 for Forfeit rules.

C. COED ELIGIBILITY:

1. Up to three men allowed on the field as Field Players on a team per game.
2. Goalies are considered gender neutral and do not count towards maximum tally of men on the field.
3. Kicking backs (in lieu of a Goalie) are considered a Field Player and do count as one of total men on field, if male.

Article VI

League Logistics

The North East Premier League's regular season occurs over multiple days every year in summer, typically starting in May and ending in late July. NEPL's playoff season occurs immediately after the regular season, typically during the last weeks in July or first week in August.

Section 1: RULE SUMMARY:

Unless otherwise noted, the rules of this League and Standalone Tournaments will be as stated in the 2017 Rules of Hockey published by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) on January 1, 2017. Games are played on a full-sized Astroturf field unless there is an extreme circumstance. Per Article V section 1 & 2 of NEPL By-Laws, League and the Dirty Water Tournament games are played against co-ed teams; this means women and a maximum of 3 Field Player men vs women and a maximum of 3 Field Player men.

Section 2: GAME DURATION:

There is a running clock so no time outs are allowed. Umpires may stop the clock in unusual or dire circumstances (inclement weather). Even though game time is shortened, penalty corners or penalty strokes



awarded before the end of the game or the half will be completed. However half-time may be shortened by up to two minutes which is up to the Technical Officer's discretion.

A. REGULAR SEASON:

Each game shall consist of two x 25 minute regulation time halves. There will be a three-minute half time. Teams will play once per week, unless due to a rescheduled game (typically due to inclement weather cancellations).

B. PLAYOFFS:

Each game shall consist of two x 30 minute regulation time halves. There will be a five-minute half time. Only winning teams will advance to the next round of Playoffs or until the Champion is determined.

Section 3: SCORE & PLAYER REPORTING:

Game sheets will be produced by NEPL and be available at the Technical Table prior to the start of the event. Game sheets will list both teams' Roster Players and record all goals and penalties. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager/Captain to report any substitute players and verify eligibility. Only registered Subs will be considered eligible for playoffs.

The score at the end of regulation time will be registered as the result of the game. The Technical Table will write down the score on the Game sheet and the Captain or team representative of each team must sign the scorecard at the completion of the game. Then the score of that game will be official. A signed result card will not be changed. If the coach or captain does not make themselves available within 10 minutes following the game to sign the results card then the result card will not be signed and cannot be changed.

A contested scorecard will be handled directly by the NEPL Board. Only Captains or Coaches can contest a score and they will be given that process before the event.

Section 4: TIMEKEEPING:

Time-keeping will be controlled centrally by the Technical Official(s), whose responsibility will be to signal the beginning and end of each game with the sound of a horn or whistle. There will be no stoppage of time.

Section 5: RANKING FOR PLAYOFFS:

Each team will play other teams in the League to determine the team placement for the Playoffs.

1. The following points will be awarded for each game:
 - a. Three points to the winner
 - b. One point to each team in the event of a draw
 - c. No points to the loser
2. Teams will be ranked according to the number of points each has accumulated in the regular season competition.

Section 6: TIEBREAKING:

If at the end of season, there is a tie in determining team placement, the following steps will be taken to break the tie:

1. Points
2. Matches won



3. Head-to-head competition
4. Goal differential
5. Goals For
6. Goals Against
7. Coin toss, best of three

If more than two teams are involved, then a ranking based upon the results of the matches among (only) them shall determine their respective position.

During Playoffs, if the score is tied, games will go into immediate shootout. Three shooters need to be selected and given to the Technical Officer to ensure the same shooter is not used in a following round. However, if it is still tie after one round of shooters, the winner will be decided by a sudden victory 1 v 1 shootout. Rounds will continue 1 v 1 until there is a victor. A new shooter must be chosen for every round.

Section 6: FIELD POSITION:

The team listed first is the home team. Bench that is closest to the scoreboard is the home bench. A few minutes prior to the start of the game, Captains will meet with the Officials to determine to field position at the start of the game for each team. They will switch sides of the field at halftime.

Section 7: UNIFORMS:

- As part of League Fee, NEPL will provide (14) shirts and (14) matching socks.
- Teams may choose to provide own league shirts and socks for a rebate taken as part of remaining balance invoice.
- Each team shall play in the colors as specified on the league entry form.
- Game shirts and matching socks are required.
- Players must be properly dressed at all times during a game and socks up with shin guards worn inside.
- If a player sustains an injury that caused bleeding, that player must leave the field of play as soon as possible and shall not re-enter until the bleeding has ceased and the wound is adequately covered.
- Blood stained clothing must be replaced and equipment cleaned before re-entry to the field. All/any blood on the field must be cleaned up prior to the re-start of game time.

NON-LEAGUE UNIFORMS

Team Managers will select by March 1 whether or not they will opt out of the league provided shirts and socks and accept a rebate. If so, Teams will be responsible for providing their own Team Uniforms in lieu of receiving the uniforms included in the League Fee.

NOTES RE: UNIFORMS FOR USFHL TOURNAMENT

USFHL will follow the Uniform Requirements outlined by USA FH in their 2016 Tournament Rules with a few modifications:

1. Members of all teams must be in proper uniform (shirts and socks of matching color) with numbers on at least the back of the shirt. No two players on the same team may have the same number.
2. Shorts or kilts must be of like color. Each team must have two sets of uniform shirts and socks, one light and one darker, with them at all times. Shirts and Socks must be a minimum of 75% of one color



3. The team listed first on the schedule will wear light uniform shirts and socks. As such, the team listed second will wear dark uniform shirts and socks.
4. The team not in compliance will be required to change uniforms at the request of the Technical Officer. If a team refuses to change or does not have a second set of uniforms, they will forfeit the game.
5. If in the opinion of the Technical Officer the shirt colors of two opposing teams might lead to confusion, one of the teams must change colors. If they cannot come to an amicable settlement, then the team listed first which is the home team will have to change.
6. Goalkeepers and players with goalkeeping privileges shall wear a color different from that of their own team and that of their opponents.
7. If a player sustains an injury that caused bleeding, that player must leave the field of play as soon as possible and shall not re-enter until the bleeding has ceased and the wound is adequately covered.
 - a. Blood stained clothing must be replaced and equipment cleaned before re-entry to the field. All/any blood on the field must be cleaned up also.
8. Each team must appoint a player as captain for each game and the captain must wear a distinctive arm-band or similar distinguishing article on an upper arm, shoulder, or just below the knee.

Section 8 ROSTER REQUIREMENTS:

Rosters are limited to 22 athletes. Each team must have a minimum of 11 players on their approved roster.

Section 9 SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

Shin guards are mandatory for all players. Shin guards must be worn under the uniform socks of each team. A player with designated goalkeeping privileges is required to wear a helmet with a fixed facemask defending a penalty corner and a penalty stroke. All other rules associated with designated goalkeepers (kicking back) apply. Facemasks are highly encouraged during penalty corners. Mouth guards are strongly recommended for all players.

Mouth guards are mandatory for all players under the age of 18.

Hats and sunglasses are not permitted on the field.

Section 10 FORFEITS:

If a game is forfeited, a 3-0 win will be awarded to the opponent. A team forfeits a game if:

1. A team does not show up for the match
2. A team forfeits or is declared "forfeit" before or "disqualified" if after the game.
3. A team arrives more than 5 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game
4. A team does not have 8 players (7 field plus a goalie or player with goalkeeping privileges) dressed in proper uniform on the pitch at the 5 minute grace period
5. A team is not wearing proper safety gear or in proper uniform or refuses or is not prepared to change uniforms as stated in the uniform section of this document.
6. An ineligible or suspended player participates in the game.
7. A team refuses to play or removes their team from the field of play for any reason.

If both teams are required to forfeit the score shall be 0-0 but neither team gets a point.



During the playoffs, a team that forfeits or is declared “forfeit” for any of the reasons stated above will be disqualified from the tournament. The opposing team (not declared forfeit) will automatically advance to the next round regardless of the outcome the game played.

Section 11 PENALTIES:

Players, Coaches and substitutes are under the jurisdiction of the Technical Officers during the whole game, including any period of temporary or permanent suspension, and are therefore subject to the umpires’ decisions under the Rules of Hockey. The Technical Officers’s jurisdiction extends through half-time periods and until the signed game card has been submitted to the official scorer.

The Penalties from Carding are detailed below:

1. Green Card: Athlete– Two Minute Temporary Suspension, as per 2017 FIH Rules of Hockey.
 - a. Temporarily suspended players must remain in a designated place until the umpire who suspended the player permits them to leave. They may join their team for halftime but return to the place if their suspension is not expired.
 - b. The re-entry of any suspended player follows the same parameters as a substitution entering the match.
2. Yellow Card: Athlete– Five Minute Temporary Suspension, as per 2015 FIH Rules of Hockey.
 - a. Temporarily suspended players must remain in a designated place until the umpire who suspended the player permits them to leave. They may join their team for halftime but return to the place if their suspension is not expired.
 - b. The re-entry of any suspended player follows the same parameters as a substitution entering the match.
3. Red Card: Athlete— Permanent Suspension and the team plays short. The suspended player must leave the field and its surrounding area. The red carded player is suspended for the remainder of the game in which the offense occurred AND the team’s next scheduled game. The team does not have to play short in the next scheduled game.
 - a. In the team’s next schedule game in that division, the player red carded in the previous game should not be with the team in the team area
4. Red Card: Coach— Permanent Suspension and the suspended coach must leave the game area immediately (within 60 seconds). A replacement coach is allowed. If a replacement coach is not immediately available, the captain may coach their team. The team does not play short when a coach is suspended. The team forfeits the game if the suspended coach does not leave the team area within 60 seconds and/or does not cease any and all team contact during the remainder of the game in which the offense occurred. A coach who has been permanently suspended from a match will also be suspended for the team’s next scheduled game.
 - a. Upon recommendation of the umpire, Technical Officer, or based upon the severity of the infraction, the Tournament Arbitration Committee will determine a red carded coach’s/player’s eligibility for further participation in the tournament beyond the one game suspension.

The tournament will have a running clock and the time of the penalty does not start until the athlete is seated in the chair by the score table.

Section 12 GAME CANCELLATIONS

The Manager of the Sport Complex or the League Management has the authority to suspend or cancelled any game due to bad weather or other natural disasters. NEPL will make every effort to reschedule the game(s) by



setting up “rain dates;” however, depending when the cancellation occurs, games may be shuffled around to accommodate for the playoff games and NEPL has the right to cancel a game without refund due to facility scheduling and/or operational conflicts.

If a game is not able to be rescheduled, a final score of 1-1 will be posted.

Section 13 COACHES, CAPTAIN'S AND PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- No alcohol is permitted on any college campus.
- Coaches and Captains are expected to maintain order and discipline in their team and assist the NEPL officials/umpires in any way possible.
- Players are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the rules and in the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.
- Umpires will be strict in enforcing the rules, and NEPL League Management will monitor players' conduct by tracking green, yellow, and red cards issued or, in their absence, verbal penalties.
- A player receiving a red card will be automatically suspended for the next game. Two or more red cards in a season will result in suspension from the league for the duration of the season (or as determined by the NEPL Management).
- Notwithstanding the above, NEPL can assess other penalties and/or restrictions to players and/or teams for their misconduct.

Section 14 OFFICIALS / UMPIRES:

It is the responsibility of the Umpire Assigner and NEPL to assign and coordinate the officials each day of competition. Each game requires two officials/referees. The league shall accept one official (should unforeseen events occur) and the games will continue and not be rescheduled.

Section 15 PROTESTS

NEPL is a nonprofit organization consisting of clubs/teams whose objective is to enjoy and further the game of field hockey. Should there be a disagreement with any action performed by any particular team, individual, and/or NEPL Management that is inconsistent with this mission, a formal protest should be issued and recorded.

- Protests should be made in writing to the Secretary of NEPL within 48 hours of the time that the protested event occurred.
- The NEPL Board Member will address the protest and investigate the issue at hand.
- The NEPL Board will then submit a decision to all parties concluding the issue. A decision by the NEPL Board is binding to all parties involved.

Article VI

United States Field Hockey League (USFHL)

NEPL is a community partner under the recently formed national league structure, the National Field Hockey League (USFHL). By aligning with USFHL, NEPL is able to provide a unique competitive opportunities to the top team(s) in the league.

Due to NEPL's season ending after the anticipated tournament weekend, NEPL's champion team from the previous season will advance to Nationals. As USFHL grows, we anticipate in the future to have regional



Boston's premier field hockey league – www.northeastpremier.com

tournaments will be held prior to the Nationals and determine the seeding standings for the pool play at Nationals.

For complete USFHL athlete and team qualification, please refer to their website:

<http://usfhl.website.siplay.com/>

- The USFHL will host separate Men and Women tournaments, as such, being coed, the season's winner at NEPL will be required to split up by gender. Winner teams will be allowed to draft qualified players from the league in order to fill the advancing (1) male and (1) female team since our league is coed and will not have a complete team for each division.
- Qualified players are considered roster players that part of the same team. After this effort has been exhausted, team captains can recruit roster athletes from the entire NEPL league from the same year as when Nationals is being held.
- The season's champions of NEPL has the right of first refusal to move on to Nationals or not. Should that team give up their bid, the 2nd place winner will be permitted to advance. If the 2nd place team gives up the bid, 3rd place will move on.
- Only the Top 3 teams are permitted to advance to Nationals.

Article VII

Fees

The following fee schedule is applicable for the 2019 season. For up to-date fee schedule, please refer to www.northeastpremier.com website.