

Regulations Playing Rules

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Purpose of the document

The present playing regulations of Swiss Hockey govern the playing of field and indoor hockey for women, men, juniors and seniors.

Definitions & Abbreviations

- Swiss HockeySwiss Land Hockey Association
- Board of DirectorsBoard of Directors of Swiss Hockey
- ClubsMember clubs of Swiss Hockey
- OfficeOrganisational & Technical Body of Swiss Hockey
- VG Association Court
- DK Disciplinary Commission
- SK Sports Commission
- HKTHockey Kids Tour
- FIHInternational Hockey Federation
- EHFEuropean Hockey Federation
- WMAWorld Masters Association
- CategorySwiss Hockey conducts championships in various Leagues according to "Championship Mode" for the following categories:
 - Active ladies
 - Active men
 - Seniors
 - Juniors

Applicable documents and references

- "Organisational directives 20xx/yy"
- "Regulatory Instructions 20xx/yy"
- "Instructions HKT & Junior Hockey"
- "Field 20xx/yy mode"
- "Mode Hall 20xx/yy"
- "Framework Game Plan" and "Game Plan"

- "Regulations Fees"
- "Doping Statute" and "Anti-Doping Declaration of Submission" of Swiss Hockey
- "Ethics Statute" of Swiss Hockey with reference to the Ethics Charter of Swiss Olympic
- "FIH Field Hockey Laws of the Game".
- "FIH Indoor Hockey Laws of the Game".

Important remarks

- **Gender-sensitive language**
For better readability, the masculine form has been chosen in the following text, but all information refers to members of both genders, except in the case of specifically mentioned restrictions.
- **Field and indoor hockey**
For reasons of better readability, the following text uses the term "Hockey" for both hockey and indoor hockey, except for specifically mentioned limitations.
- **Hockey5s**
The new game format Hockey5s is currently being tested by Swiss Hockey in the form of open events, but an official championship is not yet being held. Specific regulations for Hockey5s have therefore not been included in the present version of the Laws of the Game.
- **Highest leagues of women and men**
The NLA Women's and NLA Men's leagues are considered the highest leagues in the women's and men's championships, although in hockey this includes both the NLA Masters and the NLA Challenge teams. The NLA Women's and NLA Men's leagues are considered semi-professional sports.
- **Language versions of this document**
In the event of a discrepancy between the German and French versions of these Rules, the original German version shall prevail.

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Land Hockey Playing in Switzerland

Art. 1. Objective of Swiss Hockey

1. Swiss Hockey regularly organises national field and indoor hockey championships.
2. Hockey in Switzerland should be able to be played competitively as a popular and elite sport, regardless of age and by players of any gender.
3. The Swiss Championships shall be held in performance-based leagues for juniors, active players and seniors, whenever possible taking into account the FIH/EHF regulations.
4. The field and indoor seasons are considered as two independent championships.
 - a. The field season is usually played between 16 August and 15 November of the current year or 16 March and 31 July of the following year.
 - b. The indoor season is usually played between 16 November of the current year and 15 March of the following year.
 - c. Exceptions to these time slots may be granted for Hockey Kids Tour (HKT) and Senior matches and tournaments.

Art. 2. ethics and values

1. All clubs participating in the game recognise the "Ethics Charter" of Swiss Olympic and actively disseminate the ethical principles among their members.
2. Swiss Hockey is responsible for the implementation of the Ethics Charter.

Art. 3. prevention of doping

1. All clubs of Swiss Hockey and their members shall be subject to the "Doping Statute" of Swiss Olympic.
2. All national players from U16 and all NLA players are obliged to sign the Swiss Olympic anti-doping declaration.

Art. 4. Responsibilities

1. **Swiss Hockey**, in cooperation with the designated commissions, is responsible for the planning and implementation of field and indoor hockey championships.

2. The **Sports Commission of Swiss Hockey** defines the general guidelines and criteria for the organisation of the Swiss Championships for field and indoor hockey in the present document "Laws of the Game".
3. The **office of Swiss Hockey shall** define in the applicable documents "Mode Field 20xx/yy", "Mode Hall 20xx/yy" and "Mode Field 20xx/yy".
"Directives HKT & Junior Hockey" together with the Sports Commission before each season the leagues for field and indoor hockey and their mode of organisation. It also draws up the "Framework Match Schedule" and the final "Match Schedule" with match dates and times and announces the technical and organisational instructions for each season.
4. The **clubs of Swiss Hockey** are responsible for the organisation of competitions according to the match schedule and the specifications in the document "Regeltechnische Weisungen 20xx/yy".

Art. 5. Participation in the games of Swiss Hockey

1. Participation in match play is open to all clubs that are members of Swiss Hockey or are invited by Swiss Hockey to participate.
2. Matches organised and played within the framework of match operations shall be considered association matches and may therefore be played by all eligible members of clubs affiliated to Swiss Hockey or invited by Swiss Hockey to participate.

Art. 6. Exclusion from playing for Swiss Hockey

1. The administrative office may, in consultation with the board of directors of the association, exclude clubs and/or their members from participation in Swiss Hockey's match operations; mainly in the following cases:
 - a. Failure to comply with the provisions of these Laws of the Game, the Doping Regulations and the Ethics Charter;
 - b. Failure to comply with decisions and orders of the Board of Directors of Swiss Hockey and its committees;
 - c. Deliberate participation of non-eligible players in the game;
 - d. Failure to comply with the instructions of the administrative office and the Executive Board of Swiss Hockey;
 - e. Unfounded refusal to participate in Swiss Hockey competitions;

- f. Failure to meet financial obligations towards Swiss Hockey and/or Swiss Hockey affiliated clubs.
2. Within the framework of an exclusion procedure, fees may be charged by the office within the framework of the "Regulations Fees".
3. In the event of disputes concerning the exclusion order, the Disciplinary Commission of Swiss Hockey shall decide. An appeal may be lodged against decisions of the Disciplinary Commission and the decision may be appealed to the Association Court of Swiss Hockey.

Art. 7. Events of Swiss Hockey

1. The clubs are obliged to support Swiss Hockey in terms of personnel and logistics at an association event within the scope of their possibilities.
2. The clubs are obliged to make their sports facilities available to Swiss Hockey for official Swiss Hockey events (e.g. training or matches of Swiss national teams) in return for appropriate compensation.
3. The awarding and organisation of final rounds is the responsibility of Swiss Hockey. All Swiss Hockey clubs may apply to the office for the organisation of the finals within the set deadlines.
 - a. In case of more than one applicant, the office decides; for final rounds of the highest leagues of men and women, the board of the association decides.
 - b. If no club applies to host the competition, the office will commission a member club with a team to organise the competition.
 - c. No appeal may be lodged against these decisions of the office.

Art. 8. National teams

1. Official international hockey matches for teams of all ages can only be organised in Switzerland under the auspices of Swiss Hockey.
2. Only players who have Swiss nationality can be used for official international matches. For the senior national teams, special rules of the World Masters Association (WMA) apply.

3. The clubs of Swiss Hockey are obliged to release players for international matches, training courses and official preparation tournaments of Swiss Hockey.
4. Swiss Hockey shall ensure that no competition matches are scheduled during national team dates with teams for which national players nominated by Swiss Hockey are eligible to play.

Organisation of the match operations

Art. 9. Instructions for Competitions

1. Amendments and additions to the document "Organisational Instructions" are determined by the office in consultation with the sports commission before the start of each field or indoor championship. They are published by the office on the association website and communicated in writing to the clubs, the referees and the relevant association committees.
2. Amendments and additions to the document "Rules and Regulations" are determined by the referee in charge of the sports commission before the start of each field or indoor championship. They are published by the office on the association website and communicated by the office in writing to the clubs, the referees and the relevant association committees.
3. The publication and dispatch of the two updated directives shall take place up to 2 weeks before the start of the championship of the field season and the indoor season respectively.

Art. 10. Match clothing

1. Equipment of the field players:
 - a. Field players wear a uniform tenue consisting of jerseys, shorts or skirt, gauntlets and shin guards. In addition, a gumshield is compulsory for all players in junior and HKT categories.
2. Equipment of a goalkeeper:
 - a. The goalkeeper shall wear full goalkeeping equipment, consisting at least of a helmet, leg protectors, kicker, hand protector and groin protector.
 - b. The goalkeeper wears a tenue that is significantly different from the tenues of his own and the opposing team.
 - c. The goalkeeper must wear the full equipment for the entire duration of the match, unless he is replaced by a field player.
 - d. The goalkeeper shall wear a helmet when taking a penalty corner, penalty stroke or penalty shoot-out against his team.

- e. The goalkeeper may remove the helmet and the hand guard to take a penalty stroke or a penalty shoot-out for his team.
3. The jerseys of all players must have a recognisable back number for all championship matches, which may only be used once per team in each competition match.
4. If both teams wear similar or the same coloured kit in a match, the first named club according to the match schedule shall play in its colours. The second named club must change its kit.
5. Advertising on match clothing for competitive matches must be assessed and expressly approved by Swiss Hockey.
6. The referees wear a uniform, official referee shirt.

Art. 11. Infrastructure for Competitions

1. Playing fields, balls, goals, goal nets and boards for indoor hockey must comply with the official specifications of the FIH for competition matches of Swiss Hockey.
2. At the edge of the court, there must be one bench per team for a maximum of 10 (court) or 11 persons (hall).
3. Regulations for Field Hockey Matches:
 - a. Matches in the highest leagues for men and women are played on artificial turf pitches.
 - b. Matches in the other leagues shall be played on artificial pitches whenever possible, but may also be played on grass pitches or hard courts on request.
 - c. Matches may be played under artificial light.
4. This infrastructure is assessed by the office as required and ultimately approved for competition by the association's board of directors.
5. The Board of Directors of the Association is empowered to encourage the clubs to improve the infrastructure if necessary.
6. If the necessary measures are not implemented within the set deadlines, the Association Executive Committee may order that further competition matches be played away from home at the opposing clubs.

7. Exceptions to these regulations may be approved by the Association Executive Committee after consultation with the office and the clubs concerned.

Art. 12. Insufficient infrastructure

1. If, in the opinion of the referees, the minimum logistical and/or infrastructural requirements for the safe and proper conduct of matches are not met, the scheduled matches shall be cancelled or postponed.
2. If the referees are not present for this assessment, the decision may also be taken jointly by the captains or coaches of the junior teams of all clubs concerned, whereby the decision must be unanimous and confirmed in writing by all captains on the match report.
3. If a match has to be cancelled by the home club for logistical and/or infrastructural reasons, it is obliged to notify the opposing teams, the referees and the office immediately by telephone and e-mail.
4. If it is not possible to play all the matches scheduled by Swiss Hockey on one date at one sports facility, priority shall always be given to the matches of the highest leagues.

Art. 13. abandonment of competitions

1. In the following cases, the referees must order the match to be abandoned:
 - a. In the event of the death of a player, referee, official or spectator.
 - b. If a player or official excluded by the referee does not leave the field of play.
 - c. If a team refuses to resume play after a stoppage.
 - d. In the event of damage to the playing equipment (e.g. goal housing, pitch, boards, etc.) if this cannot be repaired within a reasonable period of time.
2. In the following cases, the referees may decide to abandon the match at their discretion, but the match must first be stopped and a maximum of 30 minutes must be allowed to elapse before the match can be continued. In consultation and with the agreement of both captains, the referees may take this decision later.

- a. If, due to force majeure (e.g. thunderstorms, heavy rain, fog, water ingress, failure of lighting, etc.), an orderly continuation of the match can no longer be guaranteed.
 - b. If order and safety are no longer guaranteed, for example if spectators or bystanders enter the pitch.
 - c. Assault on players, referees or officials by spectators or bystanders. Assault is defined as any deliberate act involving physical contact, irrespective of the severity of the act. Throwing objects or spitting at players are also considered assaults.
3. If a match is abandoned, it must be rescheduled as soon as possible, bearing in mind the following:
- a. In the case of abandoned matches, the remaining playing time will be made up.
 - b. The clubs involved agree on a new match date. In the case of final round matches, the office shall set the new date.
 - c. If no agreement can be reached, the match shall be rescheduled by the administrative office, which shall have the right to reschedule an abandoned match at a neutral venue.

Art. 14. Season cancellation

1. If exceptional circumstances involving health or safety risks, e.g. as a result of a pandemic, social or political unrest, affect regular match operations in parts of Switzerland or in the country as a whole, the Executive Board of Swiss Hockey may, in consultation with the Sports Commission and the Head Office, order the interruption or cancellation of individual leagues or of all match operations.
2. In the event of a termination of the season, the Executive Board of Swiss Hockey shall decide in the final instance on the measures to be taken and the further procedure, e.g. any effects on the league composition or the qualification of clubs for Europa Cup tournaments in future seasons.
3. In leagues where a season-ending order has been issued, the title of Swiss Champion shall not be awarded.

Art. 15 Liability and Insurance cover

1. Swiss Hockey accepts no liability for accidents and injuries that occur during competitions and their preparation or follow-up (training, friendly matches, travel to and from matches, etc.).
2. The clubs or their players take part in the competitions at their own risk and expense. It is the responsibility of the clubs or their members to take out appropriate insurance.
3. The host club is obliged to provide professional and appropriate first aid in case of accidents and injuries at every match. In particular, it is mandatory for the host club to provide a professionally equipped first aid kit on the sidelines.

Art. 16. order, safety and guidelines for action

1. The clubs of Swiss Hockey are obliged to maintain order and safety during competition matches; this applies to the entire area of the sports facility, in particular on and next to the pitch, as well as in the dressing rooms and on the way there.
2. Swiss Hockey clubs are responsible for the actions and statements of their players, referees, officials and spectators made before, during and after competitive matches.
3. The home club is responsible for the safety of players, referees and officials of all clubs involved and shall protect them from harassment and assault before, during and after matches.
4. During the performance of sporting activities or supervisory duties, young people may not smoke or consume alcohol or drugs or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs before the age of 18. This explicitly applies to the way to sports facilities and the stay on sports facilities during trainings and games.
5. The document "Ethics Statute" describes the guidelines of action for trainers, coaches, players, officials, referees and employees of Swiss Hockey.
6. The assessment of incidents that contravene the provisions in Art. 15.1.-3. and the specifications in the document "Ethics Statute" are the exclusive responsibility of the Disciplinary Committee of Swiss Hockey.

Planning of the match operations

Art. 17. Planning of championships and competitions

The following time slots serve the purpose of orderly season planning for Swiss Hockey, the clubs and the referees. They should be adhered to whenever possible in order to ensure the greatest possible planning security for all parties involved.

If, for understandable reasons, a time slot cannot be adhered to by a club or by Swiss Hockey, all bodies involved are required to communicate delays as early as possible.

The start of the field and indoor season is usually considered to be 16 August and the 16 November.

1. Up to **approx. 120 days** before the start of the championship:
The clubs register the teams for all leagues of the following championship; this is done at the request of the office, usually by the end of April for the coming field season and by the end of July for the coming indoor season.
2. Up to **approx. 90 days** before the start of the championship:
The office publishes the provisional dates for the match dates of all leagues in the framework match schedule, taking into account national and cantonal holidays and public holidays as far as possible.
3. Up to **approx. 60 days** before the start of the championship:
The office publishes the provisional match schedule as well as the draft documents "Modus Feld 20xx/yy" and "Modus Halle 20xx/yy" respectively, with the competition mode and the division into leagues of the registered teams.
4. Up to **approx. 45 days** before the start of the championship:
The clubs can send teams for a special fee according to the "Regulations Fees" to re-register.
5. Up to a **maximum of 45 days** before the start of the championship:
The office publishes the definitive championship mode for all leagues and the definitive league division in the final documents.
"Field 20xx/yy" or "Hall 20xx/yy" mode.
6. Up to a **maximum of 30 days** before the start of the championship or field return round:
The clubs shall notify the office of the kick-off times for all home matches allocated to them. If kick-off times have not been reported by clubs by this date, they will be determined by the office without further inquiry.

7. Up to a **maximum of 15 days** before the start of the championship or field return round:
The office shall add the kick-off times to the definitive version of Swiss Hockey's match schedule for the 20xx/yy season.
8. The Final4 Halle must take place by the end of January at the latest.

Art. 18. Venues

1. Matches are played according to the schedule either as individual matches or in tournament form.
2. Individual matches usually take place at sports facilities of the home club.
3. If, due to the mode of play, individual matches are to be played on a neutral field, the venue shall be determined by the office.
 - a. If a club's pitch is used as a neutral venue for a competition match, the home club may claim compensation for any costs incurred, which shall be shared between the teams involved.
 - b. Any pitch approved by Swiss Hockey that is not owned or regularly used by one of the participating clubs shall be considered neutral.
4. For matches in tournament form, the office shall determine the venues in consultation with the clubs, taking into account the availability of halls, travel distances and other tournaments in the same category. This decision cannot be appealed against.

Art. 19. Playing times

1. The duration of matches and their breaks for individual matches and matches in tournament form shall be determined by the office; for this purpose, it shall be guided by the FIH playing times, in particular for matches in the highest leagues of women and men.
2. The following guidelines must be taken into account when determining the kick-off times for all leagues:
 - a. Minimum play-in times before the start of the match:
 - I. Field: 15 minutes for all games;
 - II. Hall: 15 minutes for matches in the highest men's and women's leagues, 5 minutes for all other leagues.
 - b. Arrival at venues: Departure of the teams at 06:00 a.m. at the earliest, taking into account a match preparation of at least 30 minutes before kick-off at the venue of the matches.

Reference: Connection by public transport from the main station of the locality where the club is officially located.

- c. Exceptions to these regulations may be approved by the office with the agreement of the clubs concerned.
3. Matches on the last matchday of the highest leagues in the men's and women's divisions must be played at the same time, unless they are played as part of a tournament. The office shall determine the kick-off time.

Art. 20. Postponement of matches

1. Any postponement of a match after the publication of the definitive match schedule must be requested by the clubs in writing to the association, stating a new date and/or a new kick-off time.
2. It is mandatory that both clubs agree to the application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain this consent in writing.
3. Matches in the highest men's and women's leagues can only be brought forward after the publication of the definitive match schedule. Exception: kick-off times on the same match day. If both clubs agree, the office may approve exceptions in justified cases.
4. It is the responsibility of the office to accept or reject requests to postpone matches. Rejections must be justified in writing by the office.
5. Fees will be charged for postponements of matches in accordance with the "Regulations on Fees".

Art. 21. Friendly matches

1. Competitive matches organised by Swiss Hockey always have priority over friendly matches in terms of location and timing.

Participation in match operations

Art. 22. Participation of the clubs in Championships

1. Each club can participate in a championship with one or more teams. If more than one team is entered, the following criteria apply:
 - a. Several teams of the same club within one playing category: the team in the highest league is designated as the first team (e.g. HC xy 1), all other teams are numbered according to their league affiliation (e.g. HC xy 2, HC xy 3, etc.).
 - b. Several teams of the same club within one league: are considered as "Parallel Teams" designated and numbered consecutively (e.g. HCxy1, HCxy2, HCxy3, etc.); matches between Parallel Teams shall be mandatorily scheduled on the first matchday of a season or on each first matchday of a round.
2. Newly registered teams as well as teams of clubs newly admitted by Swiss Hockey shall be allocated to the lowest league of the men's and women's active teams respectively.
3. Women may also play in the lowest active league for men. Men's teams in which women play are not allowed to participate in promotion matches within the same season and are not eligible for promotion.

Art. 23. Participation of juniors in Championships

1. Each club that participates with junior teams must appoint a junior manager and register him with Swiss Hockey.
2. Swiss Hockey, in cooperation with the Sports Commission, shall determine the age groups for juniors; these should correspond as far as possible with the FIH age groups for junior hockey.
3. The year of birth (and not the date of birth) is decisive for the classification of juniors into an age group. The change of juniors to the next higher age group takes place at the beginning of the field season, regardless of the date of birth, and always includes the field and the indoor season.
4. Details on the organisation of junior hockey are set out in the accompanying document "Weisungen HKT- und Junioren-Hockey".

5. Young players are considered as active players (and no longer as juniors) from the field season in which they are no longer eligible to play for the U18s.
6. Juniors are eligible to play in active leagues after the age of 15 (i.e. after their 15th birthday). Juniors are eligible to play in the women's NLB after the age of 14 (i.e. after the 14th birthday). The office may allow exceptions.
7. Beginners in Hockey Kids and Juniors may play an additional year in the next lower age group. A maximum of two older players per team may be used per game. The use of such a player is only possible in justified exceptional cases and must be requested from the Swiss Hockey office.
8. Young players with physical and mental disabilities are exempt from the age categories specified in the regulations. These players may play in the age category in which they are best placed at their current physical and mental level and in which they can compete according to their performance.
9. At competition matches, junior teams must be accompanied and supervised by at least one adult person.

Art. 24. Participation of consortia in championships

1. Clubs may enter teams as a joint venture of licensed players from several clubs. The following conditions must be fulfilled:
 - a. Teams as playing teams shall be entered by a member club of Swiss Hockey, hereinafter referred to as the parent club.
 - b. The parent club shall represent the playing association vis-à-vis Swiss Hockey in all technical, financial and legal matters.
 - c. Pools can be registered for each season, i.e. also specifically for one field or indoor season only.
 - d. Licensed players from a maximum of three clubs may be involved in match pools.
 - e. Players who are used in match teams are not allowed to play in any other team within the respective category.
 - f. Players may only play in one team per season, but may also play in other categories for those clubs for which they are licensed.

- g. If clubs compete with teams in the same league in which they also participate with players in match pools, it is mandatory to submit player registration lists according to Art. 33. for the teams of the parent clubs and the match pools.

Art. 25. Withdrawal of a team

1. If a team is withdrawn during the course of a championship, all matches played against that team to date shall be assessed zero points and zero goals.
2. A withdrawn team is automatically relegated to the lowest league for the next championship.
3. If a club withdraws a team from the championship, it must always withdraw the one from the lowest league in which it participates in the championship.
4. The withdrawal of a team from an ongoing championship will be fined according to the "Regulations Fees".

Art. 26. Licensing of Players

1. Players are eligible to participate in official competition matches of their club or playing association if they have been licensed for the season in question by Swiss Hockey at the request of their clubs.
2. The eligibility to play is valid separately for field and hall for one season and then expires automatically; it must therefore be renewed by the club for the following season.
3. Swiss Hockey shall only grant playing rights to players who fulfil the FIH regulations.
4. Players who are banned by a national FIH member association will not be licensed by Swiss Hockey.
5. If a player licensed in Switzerland plays in an official competition of another national FIH member association, his eligibility to play in Swiss Hockey competitions expires for the season in question and cannot be renewed in the current season.
6. Licences issued as a result of incorrect information will be cancelled and any matches involving players with invalid licences will be retrospectively assessed a forfeit defeat against the club concerned.
7. Compliance with the regulations and due diligence in the licensing of players is the responsibility of the clubs. In the event of breaches of the licensing regulations, offending clubs may be fined up to

a maximum of 12 months after the end of the season concerned in accordance with "Regulations Fees" can be fined.

Art. 27. Personal Licences

1. Member clubs of Swiss Hockey shall apply to Swiss Hockey for a personal player licence for each player using the official licence application form. All information contained therein must be supported by a copy of an official document.
2. New licences and renewals of licences that have not been activated in the meantime must be applied for no later than 3 days before the first indoor championship match or for the field return round, respectively, in order for the licence holder to be eligible to play in the respective highest leagues of the women's (NLA) and men's (NLA Master and NLA Challenge).
3. For eligibility to play in all other women's, men's and junior leagues, the licence application must be submitted to the office at least 3 working days before the match in which the licence holder is to be used.
4. The eligibility to play shall be issued by Swiss Hockey within 3 working days after receipt of copies of all required documents; in case of doubt, it is the responsibility of the applying club to have the eligibility to play confirmed by the office.
 - a. For this purpose, the following documents are required for all players:
 - i. Passport or identity card;
 - ii. Recent passport photo;
 - iii. Current residential address;
 - iv. eMail address.
 - b. For players of the highest leagues of women (NLA) and men (NLA Master and NLA Challenge) who are older than 18 years and for U18 players who have been used in international competitions, the following documents are also required:
 - i. No Objection Certificate (NOC) for players without Swiss nationality who have been eligible to play for another national FIH member association in the past;
 - ii. Doping substitution declaration.

Art. 28. Impersonal Licences

1. Member clubs of Swiss Hockey may apply for up to 5 impersonal
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licences per season using the official licence application form.

- The licence entitles any person who does not already hold a valid personal licence from Swiss Hockey to take part in competitions.
2. If a team uses an impersonal licence for a match, the name of the player must be entered on the match report together with the corresponding licence number.
 3. Impersonal licences may not be used for matches of the NLA men's and women's teams (Master and Challenge).
 4. Teams that have used one or more impersonal licences in a current season may not participate in promotion matches within the same season and are not eligible for promotion.
 5. Swiss Hockey may designate leagues in which team registration instead of personal licences is sufficient for teams to participate in championship play.

Art. 29. Change of club

1. A player may be licensed (separately for field and indoor) by only one club at any time. Changes of club are only permitted in accordance with Art. 28.2. and Art. 28.3. are permitted. Special regulations apply to match pools - see Art. 23.
2. As long as a player has not yet been used in a competition match for his previous club in a season, he may join another club of Swiss Hockey and be re-licensed by that club.
3. An active player who has been licensed for both the field and indoor seasons for his club may change clubs for the indoor season if he has not yet played an official indoor match for his previous club.
4. The player's new club must inform the previous club in writing of the planned change of club; a copy of this letter must be sent to the office.

Art. 30. Festival for a team

1. Every active player who is no longer allowed to play for the U18s due to age will definitely play for a team within a season as soon as he has competed for this team in three matches.
2. Once a player has been selected for a team, he cannot play for teams of the same club in the current season in the same league or in a league of a lower level.

3. The match reports shall be decisive for the team matches; matches that are forfeited shall not be counted for the purposes of the team matches.
4. Each club may re-qualify players during the course of the field championship so that they are no longer a fixed member of a team. The following rules apply:
 - a. Men:
1 player between the first and the second qualifying round
3 players between the second and the third qualifying round
 - b. Ladies:
3 players before 16 March.
5. It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure that their players are eligible to play for their respective teams.

Art. 31. Deployment in several teams

1. Active players and juniors may be fielded in more than one team per match day. Exception Article 32.2 Players may still only be used for matches of one parallel team per match day.

Art. 32. Matches in Parallel teams

1. If a club is represented by more than one team in a league, these teams shall be considered as "parallel teams". In this case, the regulations of Art. 33 concerning player registration lists must be observed in particular.
2. Players may only be used for matches of one parallel team per match day.

Art. 33. Player registration lists for the start of the season

1. Before the start of the field or indoor season, the clubs must submit to the office lists of players for one team each in the highest league for men and women if they participate in the championship with at least two teams.
2. These player rosters include 8 players for the field season and 5 for the indoor season. They are referred to as regular players.
3. Regular players are not allowed to play in matches of other teams of the club in active leagues during the whole season. This also applies explicitly in the following cases:
 - a. Regular players are also not eligible to play in matches of lower leagues that took place before the first match day of the respective higher league.

- b. If juniors are registered as regular players, they are also not eligible to play in matches in lower leagues.
4. If one or more regular players are re-qualified, new regular players must be named between the respective NLA rounds for the men's team or before 16 March for the women's team; new regular players are also not allowed to play in matches for other teams of the club after a re-qualification.
5. If a club does not submit a registration list before the start of the season, the first 8 (field season) or the first 5 players (indoor season) on the match report of the first match are automatically considered as regular players.
6. If a club re-qualifies regular players but does not name new regular players, they are automatically replaced by the first non-regular players on the match report of the first matches after the re-qualification period.
7. Clubs with parallel teams must submit one player entry list per team.

Art. 34. Personal Match suspensions

1. Referees may show cards to players or officials before, during and up to a maximum of 30 minutes after the match in accordance with FIH regulations as a personal punishment on the entire grounds of the sports facility, especially on and next to the pitch, as well as in the dressing rooms and on the way there.
2. Players and officials who have been shown cards shall be sent off in accordance with the "Regulations Fees" or in serious cases by the Disciplinary Commission. If a player or official is suspended in the course of an association tournament, the Technical Tournament Director (TD) shall decide on the provisional penalty.
3. Match suspensions always come into force immediately; players and officials suspended as a result of match suspensions may not be used in their teams' subsequent matches in accordance with the penalty imposed.
4. Players and officials may serve suspensions as a result of personal penalties exclusively by missing matches of the teams for which they were on duty when they were shown the cards.
5. Until a match suspension has been fully settled, players and officials shall remain suspended for all competitive matches of all teams of their clubs.

6. Suspensions resulting from red cards remain in effect beyond the end of the season and must be served in the following season.

The penalty must be served in the same or the next lower league. In the event of a player so suspended transferring to another club, the penalty must be served at the new club in a team of the same or next lower league.

Implementation of the match operations

Art. 35. Championship mode

1. The mode of all leagues shall be determined for each season by the office of Swiss Hockey in the documents "Mode Field 20xx/yy" and "Mode Hall 20xx/yy" for the field and the indoor season respectively.
2. Serious changes to the championship mode, in particular those affecting the league affiliation of teams in active leagues, must be approved by the General Assembly of Swiss Hockey. Changes made outside of the general assembly are the responsibility of the executive committee of Swiss Hockey.

Art. 36. Champion's Honours and Challenge Trophy

1. The winning teams of all championships in field and indoor hockey shall be designated as follows:
 - a. "Swiss champions" are the winners of the highest league in each category (active, junior, senior); designation according to the following example: "Swiss champions NLA women's indoor hockey".
 - b. "Champions" are the winners of all lower leagues in each category (active, junior, senior); designation according to the following example: "Champion 2021 NLB Women's Field Hockey".
 - c. The year number refers in each case to the year in which the championship is completed.
2. The winning teams of all championships will receive a challenge trophy.
 - a. The challenge trophy shall remain with the club of the winning team for one year, which shall ensure that it is stored carefully and shall be liable for any damage. It must be returned to Swiss Hockey in good condition by the winning club at least 15 days before the next award ceremony without being requested to do so, or it must be brought directly to the venue on the day of the award ceremony.
 - b. If a club wins the challenge trophy three times in a row or five times in total, it becomes the property of that club.

Art. 37. Management of Competitions

1. Matches shall be officiated by two referees nominated by the Referee Commission or by competent officials. In the case of "Club/Club" referee appointments, the referees shall be provided by the clubs involved in the match.

2. A nominated referee may only be substituted before or during a match if he is unable to continue the match as a result of an injury.
3. In the case of "Club/Club" referee appointments, both teams may agree in writing before the start of the match, with a note on the match report, on a possible change of referee at half-time.
4. If one or both referees appointed by Swiss Hockey cannot officiate a match, the captains of the two teams must agree on one or two substitute referees. The match must be played in any case and cannot be postponed.
 - a. If no agreement is reached regarding the choice of substitute referees, the match shall be officiated by one player from each team.
 - b. If one of the teams does not have a substitute, the match is played with one player less per team.
 - c. Subsequent objections to nominated substitute referees are excluded.

Art. 38. Match reports

1. For each match, a match report must be submitted by the home team or by each participating team in the case of tournament matches.
2. In the match report, each team lists the players involved in the match with their names, first names, shirt number and licence number as well as the name and first name of the coach. If players with impersonal licences take part in compulsory matches, their names and first names must be entered in the match report.
3. In the match reports prepared in this way, the referees or the TD shall record the names and first names of the referees, the results of the matches, the goal scorers, any cards awarded and remarks on important incidents after the end of the match on match days in tournament form. The match reports must be signed by both referees or the TD.
4. The captains of both teams have the right to inspect the match reports within 30 minutes after the end of the match and to supplement them if necessary, especially in the event of protests, before the referees sign the match reports.
5. The match reports shall be used to monitor the match and shall be sent by the home club to the Swiss Hockey office by post or email, where they shall be available within 3 working days.

must. If the match report is late or/and not filled in completely and correctly, a fine may be imposed according to the "Regulations Fees".

Art. 39. Regulatory and organisational Instructions

1. Matches shall be played in accordance with the official FIH Laws of the Game as set out in the documents "FIH Laws of the Game for Field Hockey" and "FIH Laws of the Game for Indoor Hockey".
2. Any deviations from this must be indicated in the documents. "Regeltechnische Weisungen 20xx/yy" be documented and approved by the Association's Executive Committee in due time.
3. Such deviations must be published by the office on the association website at least 14 days before the start of each field or indoor championship and communicated in writing to the clubs and the sports commission.
4. Matches shall be played in accordance with the present "Swiss Hockey Laws of the Game" and the document "Organisational Instructions 20xx/yy".

Art. 40. Supervision of teams during competitions

1. Teams in all categories may be attended by up to 4 officials (excluding the video team) and a team doctor, clearly distinguishable from players by their clothing.
2. Officials must remain in the players' bench area throughout the match and are subject to the FIH Laws of the Game.

Art. 41. Composition of Teams

1. For competition matches, the team composition is as follows:
 - a. Field Hockey Large Field:
Teams compete with a maximum of 10 field players and 1 goalkeeper or 11 field players; there must be a minimum of 8 players on the pitch at the start of the match; a team may field a maximum of 16 players per match.
 - b. Hockey three-quarter court:
Teams compete with a maximum of 8 field players and 1 goalkeeper or 9 field players; a minimum of 6 players must be on the field at the start of the match; a team may field a maximum of 16 players per match.
 - c. Field Hockey Half Field:
Teams compete with a maximum of 6 field players and 1 goalkeeper or 7 field players; at the start of the game a minimum of 4 players must be on the field.

A team may field a maximum of 12 players per match.

- d. Field Hockey Quarter Field:
Teams compete with a maximum of 5 field players and 1 goalkeeper or 6 field players; a minimum of 4 players must be on the field at the start of the match; a team may field a maximum of 12 players per match.
 - e. Field Hockey Round of 16:
Only for games in the U8 category of the Hockey Kids Tour (HKT). This is played on 4 small goals with 3 players per team.
 - f. Indoor hockey:
Teams compete with a maximum of 5 field players and 1 goalkeeper or 6 field players; a minimum of 4 players must be on the field at the start of the match; a team may field a maximum of 12 players per match.
2. Use of a goalkeeper:
 - a. In matches of the active leagues, the goalkeeper may be replaced by a field player; the current regulations of the FIH shall apply.
 - b. In competitive matches in junior leagues, a goalkeeper must be on the pitch for the entire duration of the match.
 - c. No goalkeepers will be used in games played by U8 teams in Hockey Kids Tour (HKT) tournaments.

Art. 42. Scoring of matches

1. A match won after regular playing time counts three points, a drawn match one point, a lost match zero points.
2. If matches with penalties or penalty shoot-outs are decided after the regular playing time, the winner of this short decision receives an additional point.

Art. 43. Criteria for the compilation of Rankings

1. The rankings for championships for all leagues shall be drawn up in accordance with the following criteria in the following order, whereby these criteria for drawing up tables shall also be applied if teams with a different number of matches are ranked:
 - Number of points scored
 - Goal difference: goals scored minus goals received

- Number of goals scored
 - Number of points from matches in direct comparison
 - Goal difference in direct comparison
 - Draw of lots
2. Only the results of the matches played within the same round of the two sub-leagues (NLA Master and NLA Challenge) are taken into account for the compilation of the men's NLA Master and NLA Challenge tables.
 3. Exception: The following criteria shall apply in the following order to establish the ranking list for determining participation in the Final4 of the Men's Field Championship, whereby the matches of all 3 rounds in the NLA Master League, but not the matches in the NLA Challenge League, shall be counted for this purpose:
 - Number of points scored
 - Goal difference: goals scored minus goals received
 - Number of goals scored per match
 - Number of points from matches in direct comparison
 - Goal difference in direct comparison
 - Draw of lots

Art. 44. Matches with forfeit Scoring

1. A match may be declared a forfeit by the referees before the start of the match, during the match and after the end of the match.
 - a. Reasons for forfeit before the start of the match:
 - i. A team has arbitrarily postponed the kick-off time or obtained a postponement through improper information.
 - ii. One or both teams are not on the field of play up to a maximum of 30 minutes (field) or 5 minutes (indoor) after the official kick-off time; in the event of delays due to force majeure or demonstrable delays of public transport, matches are not forfeited.
 - iii. One or both teams are short of eligible players at the start of the match.
 - iv. The pitch has been deliberately left in an unplayable condition by a team.
 - v. One or both teams appear in non-regulation playing attire.
 - b. Reasons for forfeit during the match:

- i. One or both teams leave the field of play before the end of the match or refuse to continue the match.
 - ii. The home team cannot ensure order and safety on the field of play, causing the referee to stop play.
 - c. Reasons for forfeit after the end of the match:
 - i. One or both teams have used ineligible players.
 - ii. One or both teams used too many players.
 - iii. The infrastructure did not comply with the match regulations.
 - iv. The Disciplinary Committee shall award a forfeit against one or both teams due to special incidents.
2. A forfeit may be assessed against one team or both teams in a match.
3. A forfeit will result in zero points and 0:3 goals (field) or 0:5 goals (indoor) for the team(s) concerned and will be penalised according to the "Regulations Fees".
4. If a forfeit is awarded after the end of the match, the result actually achieved shall be taken into account if the goal difference in favour of the non-penalised winning team is higher than 3 goals (field) or 5 goals (indoor).
5. A forfeit score as a result of a team's non-attendance without reasons of demonstrable force majeure will be additionally assessed with the deduction of 3 points for teams in the highest men's and women's leagues.

Procedure for protests

Art. 45. Protest against Match scoring

1. A protest against a match score must be noted in the match report by the captain of the protesting team, stating the reason for the protest.
2. A protest relating to the condition or drawing of the pitch, the goals, the general infrastructure, a team's kit or the start of the match must be recorded in the match report before the start of the match.
3. A protest against factual decisions or the timekeeping of the referees is excluded.
4. In the event of technical errors by the referees, the match shall be replayed; travel expenses for this match shall be borne by Swiss Hockey.

Art. 46. Confirmation of protests

1. A protest must be confirmed by the protesting club no later than 72 hours after the end of the match in the form of an appropriate protest letter sent by registered mail or email to the office.
2. A protest will only become effective upon receipt of this written confirmation; a deposit of Fr. 500 must be paid together with the confirmation.
3. A letter of protest must include the name of the match and an accurate description of the situation; any evidence or witness statements must be attached to the letter of protest.
4. A protest letter must contain a one-to-one request from the protest leader to Swiss Hockey.
5. A protest that does not meet these formal requirements will not be heard.

Art. 47. Handling of Protests

1. A protest will be dealt with by the office in the first instance. The referees and the captains of the teams involved are invited to comment on the protest.
2. The appeal instance is the Association Court.
3. If a protest is withdrawn before the decision, the protest deposit is forfeited.

4. If a protest is upheld, the protest deposit will be refunded.
5. If a protest is rejected, the investigation costs will be charged to the protesting club. The protest deposit is forfeited and will not be taken into account when charging the investigation costs.

Final provisions

Art. 48. Deadlines and Deadlines

1. All time limits and deadlines shall be deemed to have been complied with if the action to be taken takes place on the last day before 24.00 hours of the regulatory or fixed deadline. If the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday recognised by law in the canton concerned, the following working day shall be deemed the last day of the period.
2. The official postmark of the place of posting or the date of dispatch of the e-mail is decisive for proof of compliance with deadlines. The sender is responsible for proving that the deadline has been met.

Art. 49. Amendment of the Laws of the Game

1. Amendments to the Laws of the Game may be requested by all member clubs and the commissions of Swiss Hockey.
2. Amendments to the Laws of the Game shall be drafted by the Sports Commission in cooperation with the Secretariat and approved by the Association Board.

Art. 50. Exceptional cases and recourse Law

1. Cases and questions that are not or not completely clarified in these playing regulations and in the applicable documents and references (see page 3) shall be decided by the administrative office at its best discretion. These decisions may be appealed to the Association Court of Swiss Hockey.
2. The right of appeal against provisions of the Swiss Hockey Laws of the Game shall be preserved.

Art. 51. Validity and entry into force of the Laws of the Game

1. The present version of the Laws of the Game is valid until a new version comes into force.
2. The present Laws of the Game shall enter into force on 30 April 2022 following their adoption by the General Assembly of Swiss Hockey.