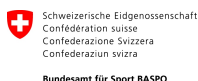


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Match Postponement Directives Field Season 2026/27

Version 1.2, valid from 1 August 2026
(replaces Version 1.1 of 1 October 2025)

Based on submissions from clubs and taking into account cantonal and local circumstances, Swiss Hockey draws up the match schedules before each season through a multi-stage exchange with the clubs and the national coaches. Swiss Hockey therefore expects that matches and tournaments will only be postponed in exceptional cases once the „Definitive Schedule“ has been published.

This document supplements Articles 21.1.–5 of the Rules of Competition and explains the process for requesting match postponements. Should clubs wish to postpone matches or tournaments after publication of the „Definitive Schedule“, the following provisions apply, in line with the „Rules of Competition“ and the „Fee Regulations“.

- **Requests for Match Postponements**

Requests for the postponement of any match or tournament must be submitted in writing to Swiss Hockey, with reasons given, using the following document: [Match Postponement Request Form](#)

The request must be accompanied by the following information without fail: date, time, and location of the new fixture.

- **Applicant**

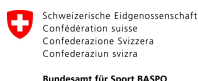
Requests for a match postponement require the agreement of the clubs of both teams involved, or of all clubs in the case of a tournament postponement. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain the necessary agreements before submitting the request.

- **Fees for Match Postponements**

Once a match postponement has been approved, fees are charged in accordance with the „Fee Regulations“.

Overriding the league-specific requirements (see Chapters 2 and 3), requests for match postponements are generally approved in unforeseeable situations arising from force majeure.

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1. Fee-Free Match Postponements Due to Short-Notice and Unforeseeable Events

Swiss Hockey supports clubs in rescheduling matches that must be postponed due to short-notice and unforeseeable events, and does not charge any fees for this.

- **Examples of fee-free grounds for match postponements due to force majeure**
 - The pitch is unavailable through no fault of the club, e.g. due to cancelled permits or technical defects.
 - Weather-related conditions (e.g. snowfall or icing of the pitch), health-related, or safety-related conditions that do not permit matches to be held.
 - Illness-related absences of at least 5 (11-side), 4 (9-side), or 3 (7- and 6-side) players of a team for the field championship, or of at least 5 players for the indoor championship. Note: the Head Office may request medical certificates.
 - A recent death or accident directly involving players and/or umpires involved in the match.

2. Fee-Liable Match Postponements in the Women's NLA and Men's NLA Master & Challenge

Match postponements in the top leagues for women and men should, in principle, not take place once the „Definitive Schedule“ has been published. Requests are only approved in exceptional cases.

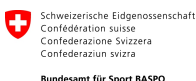
- **Examples of non-permissible grounds for match postponements**
 - Player and coach absences due to holidays
 - Avoidance of double weekends
 - Player injuries
 - Avoidance of match suspensions
- **Postponement Dates**

Matches in these leagues may only be rescheduled to a date between the weekend before and the weekend after the date originally set in the „Definitive Schedule“. Postponements to dates outside this window, as well as postponements of matches on the final NLA matchday for women and men, are not permitted. In addition, for scheduling reasons, matches in the NLA Men's Master & Challenge league may not be postponed to a date after the respective final matchday of the three qualification rounds.
- **Deadlines for Submitting Match Postponement Requests**
 - Matches brought forward:
Request must be submitted at least 10 days before the new match date.
 - Matches postponed to a later date:
Request must be submitted at least 10 days before the originally scheduled match date.

Approval by the Head Office

Match postponements in these leagues must be approved by the Head Office without exception. The Head Office processes requests within one week. If the Head Office

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rejects a request, it must state its reasons. The Head Office's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

- **Postponement Fees**

Match postponements in the top leagues cause considerable, unplannable additional work for the Head Office. This is charged to the club that caused it, in accordance with the „Fee Regulations“.

- **Assignment of Umpires**

Matches in the Women's NLA and the Men's NLA Master and Challenge leagues are normally officiated by umpires designated by the person responsible for umpiring matters. It is therefore their task to inform the umpires of match postponements in these leagues.

3. Match Postponements in the Women's NLB, 1st League and Junior Leagues (excluding HKT)

Requests for match postponements in these leagues are generally possible, but have increased significantly in recent years. Clubs are urged to play matches in accordance with the „Definitive Schedule“ whenever possible.

- **Postponement Dates**

Matches in these leagues may be postponed to any date between the start and end of the season. The following must, however, be observed:

- Postponed matches must be played without fail by the weekend before a new phase of the season at the latest, e.g. in leagues with new group allocations or leagues with decisive matches.
- This explicitly does not apply to leagues with single or double round-robin formats without new group allocations, e.g. Women's NLB.

- **Deadlines for Submitting Match Postponement Requests**

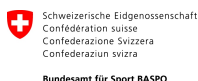
- Matches brought forward:
Request must be submitted at least 10 days before the new match date.
- Matches postponed to a later date:
Request must be submitted at least 10 days before the originally scheduled match date.

- **Grounds for Fee-Free and Fee-Liable Match Postponements**

Requests for match postponements must be justified. The Head Office decides whether fees apply in accordance with the „Fee Regulations“.

- Examples of fee-free grounds:
 - Matches are scheduled, according to the „Definitive Schedule“, during cantonal or local school holidays.
 - Matches are scheduled, according to the „Definitive Schedule“, during an official Swiss Hockey event or course.

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- Examples of fee-liable grounds:
 - insufficient players available
 - coaches unavailable
 - club/club umpires unavailable

- **Approval by the Head Office**

Match postponements must be reported to the Head Office in accordance with the deadlines named above. The Head Office processes requests within one week and informs the clubs concerned.

- **Assignment of Umpires**

In these leagues, umpires are generally appointed by the clubs involved. It is therefore the responsibility of the requesting club to inform the umpires of match postponements.

Exception: For matches in which umpires are appointed by the Association (e.g. for final matches), it is the task of the person responsible for umpiring matters to inform the umpires of match postponements.

Concluding Remark: In the event of disagreement over the interpretation of this directive in connection with requests for match postponements, the Head Office will seek an amicable solution with the clubs concerned, but holds final decision-making authority.

Horw, 6 August 2026
Head Office / mz