

SUSSEX LADIES KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

2018-19
RULES



1. Entry

All clubs affiliated to the Sussex Hockey Association may enter a Ladies team, or teams, into the Knockout Cup, the Knockout Plate or Vase Competition Day. **By entering the competitions all teams are deemed to have agreed to the rules of the competitions as laid out in this document.**

2. Team Eligibility

If entering more than one team in either competition they should be quite distinct from each other and are not 'interchangeable'.

Only teams from clubs affiliated to Sussex Hockey Association are eligible to enter the Competitions.

Eligibility for the KO competitions is based on league status:

The CUP Competition is open to teams participating at National, Regional or Sussex Ladies League Premier.

The PLATE Competition is open to teams participating in Divisions One and in the top three teams of Division two (as the league stands at Christmas).

The VASE Competition Day is open to teams participating in Division 2 from position 4 downwards in the table (as the league stands at Christmas) and Division Three the Sussex Ladies League.

Invites will only be offered to teams meeting the above criteria. No other entries will be permitted.

(Guidance Note: Where clubs have more than one team eligible for a competition, please consider carefully whether or not entering all eligible teams is practical. Traditionally availability of players for KO Competition matches seems to be less than for the League schedule. If opting to enter less than the eligible number of teams it is advisable to enter the highest level team – that way other players can play 'up' to help with availability).

3. Player Eligibility for Cup/Plate competitions

A player must not play in two different competitions or for two different teams on the same day.

3.a Cup Tied Rule: **Once a player has played in the Sussex Cup, they are effectively 'cup tied' and cannot take part subsequently in the Plate/Vase without PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT from the organiser.** This consent may only be granted in situations where the player in question has only played one game in the Cup AND usually plays with a lower team (judged by having played no more than 2 games with a higher team in league fixture by Christmas). Once players have played in Plate/Vase competition day, they are tied to that competition and can not under any circumstances, play in an alternative competition.

3b. General Eligibility: League status and eligibility is key for competition eligibility. If a player is not eligible to play for a particular team in the League, then they are not eligible for that same team for the Sussex knockout competitions either.

Each competition is aimed at a particular playing level and as such, the rules protect from players of a different level being used in the wrong competitions. Eligibility for Plate: **Once any player has participated in three or more league in Sussex Premier Division or above, they are not eligible to play for their club in the Plate.** Eligibility for Vase: **Once any player has participated in three or more league in Sussex Division 1 they are not eligible to play for their club in the Vase. Any player who has played in Sussex Premier or above more than once is not eligible to play in the Vase competition.**

4. Finance

The Knockout Competitions entry fee is charged as part of affiliation costs to meet administration costs, umpires appointments costs the Cup games and Finals, and for pitch costs for finals day and competition day itself.

Teams participating in the Plate and Vase tournament will ensure that each team entering the VASE Competition Day brings along at least one umpire to assist with games the whole day.

Participating clubs and umpires shall be responsible for any expenses incurred in arranging the various matches. However, umpires will be appointed to the Cup games and finals and the costs incurred will be met by the county.

Finals Day Teas Costs – The six finalists will be offered the opportunity to have post-match teas after their respective matches on Finals Day. However, the cost – which will be advised in advance of finals day – will be attributed directly to the club concerned by whatever means is practical.

5. Rules and Discipline

The Competitions will be played under the rules of England Hockey and the competition rules described herein. Any eventuality not covered by these rules should be drawn to the Organising Committee's attention. The Organising Committee's decision on any matter is **FINAL**.

The England Hockey Code of Discipline shall be applied throughout the competition(s).

6. Organisation

The competition Organising Committee with the backing and support of the Sussex Hockey Association will run the competitions. In all fixtures, the top / first named team will be the 'home' team. The 'away' team will change kit in the event of a clash (including socks please).

6a. Arrangements for Cup Games For the Cup, a draw will take place before the competition and will then be run on a knockout basis. All matches **will be played on the dates prescribed** (these having been notified with invitation to enter. The only exceptions are those listed in rule 8. The 'home' team is responsible for providing the pitch and refreshments at their expense. They must contact their opposition without undue delay to arrange a mutually agreeable time on the prescribed date. Once the time and venue have been arranged, the 'home' team must inform the organiser. All games will be 35 minutes each way and played on a properly marked AstroTurf pitch. In the event of a draw **in any match** at full time, a Penalty Stroke competition will be played out. **There is no extra time**. Both teams will take 5 penalty strokes. Each stroke will be taken by a different player. If the result is still drawn there will be "sudden death" penalty strokes.

A match report form will be completed prior to match, to be handed to the umpires for the duration of the match. Each **team captain** has a responsibility to ensure the sheet is correctly completed with their player information. The **HOME team captain** should ensure the match report form is obtained from the umpires following the match and that it is signed etc. by all required parties.

6b. Arrangements for Plate and Vase Tournament Teams will play each other using a point system. The two teams from each competition, with the highest point score, will progress to the final day.

7. Exceptions and Postponements for Cup Games

For prescribed dates where one or both teams in a tie are involved in a regular league fixture in either the Investec Women's Hockey League or the South Clubs' Women's Hockey League, the **match must be scheduled for the Sunday immediately** following prescribed date.

Postponements will only be allowed in the event of adverse weather conditions or ground conditions.

Teams with three or more **regular adult players** being required for Regional, National, or International events whether indoor or outdoor may apply for dispensation to postpone the match. Such requests must be made to the organiser at least **14 days** before the date of the match.

Any postponed match must be rescheduled at the **earliest possible date**, the Organising Committee reserves the right to stipulate the date if the teams are unable to agree.

10. Umpires

For the Plate and Vase Competition Day – All teams **MUST** provide a **COMPETENT UMPIRE** who is a MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY HOCKEY UMPIRES ASSOCIATION (SxCHUA), excluding the Finals Day. If a suitably qualified umpire is not provided, then the offending club will forfeit the match. Clubs are reminded that the same umpires must officiate the whole match except in the case of injury. Umpires for the Cup and Finals (for all competitions) will be appointed by the SxCHUA.

11. Notification of Results

The **HOME team** please must ensure that the match result is texted, telephoned or e-mailed to the organiser by 8.00pm on the same day. The completed match report form must be returned to the organiser (scanned and emailed or posted), to arrive no later than the Wednesday following the match. The Competitions Organiser will endeavour to ensure 'Fixtures Live' is updated as soon after the matches have taken place as possible.