

**WELSH HOCKEY UNION**  
**UNDEB HOCH CYMRU**

**NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES for 2006 / 2007 SEASON**

**1. Preamble**

The following Rules are applicable to the following National Competitions played within the control of the Welsh Hockey Union (WHU).

**1.1 Men**

- a) Welsh Cup
- b) Welsh 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup
- c) Welsh Shield
- d) Welsh Veterans Cup

**1.2 Women**

- a) Welsh Cup
- b) Welsh Plate
- c) Welsh 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup
- d) Welsh Shield
- e) Welsh Veterans Cup

**2. Management and Control**

Shall be invested in the WHU Competitions Committee as set out in the WHU Constitution.

The WHU Competitions Committee may appoint secretaries to assist in the organisation of individual competitions.

**3. Entry.**

**3.1 Any club affiliated to the WHU**

**3.2 Entry form and entry fee to the WHU by the designated date on the entry form**

**3.3 All monies will be controlled by the WHU.**

**3.4 No club may enter more than one team per competition.**

**3.5** *If a Club enters a competition whereby the winners are invited to participate in a European competition a club, on entering that competition, accepts that European entry is an absolute expectation should they win that competition. Should the invitation be declined then penalties will be imposed. The only grounds for declining to enter a European competition are if that Club has qualified for both the Indoor and an Outdoor competition in the same season. Should this arise then WHU will seek a replacement which will, where possible, be the runner up in the relevant Welsh competition.*

**3.6 Club and players must pay the current WHU affiliation fees by 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**3.7** For the purpose of National Competitions the team playing at the highest level shall be deemed a Club's 1<sup>st</sup> XI, their next highest their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and so on. This shall be regardless of how teams are named in whatever domestic competition they participate on a weekly basis throughout the season.

**3.8** Every Women's club entering the Welsh Cup or the Welsh Shield must submit, the name of an active, affiliated, and qualified umpire, who is available for appointment, i.e., qualified as per the WHUA current list of active Umpires, or holding an equivalent qualification from any National Association (details of the qualification to be submitted)

NOTE: As from season 2005 – 2006 Clubs will only be able to nominate umpires who are affiliated members of their club. Clubs failing to nominate an umpire will be fined.

**3.9** The top five (5) men's clubs and the top five (5) women's clubs, as decided by the WHU Competitions Committee, shall not be eligible to enter the Welsh Shield. The top five(5) women's, due to the seeding arrangements, will not be able to participate in the Plate competition.

**3.10** Clubs entering 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup competitions must nominate ten regular players who will not then be permitted to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup competition. At the time of nomination these ten must be bona fide 1<sup>st</sup> XI players who are available for selection and are expected to be first choice selections for that team. Either at the time of nomination or at any time during the competition any player, either nominated or participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI competition, may be challenged if it is felt this Rule has been breached.

The list of nominated players must be forwarded to the competition organiser no later than one week before a Club's first game but no earlier than three weeks before their first game.

**3.11** Clubs entering a team in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup must have already entered a team in the Welsh Cup or Welsh Shield.

- 3.12 Only players aged 40 or over (Men) or aged 35 or over (Women) prior to the start of the season, may play in the Welsh Veterans Cup.
- 3.13 Veterans teams may consist of players from no more than three clubs without the prior approval of the Competitions Committee Chairman, but players may only play for one team / composite team in the competition (see rule 15.4)

#### **4. Draw**

- 4.1 All draws will be made publicly
- 4.2 The team drawn first is the Home team
- 4.3 The losing teams from the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Women's Welsh Cup will automatically take part in the Welsh Plate Competition.

#### **5. Rules of Play**

- 5.1 All matches shall be played according to the Rules of Hockey as issued by the FIH.
- 5.2 In the event of WHU adopting experimental rules, matches will be played to such rules during their currency
- 5.3 If there is a clash of colours, the Away team shall change to different colours. This must include shirts and socks

#### **6. Dates of Matches**

Matches should be played on the dates designated in the WHU Calendar with the exception of the Universities and Colleges who may be allowed some dispensation to agree different dates for their 1<sup>st</sup> Round Matches with their opposition and the appropriate competition secretary.

#### **7. Priority**

- 7.1 The Welsh Cup shall take priority over all other hockey played under the auspices of the WHU
- 7.2 Exceptions: Under-18, Under-21 and Senior national squads, training and matches will have priority provided that these dates are included in the Calendar contained in the WHU Handbook.
- 7.3 For the 2nd XI Cup add Under-16 national squads, training and matches, to the exceptions in 7.2 above

#### **8. Time and Duration of Play**

- 8.1 Start time 1200 - 1430 or a time convenient to both teams
- 8.2 No matches will be arranged to start under artificial light unless prior approval is obtained from the Competitions Committee Chairman
- 8.3 All matches to be confirmed by Home team with Away team and Umpires at least 10 days prior to match
- 8.4 If insufficient pitch time is booked for the completion of the game, including extra time and penalty strokes, then the home team will forfeit the game
- 8.5 In the event of a draw at the end of full time in a Welsh Cup, Welsh Shield, Welsh 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup or Welsh Plate match, there shall be a 5 minute interval, captains toss, then extra time of ten minutes each way
- 8.6. If extra time does not produce a winner a Penalty Stroke Competition will take place, as per FIH Regulations for Outdoor Competitions.
- 8.7. In the event of a draw at the end of full time in a Welsh Veterans Cup match, there shall be no extra time and paragraph 8.6 will apply.

#### **9. Grounds**

- 9.1 All matches to be played on artificial turf surfaces (first round matches may be played on Red-Gra or grass with the prior approval of the Competitions Committee Chairman)
- 9.2 The Competitions Committee will decide the venue for the Semi finals and Finals of all competitions.

#### **10. Matches - Postponement, Failure to fulfill, Conceding, Abandonment**

- 10.1 Postponed - a match may be postponed due to adverse weather conditions, Home team's responsibility prior to Away team leaving their home ground, thereafter it is the Umpires' responsibility
- 10.2 Postponed - a match may be postponed if adverse weather conditions prevent the Away team from travelling
- 10.3 Postponed - a match may be postponed if a club has 2 or more players involved with a national squad (see priority 7.2 and 7.3)
- 10.4 Postponed - for reasons other than 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 will put in writing, within 48 hrs of the scheduled date, to the appropriate National Co-ordinator, with explanations of failure to fulfil fixture. May incur a fine (see 12.5a) and match expenses
- 10.5 Postponed match normally to be played within 14 days as per section 8 above

- 10.6 **Conceding a match is unacceptable** - the offending club will be fined (see 12.5b) and may incur match expenses (see 12.4) and will be excluded from the Welsh Plate if applicable
- 10.7 Abandonment - responsibility of the Umpires - before the 60<sup>th</sup> minute, to be replayed normally within 14 days. From the 60<sup>th</sup> minute the team with the most goals shall be the winner. If a draw, to be replayed normally within 14 days
- 10.8 The date for the rearranged fixture should be made within 14 days and the Competitions Co-ordinator informed. . If clubs are unable to agree the Competitions Committee Chairman will fix a date for playing the match. Any club refusing to play on a date fixed by the Competitions Committee Chairman shall be deemed to have lost the match

## 11. Umpires

- 11.1 The WHUA may appoint umpires to all matches
- 11.2 Umpires must be qualified, as per the WHUA current list of active umpires, or holding an equivalent qualification from any National Association and be affiliated to the WHUA and the WHU.
- 11.3 After the match both umpires to confirm the result by signing the match sheet.
- 11.4 Non arrival of a WHUA appointed umpire / umpires at the designated time:

- a) the start shall be delayed for 10 minutes

If the WHUA appointed umpire(s) has not arrived at the end of that 10 minutes the following shall apply:

- b) the Home team captain shall ascertain, from amongst the spectators, if there is a qualified umpire(s) available who is willing to officiate. That umpire(s) shall then become the “temporary umpire(s)”
- c) the Home team captain, in consultation with the captain of the Away team and the umpire, shall nominate from amongst their playing squads, a qualified umpire(s) to act as “temporary umpire(s)”. A player(s) may be withdrawn from either or both playing squads for this purpose. If a “temporary umpire(s)” has been withdrawn from one playing squad the other team shall withdraw one of its playing squad.

NOTE: For the purpose of this rule both teams shall have an equal number of players on the pitch provided they both have an equal number of players available. If one team has fewer than eleven players available then that differential must be maintained if 11.4(c) is invoked.

- d) In the event of the WHUA appointed umpire(s) arriving before the commencement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half that WHUA appointed umpire(s) will take over the match and the “temporary umpire(s)” and the withdrawn player, may rejoin the game.

- 15. if no replacement qualified umpire is available the match shall be postponed (see 10.5)

## 12. Expenses, Fines

- 12.1 The Home team shall meet the match expenses including the provision of the pitch, match balls and reasonable refreshments after the game.
- 12.2 The Away team to meet its own travelling expenses.
- 12.3 All clubs must contribute towards the cost of the expense for the appointed umpires, the amount and method of collection to be decided by the WHUA annually.
- 12.4 Failure to fulfil a fixture (see 10.4, 10.6) clubs will be liable for any expenses incurred by their opponents and umpires.
- 12.5
  - a) Postponed as per 10.4 maximum of £50 Fine as agreed by the Competitions Committee subject to a
  - b) Conceded as per 10.6 £25 Fine as agreed by the Competitions Committee subject to a minimum of and a maximum of £75
  - c) Non notification of results (see 13.1c and 13.1d) Fine of £10 for every offence
  - d) Non notification of nominated players for 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup by due date (see 3.8) Fine of £10

## 13. Results

13.1 It is the responsibility of the Home team:

- a) Prior to the start of the match to ensure a match sheet with list of both teams is handed to the umpires
- b) At the end of the match to receive the signed match sheet from the umpires.
- c) Immediately after the match (18.00 at the latest) phone the result (including postponement etc.) to the appropriate Secretary.
- d) Within 48 hours send the completed match sheet to the appropriate Secretary.

13.2. Failure to comply with either c) or d) will incur a fine (see 12.5c)

#### **14. Disputes / Appeals**

14.1. Any complaint which may arise in connection with these regulations or other matters relating to these competitions will only be considered if it is sent in writing to the Competitions Committee Chairman within 48 hours of the event / decision.

14.2. The Competitions Committee shall determine the action to be taken

15.1. Clubs shall have the right to appeal to the Competitions Committee or to the WHU Board, and the procedures for this are as laid down in the WHU Right of Appeal

#### **15. Eligibility**

15.1. All players participating in Welsh competitions must comply with the WHU Registration Rules (which explain the mechanism for players transferring from one club to another)

15.2. Players shall only play, in any of the competitions covered by these rules, for the club with which they are currently registered, with the exception of the Welsh Veterans Cup (see rule 15.4)

15.3. Players shall not play in any of the competitions covered by these rules if they have played in any competition in that season for a club which is not affiliated to the WHU, without the prior approval of the Competitions Committee Chairman.

15.4. It is recognised that some clubs do not play in the Welsh Veterans Cup. If there are players in those clubs who wish to play in the Welsh Veterans Cup, then they may play for a club which does participate in this competition provided that they are registered with a Welsh club and that that club does not participate in the Welsh Veterans Cup (see rule 3.11)

#### **16. Discipline**

16.1 The WHU Disciplinary Code will apply to all matches

16.2 The WHU Pitchside Code of Conduct will apply to all matches

#### **17. Doping Control**

As per WHU Constitution, you are reminded that all players could be subject to Dope Testing at any match

#### **18 European Cup Winners Cup**

The winners of the Welsh Cup shall be eligible to enter the European Cup Winner Cup provided that they are not also eligible to enter the European Club Championships. If this is the case, the runners-up in the Welsh Cup shall be eligible to enter the European Cup Winners Cup.

WHU Competitions Committee

*Revised 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*All revisions are in italics.*