

# **RULES OF THE ULSTER BRANCH OF THE IRISH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

## **BRANCH RULES**

### **CONSTITUTION**

1. The Association of Ulster Hockey Clubs, duly authorised by the Irish Hockey Association shall be called “The Ulster Branch of the Irish Hockey Association”, hereinafter referred to as the Branch.
2. The duty of this Branch shall be the government and administration of hockey in Ulster in accordance with the rules of the Irish Hockey Association.
3. These rules are made and issued under authority granted to the Branch by the Irish Hockey Association

Each club affiliated to the Branch shall purchase at least one copy of the Rules of the Irish Hockey Association and also one copy of the Rules of the Ulster Branch IHA, for each team in the club.

4. The Trustees and Legal Representatives of the Branch shall be the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer for the time being, in whom shall be vested all Branch property
5. All clubs situated in Ulster are eligible for membership provided they are willing to conform to the rules laid down by the Irish Hockey Association and the Branch, and all clubs upon becoming members shall be affiliated to the Branch and they and their members shall be bound by the rules and resolutions of the Branch. The Umpires Association and The Coaches Association for so long as they are authorised by the Branch, shall be members of the Branch and their members shall be bound by the rules and resolutions of the Branch
6. The Officers of the Branch shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and a Branch Secretary if required.

### **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

7. The President shall act as Chairman at all General Meetings, meetings of the Branch Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”) and meetings of all Committees to which he has been elected. In the absence of the President, the Chair shall be occupied by the Senior Vice-President, or in his absence, by the Junior Vice-President. If the President and Vice-Presidents be absent, the meeting shall elect a

Chairman, except in the case of a Committee on which a Convenor has been elected, when he shall occupy the Chair.

8. The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible to the Branch for the execution of all administrative work other than finance.
9. The Branch Secretary shall undertake all general correspondence, summon all meetings, keep an accurate written record of all general meetings, meetings of Council and Committees, produce such record for confirmation and signature of the Chairmen at the next meeting of each respectively, and carry out such secretarial duties as may be required of him from time to time.

If a Branch Secretary is not appointed, an assistant Honorary Secretary may be appointed instead, in which case he shall become an Officer of the Branch in place of the Branch Secretary, and in these rules, the term Branch Secretary shall mean the Honorary Secretary or the assistant Honorary Secretary whichever is carrying out the duties of the Branch Secretary.

10. The Honorary Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed, and shall be empowered to lodge all monies received to the credit of the Branch in a Bank approved by it or by the Council, and to sign cheques thereon on behalf of the Branch.
11. There shall not be any expense incurred or any money expended without the approval of the branch or the Council. All accounts shall be submitted to a General Meeting of the Branch or to the Council, for their approval and signature of the Chairman thereof.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

12. The Branch shall hold a General Meeting annually on a date between 10<sup>th</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> May, at which the following shall be entitled to attend.
  - a) The Officers of the Branch.
  - b) Those ex-Presidents who held the office of President at any time during the previous six years.
  - c) Two delegates representing and nominated by the Schools Committee
  - d) Two delegates representing and nominated by the Ulster Hockey Coaches Association.
  - e) The Honorary Secretary of and two delegates representing and nominated by, the Ulster Hockey Umpires Association, who must be members of clubs affiliated to the Branch.
  - f) Two representatives from each Club affiliated to the Branch.
  - g) Those ex-Presidents who were members of the then retiring Council.
  - h) Life Honorary Vice-Presidents.
  - i) The Honorary Fixtures Secretary and the Assistant Honorary Fixtures Secretary.

The Branch Secretary shall give, by post, at least fourteen days notice of the Annual General Meeting to the Honorary Secretary of each affiliated club, and shall give similar notice to the Convenor of the Schools Committee, the Honorary Secretary of the Umpires Association, the Honorary Secretary of the Coaches Association and to

the Officers, ex-Presidents, and other persons entitled to attend. Twelve shall form a quorum.

In the event of a club being unable to send their representatives to a General Meeting, such club may appoint substitutes who must be members of affiliated clubs. The names of such substitutes must be forwarded to the Branch Secretary and received by him before the meeting. Any delegate must, if required, satisfy the Chairman as to his authority to act for the club he claims to represent.

13. The agenda of the General Meeting shall be :

- a) Confirm the minutes of the last General Meeting
- b) Correspondence
- c) Secretary's Report
- d) Honorary Treasurer's Report
- e) School's Committee Report
- f) Coaches Association Report
- g) Umpires Association Report
- h) Election of Officers
- i) Election of Honorary Fixtures Secretary and Assistant Honorary Fixtures Secretary if required.
- j) Election of Branch Council as laid down in Rule 14.
- k) Election of Selection Committees as laid down in Rule 16
- l) Election of Honorary Auditors.

### **CONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL**

14. The affairs of the Branch shall be administered by the Council elected by the Annual General Meeting each year. The said Council shall be constituted as follows :

- a) The Branch Officers
- b) Those ex-Presidents who held the office of President at any time during the previous six years.
- c) Honorary Life Vice-Presidents, not exceeding five in number at one time.
- d) Two representatives nominated by the Schools Committee.
- e) Two representatives nominated by the Coaches Association.
- f) The Chairman and Honorary Secretary of, and two delegates representing and nominated by the Umpires Association, who must be members of clubs affiliated to the Branch
- g) Twenty-five members elected from clubs affiliated to the Branch. Of these twenty-five members not more than two shall be members of the same club at the time of election.
- h) Such other ex-Presidents, not exceeding five, as the Annual General Meeting may elect, in excess of the twenty-five elected members.
- i) The Honorary Fixtures Secretary and the Assistant Honorary Fixtures Secretary

Twelve members shall form a quorum.

15. The Council shall have power to elect officers or members from affiliated clubs to fill vacancies which may occur during its year of office, except those for delegates from

the Schools Committee, the Umpires Association or the Coaches Association, which shall be filled from these bodies respectively.

- a) All members of Council shall retire annually except Honorary Life Vice-Presidents and the five immediate Past-Presidents of the Branch. All others shall be eligible for re-election except that the President shall not hold that office during two consecutive years.
- b) No employee of the Branch may be proposed as an Officer of the Branch or as Honorary Fixtures Secretary or Assistant Fixtures Secretary or as a member of Council. This rule shall not include Officers of the Branch in receipt of an honorarium from the Branch.

### **SELECTION COMMITTEES**

- 16 a) **Ulster Senior.** The Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall elect five persons to form the Ulster Senior Selection Committee.
- b) **Ulster Under Twenty-one.** The Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall elect five persons to form the Ulster Under Twenty-one Selection Committee.
- c) **Schools** The Schools Committee shall nominate selectors for such age group teams as are required. The Manager and Coach of each team shall serve as International Selectors

The Council shall have power to appoint convenors and to fill vacancies on the committees listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) above. Members of Selection Committees shall be ineligible to play on those teams, which they select. For all these Selection Committees, three shall form a quorum.

### **UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**

17. An Umpires Association authorised by the Branch shall be responsible for the organisation, control and appointment of Umpires for matches played under the jurisdiction of the Branch.

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

18. A Special General Meeting shall be convened by the Branch Secretary immediately after receipt of a written request from the President of the Branch or from the Secretaries of not less than three affiliated clubs. At least ten days notice of such a meeting shall be given to those entitled to attend.

The request and the notice convening the meeting must state the purpose for which the meeting is called.

Those entitled to attend a Special General Meeting shall be the same as an Annual General Meeting, except that the ex-Presidents under Rule 12 para (g) shall be those elected to the Council in the current season

## **VOTING**

19. Each person present, and entitled to be so, at any meeting of Branch, Branch Council, or Committees, shall have one vote. In the case of equality in voting, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Voting at all meetings shall be by show of hands or any other appropriate method decided by the members present.

All propositions or amendments thereto, upon which a meeting votes, shall be decided by a simple majority, except as herein provided.

Only one amendment to a proposal shall be accepted by the Chairman, and if defeated, another one can be made. However, should an amendment be passed, it shall be put as a substantive motion, to which another amendment may be accepted.

The following resolutions or amendments thereto shall be passed only with the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the members present, entitled to vote and voting.

- a) Admitting new clubs to the Branch.
- b) Altering or rescinding any resolution passed by a General Meeting or meeting of Council or its Committees.
- c) Altering or rescinding rules or proposing new rules of the Branch or Council.
- d) Suspending of Standing Orders.

A meeting shall not be properly constituted unless the required quorum of those entitled to vote is present and, if in the course of the meeting the attendance falls below the quorum, the Chairman shall immediately adjourn or close the meeting.

## **RESCINDING RESOLUTIONS**

20. Any resolution or decision of the Council, or of any committee elected thereby, shall not be altered or rescinded unless notice of motion has been received by the Branch Secretary in writing and notified by him in the notice convening the meeting at which the motion shall be considered. Such motion to alter or rescind shall not be passed without the consent of at least two-thirds of the members present entitled to vote and voting.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETINGS**

21. A General Meeting, meeting of Council or committee may be adjourned from time to time or place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than that left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. Notice of such adjournment shall be given to all concerned.

## **ADMISSION OF NEW CLUBS**

22. A new club desirous of joining the Branch must make application in writing to the Branch Secretary stating:
- a) Names and addresses of the officers of the club and particulars of the clubs of which they were last members, if any;
  - b) Situation and means of access to their ground;
  - c) Proposed club colours and details of the proposed design of playing kit;
  - d) Nature and situation of dressing accommodation;
- all of which must be approved by a General Meeting or by the Council.

There must, at the same time, be presented a proposal for admission signed by the Honorary Secretaries of two affiliated clubs, or by two Officers or two ex-Presidents of the Branch, if they be members of different clubs (Crown Forces exempted).

If the application is approved, the Club shall be admitted upon payment to the Honorary Treasurer of the first annual affiliation fee as may be fixed by a General Meeting from time to time.

### **AFFILIATION FEES**

23. Each Club affiliated to the Branch shall pay to the Honorary Treasurer, not later than 31<sup>st</sup> October in each year, an annual fee as determined by the Branch, and any Club whose fee remains unpaid after that date shall be debarred from taking part in any competition until the amount is paid. Each School affiliated to the Branch shall pay to the Honorary Treasurer of the Schools Committee an annual fee determined by that Committee.

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

24. The Council during its year in office shall meet in June and August if the business of the Branch so requires and at least monthly from September to May inclusive. At least seven clear days notice of such meetings shall be given.

### **COMMITTEES**

25. The Council shall elect from its members an Emergency Committee to act between meetings of the Council. The Council may also elect from its members and, if considered necessary, from members of affiliated clubs and/or of the Umpires Association, such other committees as may be found necessary from time to time and shall appoint their convenors, determine their powers and duties, fix their numbers and their quorum, and may also fix the time and place of meetings.

The Council may fill vacancies occurring in any of these committees.

### **COMPETITIONS**

26. The Council shall control all competitions which shall be played each year for the various trophies presented to the Branch and shall have power to make, alter or delete rules governing these competitions, except that League Competitions be played under a system of promotion and relegation operating automatically as outlined hereafter.

Only players who are over [15] years of age after 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current season are permitted to play in any Branch competitions other than Branch Youth Competitions where separate age levels apply

The Council shall have power to fix the entrance fee for admission to each competition and to impose on each club any additional charge necessary to cover umpire expenses.

### **LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

27. The Ulster Hockey League shall consist of Premier, Senior and Junior divisions, each consisting of such sections and numbers of teams as the Council shall from time to time determine. Unless the Council decides otherwise the Premier and Senior Leagues shall comprise first X1 teams of Clubs.

### **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

28. There shall be automatic promotion and relegation each year in all Sections of the League except promotion from and relegation to Junior League Section 1. At the end of each playing season the team (or two teams in the case of the Junior League) with the least number of points in its section shall be relegated to the next lower Section. The vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the team (or teams) with the greatest number of points in the next lower Section.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, not more than two teams from any one Club shall play in any one Section of the Junior League. Should promotion from one Junior League Section to another result in more than two teams from the same Club being in the same Section, the team/s from the Club concerned shall not be promoted and the next eligible team/s shall be promoted. Should relegation from one Junior League Section to another result in more than two teams from the same Club being in the same Section, the lowest team/s from the Club concerned will be relegated to the next lower Section. None of the provisions of this Rule (other than promotion) shall apply to the lowest Section of the Junior League for which the Council shall have the power to make special arrangements. Promotion and relegation between the Premier and Senior I & II leagues and the winning of the Premier Senior I & II Leagues is decided by a test match(s) when teams finish on equal points.

In all other Leagues, should equality for winning, for promotion or for relegation still exist then a test match or test matches will be played to determine the rankings.

### **MISCONDUCT**

29. The Council may suspend any member of the Council who it considers is guilty of misconduct.

30. The Council may impose any penalty it considers necessary on any person, team, or club, which, in the opinion of the Council, is guilty of misconduct.

31. The suspending or disbaring of a team or club means the forfeiting of all matches that would have been played during the period of suspension or disbarment unless the Council

decrees it otherwise. The forfeiting of a match means the cancellation and loss of the match and in the case of a League match, the points awarded to the other team, unless the Council decide otherwise.

32. a) When an umpire considers a person, team or club guilty of misconduct, suspends a player temporarily or suspends a player from further participation in a game, he shall send immediately to the Branch Secretary a detailed written report, with the full name(s) of the person(s), team(s) or club(s) charged. The umpire may also forward the names and addresses of witnesses to the incident.
- b) The Branch Secretary shall give at least fourteen clear days notice in writing in duplicate to the relevant Club Secretary of the date of the hearing(s) and the charge(s) and stating the team(s) or the name(s) of the person(s) charged. Copies of the charges shall be also sent to each member of the Disciplinary Committee
- c) Person(s), team(s) or club(s) charged may send representatives to hearings. The Council, complainant(s), person(s), team(s) or club(s) involved may submit any evidence necessary for the investigation of the charges. If any complainant(s) involved or person(s), team(s) or club(s) charged do not appear at or submit evidence to a hearing, of which they have been given at least fourteen clear days notice, the Council or Disciplinary Committee. as the case may be, may proceed to deal with the charges and the decision(s) made clearly minuted. Such non appearance will not preclude the above concerned from introducing new evidence in an appeal against the original decision  
A member of the Disciplinary Committee who is also the reporting umpire shall withdraw from the hearing of that charge(s) and shall not in any way influence the decision(s) in relation to that charge(s).
- d) The above procedures shall also apply to any person, team or club alleged to have contravened the Anti Doping Code as set out by the Irish Hockey Association

### **COMPLAINT AGAINST AN UMPIRE**

33. The secretary of a club wishing to make a complaint against an umpire may do so in writing to the Branch Secretary within seven days of the cause of complaint, accompanied by a fee of £80. The Branch Secretary shall forward the complaint to the Honorary Secretary of the Umpires Association for investigation and report to the Branch.

### **UNAFFILIATED CLUBS**

34. Clubs affiliated to the Branch shall not play with or against unaffiliated clubs or teams, except those of the Crown Forces, without consent of the Council, for which applications must be received by the Branch Secretary four clear days before the date of the proposed match.



## **CLUB RECORDS**

35. Clubs affiliated to the Branch shall furnish to the Branch Secretary all changes in the name or address of their Honorary Secretaries or Match Secretaries as they occur. Clubs shall submit the minutes of their various meetings for inspection by the Council, if and when required

## **CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS**

36. The Honorary Secretary of each club shall forward to the Branch Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> June each year, the names of any members whose club subscriptions are in arrears on that date in respect of the previous season.

The defaulting members shall not be eligible to play for any club or take part in the administration of hockey, until the amount in arrears has been paid, and their names shall be forwarded by the Branch Secretary for report to other Branches.

## **SPONSORSHIP**

37. No club may enter into any form of sponsorship without obtaining the approval of the Ulster Branch Council.

## **INSURANCE**

38. All clubs affiliated to the Branch must have Public Liability Insurance in force at all times with terms and conditions as shall be determined from time to time by the Branch Council. Clubs shall submit written evidence of this insurance if requested to do so.

## **COUNCIL POWERS**

39. The Council shall have power to deal with any matter arising out of, or for which provision has not been made in these rules, or in rules made and passed by the Council, subject to the rights of appeal as provided in the following rule.

In the event of an appeal on any matter within the control of the Council, no person involved in the original decision(s) shall participate in the hearing of the appeal or the Council decision(s) in relation to the appeal.

## **APPEALS**

40. Any affiliated club, member of a club, or the Umpires Association shall have the following rights of appeal, save that the Umpires Association shall be limited to (a) and (b) and further limited to appeals against decisions which directly affect it or any of its members

- a) To the Council against a decision of any Committee elected by the Council.
- b) To a Special General Meeting of the Branch against a decision of the Council.
- c) To the Irish Hockey Association against a decision of a Special General Meeting.

Upon the following conditions:

- i) An appeal against a decision of any Committee elected by the Council must be forwarded in writing, to the Branch Secretary within fourteen days of the sending of the notification of the decision, together with a fee of £80. This fee shall be forfeited to the funds of the Branch unless the appeal is upheld, or the Council decides otherwise.
- ii) An appeal to a Special General Meeting of the Branch against a decision of the Council must be forwarded in writing to the Branch Secretary within fourteen days of the sending of the notification of the decision, accompanied by a fee of £120. This fee shall be forfeited to the funds of the Branch unless the appeal is upheld, or the Council decides otherwise.
- iii) There shall be a right of appeal to the Irish Hockey Association against a decision of a Special General Meeting of the Branch, except where such concerns Branch competitions. Such an appeal must be made in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Irish Hockey Association within fourteen days of the sending of the notification of the decision of the Special General Meeting. A copy of the appeal, together with a fee of £200 must be received by the Branch Secretary within the same fourteen days. This fee shall be forfeited to the funds of the Branch unless the appeal be upheld or the Council decides otherwise.
- iv) If an appeal be withdrawn or rendered void before a meeting has been summoned to consider it, or if, for any reason except withdrawal thereafter, the appeal be not heard, the fee deposited therewith may be returned.

If an appeal be defeated and subsequently upheld by a higher authority, all the fees previously deposited therewith shall be returned.

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this rule shall render the appeal void, unless the meeting hearing the appeal decides otherwise.

All appeals under this rule shall be decided by a simple majority of those present entitled to vote and voting.

### **SUSPENSION OF BRANCH OR COUNCIL RULES OR RESOLUTIONS**

41. In case of an emergency requiring immediate action, a General Meeting, the Council or Emergency Committee shall have power to suspend Branch or Council Rules or Resolutions, if a motion to do so, stating the purpose thereof, is duly proposed and seconded, and passed by the assent of at least two thirds of those present entitled to vote and voting.

Previous notice of motion shall not be necessary.

During such suspension no other business but that stated in the motion to suspend shall be transacted.

### **CODE OF ETHICS AND GOOD PRACTICE FOR CHILDREN IN SPORT**

42. The Branch subscribes to the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport as set out jointly by the Irish Sports Council and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland.

## **ANTI DOPING CODE**

43. The Branch subscribes to the Anti Doping Code as set out by the Irish Hockey Association.

## **ALTERATION OF BRANCH RULES**

44. This and the foregoing rules shall be known as the Branch Rules, and shall not be altered or rescinded, or new rules added thereto except by the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose.

Notice of any proposed alteration or new rule must be sent in writing to the Branch Secretary on or before 1<sup>st</sup> March immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting at which it is desired to have the motion considered, or in accordance with Rule 18 in the case of a Special General Meeting. The Branch Secretary shall give at least fourteen days notice of such proposed alteration or new rule, in detail, in the notice convening the meeting.

Proposals to alter or rescind existing rules or add new rules shall not be passed without the assent of at least two thirds of those present entitled to vote and voting as provided in Rule 19. Amendments shall be allowed at such meetings but must receive a similar majority.

Before any proposal to delete or alter existing Branch or Council Rules or add new rules, is brought before a General Meeting, it shall be submitted to the Development Committee who shall satisfy themselves that it is correctly drafted and in accordance with other rules and any amendment to such proposal, passed at a General Meeting shall be referred thereafter to that Committee for final drafting in accordance with the principle of the amendment so passed.

## **COUNCIL RULES**

1. This and the following rules shall be known as Council Rules. The Council shall have power to deal with any matter arising therefrom, or for which provision has not been made therein.

The Council shall have power to revise these rules upon notice of motion being given, except that any alteration, deletion or new rule passed, which in the opinion of the Council directly affects the conditions of any competition, shall not apply until the following season unless otherwise decided by a proposal adopting the change.

A notice of motion to alter or delete existing rules or add new rules must be received by the Branch Secretary in writing not less than twenty-one days before the date fixed for the meeting of Council at which the motion will be considered. The Branch Secretary shall give not less than seven days notice of such motion, in detail, in the notice convening such a meeting.

Proposals to alter or delete existing rules or add new rules shall not be passed without the assent of at least two thirds of those present, entitled to vote, and voting, as provided in Branch Rule 19.

Amendments to such proposals shall be allowed at such meetings but shall require a similar majority.

Before any proposal to alter or delete existing Council Rules or add new rules is brought before a meeting of Council, it shall be first submitted to the Development Committee, as provided in Council Rule 4, who shall satisfy themselves that it is correctly drafted and in accordance with all other rules, and any amendment to such proposals passed at a meeting of Council, shall be referred thereafter to that Committee for final drafting in accordance with the principle of the amendment so passed.

### **EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

2. The Council, at its first meeting, shall elect from its members an Emergency Committee consisting of the Officers of the Branch, the Honorary Fixtures Secretary or the Assistant Honorary Fixtures Secretary, and the Honorary Secretary of the Umpires Association, who shall be ex-officio and not fewer than seven nor more than eleven other members.

The Emergency Committee shall have power to carry out all the duties of the Council between meetings thereof except the following:

- a) Suspend members of Council as such.
- b) Elect officers or co-opt members to fill vacancies either in Council or Emergency Committee.
- c) Alter or delete existing rules or add new rules.
- d) Alter or rescind any resolution of Council.
- e) Alter any rules or conditions governing competition.

The Emergency Committee shall organise all representative or international games arranged to be played in the Province.

Vacancies occurring in the Emergency Committee shall be filled by the Council from its members. Five shall form a quorum

### **GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

3. The Council shall elect from its members, and if considered necessary, from members of affiliated clubs and/or of the Umpires and/or the Coaches Associations, a Grounds Committee which shall have power to inspect any ground, dressing accommodation or equipment of any club affiliated to the Branch. Results of such inspections shall be communicated in writing by the convenor to the Branch Secretary for consideration by the Council or Emergency Committee. The club or clubs concerned shall afford this Committee all reasonable facilities for such inspection.

### **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

4. The Council shall elect from its members, and if considered necessary, from members of affiliated clubs and/or of the Umpires Association, a Development Committee which shall meet regularly and shall be responsible to the Council for advising and initiating all aspects

for the development of hockey in Ulster under the control of the Branch, and shall report to the Council at each meeting.

The Council shall elect a convenor who shall act as Chairman and the Committee may co-opt members as required.

### **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

5. There shall be a Disciplinary Committee of eight persons comprising of a Chairman elected by Council, five other persons elected by Council and two nominees of the Umpires Association. The Committee shall elect, from its members, a Secretary, who shall minute the proceedings of all Committee meetings for inclusion in the records of the Branch. The Committee shall be convened by the Branch Secretary and shall meet as required to deal with charges of misconduct in accordance with Branch Rules 29/32 and shall report to Council on such meetings and on decisions taken. Four shall form a quorum

### **FIXTURES COMMITTEE**

6. The Council shall elect from its members, and if considered necessary from members of affiliated clubs and/or of the Umpires Association, a Fixtures Committee which shall meet regularly and shall be responsible to the Council for advising on and formulating a programme of all fixtures under the control of the Branch and shall report to the Council at each meeting.

The Honorary Fixtures Secretary (and Assistant Honorary Fixtures Secretary, if elected,) shall be members of the Committee, which shall be convened, and Chaired by the Honorary Fixtures Secretary.

### **SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**

7. The Council shall permit the formation of a Schools Committee to organise and administer all schools hockey in the Province. All funds emanating from schools hockey shall remain the property of the Branch.

This Committee shall appoint its own Officers, formulate its own Constitution and make its own rules, which constitution and rules shall be in general accordance with the constitution and rules of the Branch, and the rules and all alterations thereto shall be subject to the approval of the Branch.

The Committee shall report to the Council at each meeting.

### **THE COACHES ASSOCIATION**

8. The Council shall permit the formation of a Coaches Association, which shall formulate its own constitution and make its own rules, which constitution and rules shall be in general accordance with the constitution and rules of the Branch and the rules and all alterations thereto shall be subject to the approval of the Council. The Association shall appoint its own officers, which appointments shall be subject to the ratification of the Council.

## **COMPETITIONS**

9. The Council shall control all competitions, which shall be played each year for the various trophies presented to the Branch.

### **Admissions to Competitions.**

Application for admission to all competitions must be received by the Branch Secretary in writing, not later than the 31<sup>st</sup> May each year. Later admissions shall be at the discretion of the Council.

### **Fees and Expenses.**

The Council shall have the power to fix the amount of entrance fee for admission to each competition and to impose on each club any additional charge necessary to cover umpire expenses. The fees for all the Branch competitions and the amount of umpire expenses fixed by the Council, are all due and payable in advance at the start of each season and, if not paid by the 23<sup>rd</sup> October each season, the teams of the clubs shall be suspended from the Branch competitions to which the club's unpaid fee relate, until these fees are paid. Clubs failing to pay these fees or expenses as provided above shall be liable to such other penalty as the Council decides.

10. Competitions shall be held each season as under:

- a) The Ulster Hockey League in divisions as outlined in Branch Rule 27.
- b) Challenge Cup and Shield Competitions.
- c) Ulster Schools Cups.

Or such of them and/or such other competitions as may be decided upon by the Council from year to year.

11. The Ulster Hockey League Competitions shall be decided by points. Each team shall play home and away matches with each other team in the same League or Section thereof, unless by mutual agreement between the teams concerned or by a decision of the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee, one or both matches to be fixed for the ground of either club or for a neutral ground.

The Council shall decide the number of points to be awarded for a win and a draw in all League competitions in any season and the team that finishes with the highest number of points at the end of the competition shall be adjudged the winner. In the event of a tie except in the Premier and Senior Leagues, the winner shall be determined by a test match or matches.

12. Subject to the provisions of Council Rule 19:

- a) The Cup presented to the Branch by the late Sir Samuel Keightley, LL.D., and known as "The Keightley Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning the Premier League.

- b) The Cup presented to the Branch by the proprietors of "Ireland Saturday Night" and known as "The Ireland Saturday Night Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning the Senior League, Section 1.
- c) The Cup presented by Cliftonville H.C. and known as "The Cliftonville Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning the Senior League, Section 2.
- d) The Cup presented to the Branch by the late Mr R.C. Bannister and known as "The Bannister Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 1.
- e) The Cup presented to the Branch by the late J.H.S. Davidson and known as "The Davidson Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 2.
- f) The Cup presented to the Branch by the Athletic Stores Ltd., and known as "The Athletic Stores Challenge Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 3.
- g) The Shield presented to the Branch by Messrs. Joseph Braddell & Son and known as "The Braddell Shield" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 4.
- h) The Cup presented to the Branch by the late Mr R.A. Burke and known as "The Priors Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 5.
- i) The Cup presented to the Branch by the late Dr J.J. Nolan and known as "The County Hospital Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 6.
- j) The Cup presented to the Branch by Antrim Hockey Club and known as "The Ludlow Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 7.
- k) The Cup presented to the Branch by the old North West District and known as "The Festival Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 8 (A)
- l) The Cup presented to the Branch by the old North West District and known as "The North West Cup" shall be held for one year by the team winning Junior League, Section 8 (B).

In this and in Council Rule 14, the term "one year" shall be taken to mean from the time the trophy is presented to the winner until fourteen days before the final match for the same trophy in the following season or until the 31<sup>st</sup> March, whichever date is the earlier.

## **CHALLENGE CUP AND SHIELD COMPETITIONS**

13. Competitions for Challenge Cups and Shields shall be played as Knock-Out Competitions or in such format as agreed by the Council. Draws for each round shall be made by the Council, Emergency Committee or Fixtures Committee.
14. Challenge Cup and Shield Competitions shall be held each year as under, and the winner of each shall hold the trophy for one year subject to the provisions of Council Rule 17.
- a) Competition for the Ulster Hockey Challenge Cup presented to the Branch by the late Mr John Kirk and known as "The Kirk Cup", the Cup presented to the Branch by the late Mr T.N. Anderson in memory of his brother, Captain J.G. Anderson, M.C., R.A.M.C. and known as "The Anderson Cup", the Cup presented to the Branch by Mr S.A. Bullock and known as "The Linden Cup" and the Cup presented to the Branch by the old North West District and known as "The Sussex Regiment Cup" shall be open to Senior teams as approved by the Council.
  - b) Competition for the Cup presented to the Branch by Mrs Mamie McClements in memory of her husband, the late Mr David McClements and known as "The McClements Cup" shall be open to those teams in Senior League 2 and Junior Leagues 1 and 2 who do not enter the Irish Junior Cup or lose their first match in that competition.
  - c) Competition for the Ulster Junior Shield presented to the Branch by the late Mr Hugh Mulholland and known as the "Mulholland Shield" shall be open to teams in Junior League 3 and 4 and such other teams approved by Council.
  - d) Competition for the Cup presented to the Branch by the late Mr Hugh McMeekin and known as "The McMeekin Cup" shall be open to teams in Junior 5 and 6 and such other teams approved by the Council.
  - e) Competition for the Cup presented to the Branch by Strabane Hockey Club and known as "The Strabane Cup" shall be open to Junior League 7 and 8 and such other teams approved by the Council.
  - f) Competition for the Cup presented to the Branch by Mrs Mary Corken in memory of her husband, the late Mr James Corken and known as "The Corken Cup" shall be awarded to the Ulster team which reaches the furthest stage of the Irish Senior Cup Competition.
  - g) Competition for the Cup presented to the Branch by Banbridge Hockey Club in memory of the late Mr P.S. McCabe and known as "The McCabe Cup" shall be awarded to the Ulster team which reaches the furthest stage of the Irish Junior Cup Competition.

Or in each case, with the consent of the donor (or his /her /their representative), the competition may take any other form upon which the Council may decide from year to year.



15. Subject to approval by the Fixtures Committee a Cup match may also be played for league points provided the clubs mutually agree and that the players taking part are eligible. If extra time be needed to decide the Cup match, the points will be awarded to each team as if it was a league match only, being played.

### **SCHOOLS CUPS**

16. Cup Competitions open to all boys, schools or colleges in Ulster approved by the Council or Emergency Committee shall be held each year as under, and the winner in each case shall hold the trophy for one year subject to the provisions of Council Rule 17.

- a) Competition for "The Ulster Schools Cup" presented by the late Mr A.G. Burney, open to teams of boys, 19 years of age and under on 1<sup>st</sup> April immediately preceding the draw thereof.
- b) Competition for "The Richardson Cup" presented by Mr R. Richardson, open to teams of boys 15 years of age and under on 30<sup>th</sup> June immediately preceding the season in which the competition is played.
- c) Competition for "The McCullough Cup" presented by the parents of the late Ian McCullough, a pupil of Newry Grammar School. This competition shall be open to schools playing hockey in the Christmas term and there shall be no age limit for players unless decided by the Council
- d) Competition for "The Ferris Cup" presented by Mr Wesley Ferris, open to teams of boys 14 years of age and under on the 30<sup>th</sup> June immediately preceding the season in which the competition is played.
- e) Competition for "The Bannister Bowl" presented by Mrs Bannister, open to teams of boys 13 years of age and under on the 30<sup>th</sup> June immediately preceding the season in which the competition is played.
- f) Competition for "The Dowdall Cup" presented by Mr Walter Dowdall, open to second elevens of schools.
- g) Competition for "The Prior Shield" presented by the Board of The Prior School, Lifford, to be organised as decided by the Schools Committee.
- h) Competition for "The Taylor Cup" presented by Mr G.P. Taylor in memory of his father. The Schools Committee shall determine the entry requirement for this competition.

The draws for these competitions shall be made at the Schools Annual General Meeting to be held not later than the last Friday in May in each year and shall include only those schools and colleges whose applications and entrance fees have been received by the Branch Secretary or his appointed representative on or before 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The Schools Committee shall make all arrangements regarding dates and venues for all matches in these competitions and shall decide on the eligibility of players, if necessary.

## **CUSTODY OF TROPHIES**

17. The captain of the winning team in a competition shall receive the trophy and he and the Honorary Secretary of his Club shall give a signed undertaking, in a form approved by the Council or Emergency Committee, that they will jointly and severally be responsible to the Council for the safe custody and return of the said trophy, and plinth, if any.

The winning club shall be responsible for recording on the trophy, the name of the club and the year in which it was won.

The Council or Emergency Committee shall have power to withhold a trophy, if in their opinion, the responsible officials of the club fail to give satisfactory guarantees of the safe custody and return thereof, or if in the opinion of the Council or Emergency Committee, the club has been guilty of any misconduct in the course of the competition of which they were the winners, in which case the trophy may be awarded to the next club or held over for a season, at the discretion of the Council or Emergency Committee.

## **GROUNDS**

18. a) All grounds shall be regulation size and the markings and equipment shall conform to the Rules of the Game. If a ground be not of regulation size or if the markings or equipment be not in conformity with the said Rules, the dimensions and/or details thereof must be reported to the Council and approved by them or the Emergency Committee before a match may be played thereon.
- b) Grounds, dressing accommodation and equipment must be maintained in a condition satisfactory to the Council or a Committee appointed thereby.
- c) The Council shall have the power to take appropriate action in the event of failure to comply with this Rule.

## **VENUES FOR MATCHES**

19. In all knockout competitions the matches in each round, except finals, shall be played on the ground of the first drawn club, but if their ground is not available, they may provide a ground approved by the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee. Failing this, the match shall be played on the ground of the opponents, or, if it be not available, the Council or Emergency Committee shall arrange a venue.

In the case of a drawn match and unless otherwise instructed by the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee, the team which had choice of ground in the first instance shall replay the match on a ground provided by their opponents. In the case of a

second draw, the result of the game shall be decided by a penalty stroke competition which shall be completed as follows:

- a) The umpires shall choose the goal to be used and a toss of a coin shall decide which team shall take the first penalty stroke. The team having been awarded the highest number of goals shall be the winner.
- b) Five players from each of the two teams, chosen by their respective captains from the players taking part in the game or properly named as substitutes, but excluding any player who had been excluded from the field of play permanently for that given match by the umpires, shall take a penalty stroke alternately against one and the same goalkeeper of the other side, unless such goalkeeper has been incapacitated.
- c) In the event of an equal number of goals having been awarded, the result shall be decided by "sudden death". The captains may choose the sequence of players to take these strokes from the original five mentioned above until a result is achieved.

The Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee shall fix venues for all finals and league test matches.

### **GATE RECEIPTS**

20. In all finals, league test matches and subsequent replays, the Council or Emergency Committee shall make all necessary arrangements, take all proceeds and pay all expenses.

### **REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

21. On or before 1<sup>st</sup> October each year, each club affiliated to the Branch, except those of Universities, Colleges of Further Education and the Crown Forces, shall forward to the Branch Secretary a list containing the following particulars for the approval of the Council and registration with the Branch, (the due date for forwarding such particulars for clubs of Universities and colleges of Further Education shall be the 14<sup>th</sup> October; no registration of players shall be required from Clubs of the Crown Forces).

a) **General List**

The names (including first names or initials sufficient for identification) of all those players whom the club wishes to have registered with the Branch as eligible for membership, stating in the case of players who were not registered for that club in the previous season, the club, if any, for which they were last registered. Any club wishing to register players currently resident, working or studying outside Ireland shall indicate the names of such players on the General List.

b) **League Cup and Shield Competitions**

With the list of registered players all clubs with more than one team shall provide an additional list of starred players who shall not be eligible to play in any lower team of the club or in any League, Challenge Cup or Shield competition

This system shall operate as follows:

- i ) A club with two teams shall star the first nine players normally chosen from the first eleven.
- ii ) Additionally a club with three teams shall star for its second eleven the two remaining players who normally play for its first eleven together with eight players normally selected from its second eleven. A club with four teams shall therefore star for its third eleven the three remaining players from the second eleven together with seven players normally selected from its third eleven.
- iii ) All remaining club teams, except for the bottom team, will have ten registered players in descending order of merit using the principles as described in paragraph (ii) above.
- iv ) This rule shall pertain to all players including those who play normally as a goalkeeper.
- v ) Players normally resident, working or studying outside Ireland shall not be permitted to be starred as one of the nine or ten players in rules (i) to (iv) above unless permission be obtained from the Branch or Fixtures Committee. Such players may have their starring determined by the Branch or Fixtures Committee and such starrings may be in addition to those in rules (i) to (iv) above.

22. Players not registered with the Branch each season by the requested date are ineligible to play for any club in any competition until they are so registered, but in any event may not play in any league or cup competition if not registered by the 31<sup>st</sup> December in the current season, unless otherwise permitted to do so by the Council.

23. Until clubs are informed to the contrary, players shall be deemed to have been registered with the Branch each season in the categories furnished to the Branch by their clubs on the day after their names have been forwarded for registration to the Branch Secretary.

### **ALTERATION OF REGISTRATION**

- a. A club may alter a maximum of three players' registration in each of the lists of nine or ten players registered under Council Rule 21 (b) by advising the Branch Secretary of the names on or before the first Monday in each month. Such alterations shall apply for matches played subsequently to the first Monday in each month.
- b ) No alteration to the above lists shall be permitted for Challenge Cup or Shield competitions after the first round in any of these competitions has taken place. Alterations shall apply to league competitions only.
- c ) Notwithstanding the above no alterations shall be made after the first Monday in March in any season or at another date designated by the Council.
- d ) The Council, Emergency Committee or Fixtures Committee shall have the power to cancel or vary the registration of any player at any time should they consider the circumstances justify such action.

### **TRANSFERS**

25. a) In the event of a player desiring to transfer from one affiliated club to another in any season, the latter club may forward his name, initials and club to the Branch Secretary at any time up to 31<sup>st</sup> December in that season for the approval of the Council and registration with the Branch. The Council may grant registration if they are satisfied.
- i ) The player has discharged his liabilities to his previous club, and
  - ii ) there is no valid objection thereto.
- b ) The requirement of Rule 25 (a) shall apply also to players desiring to transfer from one affiliated club to another between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> October in any year.
- c ) No player shall be permitted to play for more than one club in any Challenge Cup or Shield competition in the same year.

### **LIST OF PLAYERS**

26. Prior to the start of any match under the control of the Ulster Branch, either the team captain or manager of each team shall provide the umpires with a list on the approved form, setting out the first and surnames of the team members who intend to participate in the match, together with the respective shirt numbers as per Council Rule 40.

The list shall also include the names of the team manager, coach, physiotherapist and/or doctor but only if such persons have been appointed by the club to officiate in the particular match.

Only those so listed as referred to above prior to the match commencing may play or officiate in the match. The team captain or his substitute shall be identified on the pitch by the wearing of an armband.

### **INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

27. Team lists shall be liable to scrutiny and the playing of an ineligible player shall be an offence. Penalties will be as follows:

a ) Challenge Cups or Shields ( played on a knockout basis )

- i ) The offending team shall forfeit the match if won and be subject to a fine as determined by the Council.
- ii ) The losing offending team be subject to a fine as determined by the Council.
- iii ) Should both teams offend they will both be removed from the Competition and will be subject to a fine as determined by the Council.

b ) Challenge Cup or Shields ( played on a League Cup basis )

Any offending team shall be eliminated from the competition and all matches played will be null and void plus they will be subject to a fine as determined by Council.

c) League matches

- i) The non-offending team(s) shall be awarded the points at stake in the competition.
- ii) The offending team(s) shall be deducted one league point.
- iii) In the event of both teams offending no points shall be awarded for the match and both teams shall be deducted one league point.

A player knowingly playing for a team for which he is ineligible, or playing when under suspension, shall be liable to such penalty as the Council or Emergency Committee may impose.

### **TIMES OF STARTING MATCHES**

28. The dates and times at which all matches shall start shall be fixed by the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee and shall not be altered without their consent, except as herein provided.

- a) When one match only has to be played on the ground, both teams may mutually agree upon the time at which play shall commence, provided that the home club gives notice of the alteration of time to the Honorary Secretary of the Umpires Association 72 hours before the original time fixed. Failing this notice the team or teams not ready to commence play at the time fixed by the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee shall be liable to forfeit the match.
- b) If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a team be not ready to commence play at the appointed or mutually agreed time, the team which is ready to play may either:
  - i) Decline to play and apply to the Council to have the match awarded to them, which award shall be at the discretion of the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee.
  - ii) Agree to play when the other team is ready, but in this case if such a match has to be stopped owing to failing light, or if in a knockout match, there be insufficient light for extra time, the match shall be replayed on the ground of the team which was ready at the agreed or appointed time, unless in the case of a league match the teams mutually agree to consider the match finished, and further, if a second match has to be played on the same ground on the same afternoon, the first match, thus started late, shall finish in sufficient time to allow the second match to commence at its appointed time, and if such first match be in a knockout competition and end in a draw, extra time shall not be played, but the match shall be replayed on the ground of the team which was ready to start play at the appointed or agreed time.

### **NOTICE OF MATCHES**

29. The Honorary Fixtures Secretary shall give the clubs concerned at least three clear days notice of all matches to be played, otherwise they shall not be bound to play on the dates and at the time notified, except in cases of postponed or replayed matches in knockout competitions or league test matches

### **DURATION OF MATCHES**

30. The duration of all matches in Branch competitions shall consist of the regulation two periods of 35 minutes each, separated by an interval which shall not exceed 10 minutes and shall not be less than 5 minutes, unless both teams mutually agree to a shorter period of playing time and advise the umpires of such before play commences. During the interval, players shall not leave the field of play unless the express permission of the umpire or umpires has been obtained before play commences

31. Unless otherwise instructed by the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee, if at the end of regulation time in a knockout match or league test match the result is a draw, and in the opinion of the umpire or umpires the light and the condition of the ground permit, duration of the match shall be extended by extra time, except as provided in Council Rule 28 (b) (ii), after a 5 minute rest, the teams shall change ends; if the score is still a draw at the end of extra time, there will be a replay as provided in Council Rule 19, unless otherwise instructed by the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee.

If after extra time has started, in the opinion of the umpire or umpires, light or conditions of the ground does not permit further play, he or they shall declare the match off and it shall stand drawn and be replayed as provided in Council Rules 19 and 28 (b) (ii), as the case may be. If however, upon the umpire declaring the ground unfit for further play, the two captains mutually agree to continue play they shall be at liberty to do so, but neither shall have any right of protest about the condition of the ground, but shall be at liberty to discontinue play at any time they mutually agree to do so.

In the event of a match being unfinished through unforeseen circumstances, the Honorary Secretary of each club concerned shall immediately report the matter, with full particulars, in writing to the Branch Secretary for reference to the Council or Emergency Committee who shall decide whether the match shall (1) stand, (2) be replayed in whole or part, (3) be nullified, (4) be reckoned a draw, or (5) be forfeited by either or both.

### **POSTPONEMENT**

32. If by reason of players being selected as a player for, or to act as manager, coach or physiotherapist with a representative team or teams in a match under the jurisdiction of the I.H.A; or the Branch, a club is deprived of three or more team registered players, that club may seek a postponement of a club fixture (or fixtures) on giving reasonable notice to the Branch Secretary.

Such a postponement may be granted under the following conditions:

- a) Where a team is deprived of three or more players registered with the Branch for that team.

- b) Where a club is deprived of three or more players registered with the Branch for specific teams, the postponement shall apply to the most junior teams deprived of one player.
- c) Any application for postponement based on conditions other than set out in Council Rule 32 (a) and 32 (b) shall be decided by the Branch Fixtures Committee or if necessary the Emergency Committee or Council.

33. If, owing to exceptional climatic conditions or adverse circumstances on the morning of the match a team finds it shall be unable to fulfil its fixture in the afternoon, the home team shall notify the Honorary Secretary of the Umpires Association and the Match Secretary of the opposing team of the fact at least two hours before the proposed starting time either personally, or by telephone or by facsimile. Within 48 hours thereafter ( Sunday excluded ) the Match Secretary of the home team shall report full particulars of the circumstances to the Honorary Fixtures Secretary and the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee shall decide what action shall be taken.

34. A club wishing to postpone a match under circumstances other than those for which Council Rules 32 and 33 provide, must make application to the Honorary Fixtures Secretary stating reasons, and obtain consent of the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee to such postponement

35. In each season, notwithstanding the above Rules, the Council shall have the power to decide that postponements shall not apply to any Branch Cup competitions.

### **FAILURE TO FULFIL FIXTURES**

36. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture on the date and the time appointed, except in accordance with provision of these rules, or any team scratching a fixture, shall forfeit the match and for repeated offences in either case the team or club shall be liable to a fine and/or a loss of additional points and/or suspension or dismissal from the competition at the discretion of the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee.

If a team scratches an away fixture in a league competition, it shall play the return match, if any, on the opposing team's ground unless the Fixture Committee, Council or Emergency Committee decides otherwise.

In the event of a team withdrawing at any time from a league competition, any points already won from them by their opponents shall be deducted from the latter. Such withdrawal, without what in the opinion of the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee is reasonable cause, shall render the team so doing liable to be debarred from taking part in any league competitions in the following season or to such other penalty as may be decided. Repeated scratching of matches by a club or team may be deemed by the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee to be withdrawal.

### **REPORTING RESULTS**

37. The Honorary Secretary of each club shall ensure that the result of every home competitive match shall be forwarded, on the relevant result card, to the address designated by the Council, so as to arrive not later than 96 hours after the match is completed.



Failure to comply with this rule shall render the club liable to such penalty as the Council may decide.

## **PROTESTS**

38. Protests or enquiries relating to the eligibility of players must be made before play commences or immediately after the conclusion of the match to the captain of the opposing team, who must, if requested to do so furnish, to the protesting or enquiring captain a signed list of the full names of the players of his team who actually took part in the match, if not already supplied.

Protests relating to the duration of the game must be made immediately a match finishes.

Protests or enquiries to any matter made at a match should be made only by the captain of the team protesting or enquiring, and only to the opposing captain and the umpires. Save in relation to the length of the game, the umpires' decisions on the field of play shall be final.

All protests must be forwarded in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the opposing team's club and to the Branch Secretary, within 120 hrs of the time the match was due to start. At the same time, a copy should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Umpires Association. Protests shall be accompanied by a fee of £80. The fee shall be forfeited to the Branch unless the protest shall succeed or the Council shall decide otherwise.

The Council may penalise as it considers necessary the club, team or player not complying with any of the Rules of the Game, of the Irish Hockey Association or the Branch.

## **UMPIRES**

39. The Umpires Association shall appoint, if possible, an umpire or umpires for each match, and neither club nor a team shall have any right to object to any official appointment so appointed unless such appointment contravenes a resolution of the Branch Council or Emergency Committee. If, for any reason, the Association fails to supply an umpire or umpires, the captains of the opposing teams shall appoint same, and any umpire so appointed shall become official and have vested in him all the powers of an official appointed by the Association. If, in the absence of officials appointed by the Association, none other is available for appointment by the captains, each of them shall appoint one player of his own team to act, as provided for in the Rules of the Game, and such players, so appointed, shall have all the powers of umpires appointed by the Association.

If an official umpire appointed by the Association arrives after the time at which the match was due to start, and play has already commenced, he may, with the consent of the official or officials already in charge, take over the duties and continue the match, but the match shall not, in any case, restart as to time when an official Umpire takes over the duties after play has commenced.

## **CLUB COLOURS**

40. Each club shall have distinguishing colours in shirts and stockings and all players, except goalkeepers, shall wear these colours. The colours worn by the goalkeeper in any match shall differ from those worn by either team. In the event of two teams, with approximately the same colours, meeting, the team providing the ground shall adopt different distinguishing colours for that match. Where two such teams meet on a neutral ground arranged by the Fixtures Committee, Council or Emergency Committee they shall decide on the colours to be worn.

A new club becoming affiliated to the Branch shall not adopt the colours registered by a club already affiliated, and any club changing its colours or the design of its playing kit shall require to have the proposed new colours and/or design approved by the Council or Emergency Committee.

Each team participating in the Premier or Senior Leagues shall have in each match, shirts with different numbering from 1-32 for each player.

If any point arise from the foregoing Branch and Council Rules which may be presumed to contravene a Rule, for the time being, of the Irish Hockey Association, the latter shall at all times take precedence.