

IRISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



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Irish Ice Hockey Leagues

Irish Ice Hockey League (IIHL)



Irish Ice Hockey League Recreational Division (IIHL RD)



Rules & Regulations

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Team Entry & Player Eligibility

Team Entry Requirements

All teams wishing to enter the Leagues, Irish Ice Hockey League (IIHL) and Irish Ice Hockey League Recreation Division (IIHL RD) must meet the following criteria:

You must be

- Legally Registered Club
- Democratic

You must have

- Constitution/Articles of Association.
- Entry Fee of €300.00 to be paid by 21/09/2008.
- Minimum of 10 players & 1 goalkeeper registered, insured and paid by
- 1 Team Manager
- 1 Head Coach (Either Coach or manager should not be a player on the team)
- All players & officials must be IIHA registered & insured
- A Bank Account .
- Public Liability Insurance to play in both rinks.

New players may be added to a team's roster up until 9:00 pm on 9th February 2009. Players may also transfer between clubs up to this time. These players may only participate when registration and insurance are in place and clearance is given by the Irish Ice Hockey Association (IIHA).

Irish Ice Hockey League (IIHL) teams may affiliate with an IIHLRD teams. Both teams must inform the IIHA Office in writing by filling out an IIHL Team Affiliation Form. This form must be sent to the IIHA Office (addressed to the IIHL League Chairman) and an email must also be sent to executive@iiha.org. Both teams must receive confirmation/receipt of the affiliation from the IIHA Office before the affiliation is valid and any player transfers occur. Teams must affiliate with each other by 30th November 2008. All above deadlines are to be strictly adhered to. Any queries should be addressed to executive@iiha.org

Player Eligibility

All players are required to register with the Irish Ice Hockey Association (IIHA) and have personal accident insurance cover which specifically covers participation in the sport of Ice Hockey.

To comply with the minimum age requirement of 16, only players born on/before 21st September 1992 will be allowed to compete. Players under 18 must have their parents sign IIHA Waiver. Players under 18 must also provide clearance from 2 medical doctors to play in the Leagues. Where a club has a junior team, a sufficiently developed player may be called up to play for his club at higher levels, subject to application, club approval, medical advice as described above, and parental consent. As with any other player moving up from a lower division any more than four games will see the player permanently attached to the higher division team and barred from returning to his original team. Any move will be subject to there being a vacancy in the roster of the higher division team.

Once received, players must bring their IIHA Identification Cards to all events including league games, development camps and national team try-outs.

Registration / Insurance / Public Liability

IIHA Registration

All team members including players, coaches and team staff must register with the IIHA for the season. Registration confers many benefits including league participation, IIHA development camps participation, national team try-outs, voting rights, referee education, coaching education etc.

IIHA Registration Fee's

Player	* €50.00
Non playing member or Official	*€25.00

Registration fees contribute to the day to day operations of the IIHA including administration, player development, referee education & development, coaching education.

Insurance

Each player is required to purchase the minimum personal accident insurance cover as arranged by the IIHA or an alternative personal accident insurance cover, which specifically covers participation in the sport of Ice Hockey and which provides coverage that is no less favourable than that provided under the minimum insurance arranged by the IIHA. A copy of any alternative personal accident insurance cover must be provided and it must show that it specifically covers participation in the sport of Ice Hockey.

The cost of the personal accident insurance as arranged by the IIHA is *€25.

*Subject to annual review.

For their own protection all teams will be required to purchase Public Liability Insurance. A higher personal accident insurance is available on request from the IIHA.

Roster Regulations & Player Transfers

Season Roster

An IIHL team roster may not exceed 25 (including goalkeepers) for the season. Players transferring up from an IIHLDD affiliate may only do so if there are vacancies on the roster and only in numbers that will not cause the roster exceed its IIHL limit of 25. An IIHLRD team roster may not exceed 30 (including goalkeepers) for the season.

A player will only be removed from a team's roster if:

- i. A player sustains an injury so severe that a medical doctor declares it is, in his opinion sufficient to render that player unable to compete for the remainder of the season; or
- ii. A player transfers to another club: or
- iii. He is removed for being in serious breach of the Code of Conduct.

Where vacancies occur, new players may be added to an IIHL team's roster up until 9:00 pm on 9th January 2009. Players may also transfer between clubs up to this time. These players may participate only when registration and insurance are in place and clearance is given by the IIHA. New players may be added to an IIHLRD team's roster up until 9:00 pm on 27th February 2009. Players may also transfer between clubs in the IIHLRD up to this time. These players may participate only when registration and insurance are in place and clearance is given by the IIHA.

IIHL Recreation Division teams may affiliate with only one IIHL team. IIHL teams may not have any more than two IIHL Recreation Division affiliates. Teams wishing to affiliate must inform the IIHA Office in writing by filling out an IIHL Team Affiliation Form. This form must be sent to the IIHA Office (addressed to the IIHL League Chairman) and an email must also be sent to executive@iiha.org. Both teams must receive confirmation of the affiliation from the IIHA Office before any player transfers may occur. Teams must affiliate with each other by 30th November 2008.

IIHL teams are already considered to have an affiliation with one Recreation Division team from its own club and may further affiliate with one other IIHLRD team.

IIHLRD teams that are part of a club with a pre-existing IIHL team may only establish an affiliation with said IIHL team.

Un-affiliated IIHLRD teams with no pre-existing IIHL team in their organization may establish an affiliation with one IIHL team. It is not compulsory that IIHLRD teams affiliate.

IIHL Recreation Division players, and Junior Players that have been called up, as mentioned above, may play up to 4 IIHL games without losing their previous eligibility. Once the fifth game in the higher league occurs, eligibility is lost and they may not play in any games in the League from which they had originally transferred, but may continue in the higher league subject to vacancies on the roster. All IIHL games, regardless of who they are played for, will count when it comes to determining how many games an individual has played.

In order for an IIHL Recreation Division player to transfer to the IIHL team for a game, an IIHL Affiliate Transfer Form must be filled out by the IIHL team and the player. Please see the IIHL Affiliate Transfer Procedure for the full guidelines on the transferring of a player from an IIHL Recreation Division to its IIHL affiliate.

IIHL Recreation Division players and their Junior counterparts must play a minimum of 3 games with their own team before they are eligible to transfer and play in a higher division. However, IIHL teams may request "special" permission from executive@iiha.org. "Special" permission may be given, but only if the player in question has played at least 1 game in the IIHL Recreation Division and at least 48 hours notice is given. The request should be made in writing via email and it is recommended that it be accompanied by a phone call. There will be no exceptions to this.

A maximum of 5 players and 5 Juniors if applicable may move up from an IIHL Recreation Division team to their IIHL affiliate within the same season. Players who move up will count towards an IIHL team's 25 player roster.

Players in possession of ITC Cards are expected to register with IIHL Clubs.

No IIHL player may play in the IIHL Recreation Division.

Back-up goalkeepers that have played less than 50% of their IIHL team's games are exempted and may play for the IIHL Development Division affiliate team without filling in an IIHL Affiliate Transfer Form.

Game Rosters

In order to start a game, an IIHL or IIHLRD team must have a minimum of 8 players and 1 goalkeeper on the ice for the commencement of the game.

It is the responsibility of the Team to ensure that these 8 players and 1 goalkeeper are named on the Official Game Sheet.

A team which does not meet this minimum requirement will forfeit the game with a score of 0-5. The team may also face further punishment as deemed appropriate by the Discipline Committee.

Where a team dresses only 1 goalkeeper and that goalkeeper gets injured, the team will have 10 minutes to dress a player to replace the injured goalkeeper

Player Transfers

IIHL Players may transfer from one club to another club up until 9:00 pm 9th January 2009.

IIHLDD Players may transfer from one club to another club up until 9:00 pm 27th February 2009.

Players transferring from one club to another club must fill in a Player Transfer Form and it must be filed with the IIHA Office (addressed to the IIHL League Chairman or Director of Player Operations). The player, the old club and the new club are all required to sign this form. It must also be signed by three of the five IIHA executives.

Confirmation/receipt from the IIHA Office must be received by the new club before the player competes in any games for the new club.

Any player signed for an IIHL Recreation Division team, after the IIHL signing deadline of 9:00 pm 9th January 2009, may not compete in the IIHL.

The IIHL Chairman will have the final say in all disputes regarding player transfers. The only valid reasons for an old club not releasing a player is in the event that such player owes the old club money, or suspicion of Tampering, which will require investigation.

Illegal Players

Only players that are fully paid up, registered, insured, have the appropriate transfer confirmation /receipt from the IIHA or ITC where applicable, and are not suspended, are allowed to participate in games.

During a game, if a team believes that there is an illegal player participating for the opposing team, an official complaint should be made to the referee through the Team Captain or an alternate. The referee will then ask the player in question for his IIHA Identification Card. The referee will attempt to satisfy himself as to the player's identity and include the matter in his report to the Referee in Chief.

Any Team found to have played any illegal player(s) may face a fine and/or the possibility of further punishment as deemed appropriate by the Discipline Committee.

If a Team believes that an opposing Team has played an illegal player then the Team must submit a complaint in writing, within 14 days of the alleged violation, to the IIHA Office (addressed to the IIHL Chairman) accompanied by a €50 fee (refundable if the charge is validated) and including:

- i. The nature of alleged infraction or charge;
- ii. The date and location of alleged infraction;
- iii. The name & number of player(s) involved; and
- iv. The name of Club(s)/Team(s) involved.

League Format

Regular Season

The IIHL will be a round robin format consisting of 6 teams playing each other 3 times during the season. Each team will play 15 regular season games. There will be a total of 45 regular season games between all teams within the league. Format 3 points for a win. 2 points each for a draw. 1 point for losing team. There will be no OT.

The IIHL Standings will be determined in the following order:

- The team that accumulates the most points;
- (where level on points) the team that accumulates the best goal difference;
- (where level on points and goal difference) the team that scores the most goals;
- (where level on points, goal difference and goals for) the team that accumulates the most wins; or
- (where level on points, goal difference, goals for and wins) the team that concedes the lowest number of goals.

*Goal Difference is Goals For minus Goals Against

Playoffs

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th placed teams will qualify for the playoffs and will be seeded as follows:

Playoffs Schedule			
Day	Time	Event	Details
Sat	T.B.C.	Game 1	1 st v 4 th
Sat	T.B.C.	Game 2	2 nd v 3 rd
Sun	T.B.C.	3 rd /4 th Place	Gm. 1 Loser v Gm. 2 Loser
Sun	T.B.C.	Final	Gm. 1 Winner v Gm. 2 Winner

The playoffs will be held as near to the season end as is feasible.

In order to participate in the playoffs, a player must play a minimum of 50% of his team's games.

Game Rules

The IIHF game rules will apply to all IIHL games.

IIHL Schedule

IIHL fixtures and sanctioned competitions, when issued and confirmed, shall take precedence over all other games. Any club seeking to amend the schedule must notify the IIHL Chairman without delay, providing suitable alternative dates for the fixture. 72 Hours is the minimum acceptable notice to an opposing team, match officials and IIHA when a game postponement is being sought.

IIHL & IIHLRD Schedule

IIHL/IIHLRD fixtures and sanctioned competitions, when issued and confirmed, shall take precedence over all other games. Any club seeking to amend the schedule must notify the IIHL Chairman without delay, providing suitable alternative dates for the fixture.

Should any team cancel a game without authorisation from the IIHL Chairman they may be liable to a fine. The team may further be ordered to replay the game at no expense to the opposition.

When it is not possible for the teams to agree on a new date for a game, the game may be awarded 5-0 to the non-offending team, subject to confirmation by the IIHL Chairman.

Where a team fails to appear due to circumstances beyond its control, e.g. extreme weather conditions or accident, the IIHL Chairman must be provided with suitable evidence of the event causing the cancellation. It is strongly recommended that all teams carry a mobile phone and that all other teams should be informed of these telephone numbers.

Team Requirements

Jerseys

Each team is required to have at least one set of matching and numbered jerseys. Each team must notify the IIHL Chairman of the colour of their jerseys by 14th December 2008 as well as any changes that may occur during the season. Each team is encouraged to have an away set of matching and numbered jerseys.

If both teams have both home and away sets of jerseys, the home team's uniform shall be a light colour and the visiting team's a dark colour.

Refereeing

Each team is required to send at least 2 individuals to attend refereeing courses throughout the season. These individuals must be registered members of the IIHA.

During the season, the IIHA's Referee-in-Chief will hold a Team Manager/Head Coach introduction to the rules of the game. The Team Manager and Head Coach of each team must attend.

If a team fails to send the required participants in the above courses, then the team may be fined.

Coaching

Each team is required to send at least 2 individuals to attend IIHA Coaching Courses throughout the season. These individuals must be registered members of the IIHA.

The Head Coach of each team must attend the above courses.

Team Manager/Head Coach

Each team is required to have a non-playing Team Manager and a Head Coach. These individuals will be required to attend relevant courses and meetings throughout the season.

Each team is required to have 1 non-playing official on the bench during games. Although it is preferred that this individual be either the Team Manager or Head Coach, it is not mandatory. However, the individual must be a registered member of the IIHA. A player from one club may be defined as the non-playing manager or coach of another club team once the team they coach and the team they play for are in different divisions. Their name and role must appear on the Team Composition Form.

If a team fail to have 1 non-playing official on the bench during a game, that team may be fined.

Rules & Discipline

The IIHL will be a full contact ice hockey league adopting standard IIHF Rules.

Alongside IIHF rules, all IIHL clubs, teams and individuals will obey the "Discipline Code" and the "Code of Conduct" as set-out by the IIHA Executive.

Copies of the "IIHF Rule Book", the "IIHL Discipline Code", and the "Code of Conduct" will be provided to all teams. If there is a delay in receiving the IIHF Rule Book from the IIHF, the IIHA will keep at least 2 rule books within the Dundalk Ice Dome at all times. Rule books are, or will be, provided to any team that plays their home games at the Ice Bowl .

Referees & Linesmen

All referee's and linesmen will be organised, educated and held accountable to the IIHA Referee-in-Chief. All requests for interviews with, or comments from on ice officials should be directed through the Referee-in-Chief. On ice officials are similarly requested to refrain from offering comment or opinion of any decision of any official without clearance from the Referee- in Chief.

Any abuse towards a referee or linesman will not be tolerated and may invoke a game misconduct penalty as well as a disciplinary hearing.

If a referee or linesman is physically assaulted, the IIHA will call the Gardai/PSNI and will press charges against the offender. The IIHA may also impose a lifetime ban.

If any of your players/members would like to become a referee or linesman please contact the IIHA Referee-in-Chief and he will be happy to assist. To become a referee/linesman, all you need is the ability to skate. The IIHA aspires to eventually provide on ice officials for future IIHF competitions around the world and suitable referees/linesmen can expect every assistance to achieve this goal.

Amateurism & Tampering

Amateur

The IIHL is strictly amateur and no player may be paid money or receive any other benefit for playing on a team.

Tampering

Tampering is defined as any attempt or act, directly or indirectly, by any Team Official(s) or individuals, to recruit a player away from the Team with which the player is currently registered by bribes or promises.

Tampering shall not exist when the action to recruit the player occurs after the applicable Club Official for the Team with which the player is registered has provided to the other Team Official or prospective Team Official a consent in writing, which authorizes him to speak with the player and/or the player's parent(s) for the purpose of recruiting the player to his team.

During the season, any player who, while registered with one Team, wishes to participate in any training camp, practice or on-ice skating session of any Team with whom the player is not registered must first receive permission from a Team Official of the Team with whom the player is currently registered.

Any Team found to have violated any of the above shall be assessed a fine and the Team Official(s) involved shall be automatically suspended for a period of one year. Any individual not currently

registered with a Club or a Team, and who is found guilty of tempering or complicity in tampering will not be permitted to register with any Club or Team for the balance of the current season and for the following season.

Allegations

Any charge for an alleged violation of the above (Amateur and Tampering) must be submitted in writing, within 21 days of the alleged violation, to the IIHA Office (addressed to the IIHL Chairman) accompanied by a €50 fee (refunded if the charge is validated) and including:

- i. nature of alleged infraction or charge;
- ii. date and location of alleged infraction;
- iii. names of individuals (players and Team Officials) involved; and
- iv. names of Club(s)/Team(s) involved.