



# INLINE HOCKEY IRELAND

## Leagues Structure 2018/19

The 2018/19 structure will follow a similar structure to the 2017/18 season, with the only major change being the switch to World Skate sized goals to become more aligned with the rest of the world.

Our leagues are designed to give teams the most competitive hockey possible.

### SENIORS

#### ELITE LEAGUE:

The Elite League will be comprised of teams from both the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland, and like last season will be one straight league.

This season we have 8 teams:

- Bangor Chiefs
- Cork Wolfpack
- Dublin Rebels
- Kilkenny Storm
- Midland Thunder
- Northern Cyclones
- Pelicans
- Rileys

All teams will play each other twice over the course of the regular season giving teams a total of 14 regular season games. All Elite League games will be played as stop clock games. Games become running time if team is 8 or more goals ahead.

Games will be primarily played in the Portadown and Longford Inline Hockey Rinks.

The Elite League Champions will be awarded a place in the 2020 European League.

The team that finishes the regular season in last place will be automatically relegated to League 1.

The team that finishes the regular season in 2nd last place will have a playoff against the League 1 Playoff Winners for an Elite League place the following season.

Playoffs will consist of the top 4 teams moving forward to an all Playoff Final Weekend, with all playoffs; senior & junior taking place in the same location over one weekend.



## LEAGUE 1:

League 1 will be comprised of teams from both the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland.

This season we will have 7 teams:

- Ballymena Vandals
- Clare Badgers
- Dublin Wolves
- East Coast Blaze
- Lumberjacks
- Shadow Bandits
- Waterford Vikings

All teams will play each three times over the course of the season giving teams a total of 18 regular season games. All League 1 games will be played as running clock.

Games will be primarily played in the Portadown and Longford Inline Hockey Rinks.

The League 1 Regular Season Champions will be promoted to the Elite League for the following season.

The team that finishes the regular season in last place will be automatically relegated to League 2.

The team that finishes the regular season in 2nd last place will have a playoff against the League 2 Playoff Winners for a League 1 place the following season.

Upon the end of the regular season the playoff structure will be as follows:

- The playoffs are no longer be the main trophy but a chance for a 2nd team to gain promotion;
- The teams seeded 2-5 will qualify for the Playoff Weekend; with all playoffs occurring over the same weekend. In the semi-finals 2nd will play 5th and 3rd will play 4th, with the winners progressing to the Final;
- The final will be played as 2x20 minute stop clock game;
- The League 1 Playoff Winners will qualify for a playoff with the 2nd bottom team in Elite League for an Elite League place the following season.



## LEAGUE 2:

League 2 will be comprised of teams from both the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland.

This season we have 8 teams:

- Armagh Stars
- Ballymena Vandals
- Bangor Chiefs
- Cork Wolfpack
- Dun Dealgan Warriors
- East Coast Blaze
- Longford Blackhawks
- Northern Cyclones

All teams will play each twice over the course of the season giving teams a total of 14 regular season games. All League 2 games will be played as running clock.

Games will be primarily played in the Portadown and Longford Inline Hockey Rinks.

The League 2 Regular Season Champions will be promoted to League 1 for the following season.

Upon the end of the regular season the playoff structure will be as follows:

- The playoffs will no longer be the main trophy but a chance for a 2nd team to gain promotion;
- The teams seeded 2-5 will qualify for the Playoff Weekend; with all playoffs occurring over the same weekend. In the semi-finals 2nd will play 5th and 3rd will play 4th, with the winners progressing to the Final;
- The final will be played as 2x20 minute stop clock game;
- The League 2 Playoff Winners will qualify for a playoff with the 3rd bottom team in League 1 for a League 1 place the following season.



## JUNIORS

### U18 LEAGUE:

The U18 League will be comprised of teams from both the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland, and like last season will be one straight league.

This season we have 6 teams:

- Bangor Chiefs
- Cork Wolfpack
- Flying Ducks
- Kilkenny Storm
- Midland Thunder
- Waterford Penguins

All teams will play each other twice over the course of the regular season giving teams a total of 10 regular season games.

Playoffs will consist of the top 4 teams moving forward to an all Playoff Final Weekend, with all playoffs; senior & junior taking place in the same location over one weekend.

Games will be primarily played in the Portadown and Longford Inline Hockey Rinks.



## **U14 LEAGUE:**

U14 League is new this year and will be comprised of teams from both the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland.

This season we will have 8 teams:

- Ballymena Vandals
- Bangor Chiefs
- Cork Wolfpack
- Drogheda Arrows
- East Coast Blaze
- Flying Ducks
- Kilkenny Storm
- Longford Hawks

All teams will play each other twice over the course of the regular season giving teams a total of 14 regular season games.

Playoffs will consist of the top 4 teams moving forward to an all Playoff Final Weekend, with all playoffs; senior & junior taking place in the same location over one weekend.

Games will be primarily played in the Portadown and Longford Inline Hockey Rinks, while possibly also making use of the Valley Leisure Centre and Little Island, Cork.

U14 game days will be paired with U12.



## **U12 LEAGUE:**

U12 League will be comprised of teams from both the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland and will be run as a full league this year.

This season we will have 9 teams (1 non-competing):

- Armagh Stars/Bangor Chiefs
- Clare Badgers (non-competing)
- Cork Wolfpack
- East Coast Blaze
- Flying Ducks
- Kilkenny Storm
- Longford Hawks
- Mayo Bulls
- Waterford Penguins

All teams will play each other twice over the course of the regular season giving teams a total of 14 regular season games.

Playoffs will consist of the top 4 teams moving forward to an all Playoff Final Weekend, with all playoffs; senior & junior taking place in the same location over one weekend.

Games will be primarily played in the Portadown and Longford Inline Hockey Rinks, while possibly also making use of the Valley Leisure Centre and Little Island, Cork.

U12 game days will be paired with U14.



## **U10 GAMES:**

There will be no U10 league as such. Instead, we will schedule 3 U10 game days throughout the season as and when teams and venues are available.

Games will be primarily played in the Portadown and Longford Inline Hockey Rinks, while also possibly making use of the Valley Leisure Centre and Little Island, Cork.

The 3 U10 days will be separate from other age groups. Additional U10 games may be added to other age group days as appropriate.

Additionally we may look to add games for LTP/Beginner players who are not registered for the leagues on these gamedays as well.



## LADIES

The league will change its format moving forward, adapting to the dynamics of ladies hockey in Ireland. The season will become more condensed, taking place in the playoff/summer period when players are less involved in their normal club duties. Players will register as individuals and balanced teams will be created to form a 3 on 3 league.

Games will be primarily played in the Portadown and Longford Inline Hockey Rinks.



## FEES:

Fees will be as follows:

ELITE: €70 per game

LEAGUE 1: €60 per game

LEAGUE 2: €55 per game

U18 LEAGUE: €65 per game

U14 LEAGUE: €40 per game

U12 LEAGUE: €30 per game

U10 GAMES: €30 per game

All payments must be made direct to the IHI League Account and cash will not be accepted under any circumstances.

All game fees will be invoiced to each club, on a method that suits them (annually/quarterly/monthly).

## TEAM REQUIREMENTS:

To register a team in any league, teams must have a **MINIMUM of 9 players (8 skaters and 1 goalkeeper) to be eligible for registration. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

On game days, teams must have a **MINIMUM of 6 players (5 skaters and 1 goalkeeper) to be eligible for that game.** Teams that fail to have the minimum number of players will be issued a forfeiture and will be assessed a fine.

## AGE REQUIREMENTS:

Determined by their age on 1st Jan 2018 so for 2018/19 will be:

- U10s - 2008 or later
- U12s - 2006 or later
- U14s - 2004 to 2008
- U18s - 2000 to 2005
- Senior (all leagues the same) - 1/1/2004 or earlier

Girls can play down one age group provided they are no more than 2 years older than the maximum stated age for the age group being entered, but U18 is U18 ie a senior woman can't play down.

Goalies can play down one year, ie a goalie with 2003 DOB could play U14 if required but a request to the junior Development Officer must be made prior to this being allowed.



## PLAYOFF WEEKEND:

Following the success of the junior playoffs last year and Gormanston Park emerging as an event venue we are delighted to confirm that the Playoff Weekend will take place 3-5 May in Gormanston Park. This will see all our leagues conclude in one place over one weekend (Friday-Sunday), giving us a real festival of hockey and being able to share in many great moments.

This will be biggest event in our 2018-19 calendar and we will be looking sponsors and volunteers to help make it a success. If you can help out or have a suggestion on what to include then please get in contact.

More details to follow.