



**Sport Alliance League / Club Conference Bylaws (Subsection D.)**  
**Greater Howard “Club” Field Hockey Conference**

Field Hockey Commissioner – Kelly Jones,  
office 410-313-1694, [kejones@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kejones@howardcountymd.gov)

[League Website](https://www.hcrpsports.org/ghcfhc) – or type <https://www.hcrpsports.org/ghcfhc>

**Updated: December 2025**

**League Description:** The Greater Howard “Club” Field Hockey Conference (GHCFHC) hereinafter referred to as the “Conference” provides an in-season league option for teams seeking a high level of Field Hockey.

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<b>Spring 2025 Key Dates</b>	
Organization Interest Inquiry Deadline:	March 17
Registration Deadline:	March 31
Player & Coach Roster Submission Deadline:	April 18
Roster Certification Deadline:	April 21
Opening Day	April 26

*All GHCFHC rules below are league specific and serve as supplemental guidelines or clarifications to the HCRP Sport Alliance League / Club Conference Bylaws.*

**I. MEMBERSHIP**

The Conference will accept applications for play from elite Independent Club (IC) teams sanctioned and listed on the United States Field Hockey (USAFH) site ([click here for a listing](#)). Your registration with full payment is considered your application to participate in this league. All Conference membership will be reviewed by a Conference Competition Committee to assure a quality and competitively balanced program for the more skilled Field Hockey players in the region.

<b>Fall 2025 Key Dates</b>	
Organization Interest Inquiry Deadline:	July 25
Registration Deadline:	August 8
Player & Coach Roster Submission Deadline:	August 22
Roster Certification Deadline:	August 29
Opening Day	September 6

## **II. ORGANIZATION & CLASSIFICATIONS OF PLAY**

Conference play does not lead to any further levels of competition outside of the program and all play occurs within a regular season, there will be a tournament at the end of the season, but all teams may not make that tournament for the fall season. The regular season is a round robin format of play among teams in divisions within grade groupings as determined by the Conference. A team's performance in regular season play is a factor in post-season tournament placement by the Conference. Post season placement may differ from the regular season placement. In the spring season there will be just a regular season and will have a regular season champion.

The Conference follows the USAFH system based on the player's age. See below the breakdown of the age guidelines for 2025.

### **USA FIELD HOCKEY AGE GUIDELINES**

Here's a breakdown of the updated age classifications for the 2025 club season:

- Under-8 Age Classification: Players born after July 31, 2016, are eligible.
- Under-10 Age Classification: Players born after July 31, 2014, are eligible.
- Under-12 Age Classification: Players born after July 31, 2012, are eligible.
- Under-14 Age Classification: Players born after July 31, 2010, are eligible.
- Under-16 Age Classification: Players born after July 31, 2008, are eligible.
- Under-19 Age Classification: Players born after July 31, 2006, are eligible.

Conference Divisions of play will be for U-10, U-12, U-14, U16 and U19 teams in the Spring season; U-10, U-12, and U-14 teams in the Fall season. U-10 and U-12 will play 7 v 7 and U-14, U-16 and U19 will play 11 v 11 for outdoor.

Boys are eligible to play in each age division, two boys are allowed per roster in those age groups, goalies are neutral and can also be male. Only one boy is allowed to play at a time.

## **III. GAME LOCATIONS**

Fields designed for the sport of Field Hockey by Public Parks and schools participating in MPSSA activities are automatically acceptable fields providing the home team can make arrangements for permitting, field preparation, scorekeeping by way of an electronic scoreboard/clock, parking, and spectator management. HCRP will handle those arrangements for games played on their respective fields.

## **IV. ROSTERS**

Rosters will be submitted via the Sports Engine website.

Each player's full name, date of birth, grade, parent's cell number and jersey number must appear on this form (these fields are required when filling out form). Incomplete rosters will not be accepted. Duplicate jersey numbers will NOT be accepted.

Each parent of Community Sport Organization and Independent Club entered teams is to accept HCRP waiver via the web or however stated by the Conference. Coaches must ensure each player has agreed to terms to the waiver, and also have that team approved by the Conference Manager before a player/team can participate in a conference game.

Failure to confirm roster certification during that process will result in forfeiture of every game until they are on file with the Conference. Referees will not be assigned to any game in which a team does not have a certified roster on file with the Conference.

Any additions or deletions must be put in submitted via the Add/Release Form to the Conference Commissioner before the player is eligible to play. Additions must include all information and waiver forms required with the original roster submittal. No player may be added after the second game of the season.

Players may only play for one team in this conference. Any player on more than one roster will result in the forfeiture of all games scheduled for both teams and the removal of the player from the conference. Each coach should check with the player’s parents to ensure that the player is only on one roster.

Players released require approval from the “Conference” before signing on with another team. The team shall officially release a player in writing on the “release player” form before the “Conference” can consider approval for another team..

## V. GAME DAY PROCEDURES

### Game set up

- Requires an official lined field for play; scorer’s table; horn, timekeeper, and a time clock. The scorer’s table shall be staffed by no more than 2 people at one time and they must be over the age of 16. Failure to provide this will result in possible movement of all future home games to a HCRP managed site with additional reservation and game set up fees (if fields are available).
  - HCRP handles at HCRP managed facilities
    - Otherwise Home Team provides above

### Field Playability Status / Weather Circumstances

- HCRP managed game sites will utilize its field playability / field status recordings. IC using their own home field must inform the conference two hours prior to the starting time. The Conference will make an attempt to move the game. The Home team will be responsible for the rental fee if applicable.
- Below are the Field Status lines for HCRP managed game sites as well as HCPSS (Howard County Public Schools System).

Blandair Park	MTWTF @ 4pm; S/S @ 7AM with updates (2 hours before game)	410-313-3673
Rockburn Branch Park	MTWTF @ 4pm; S/S @ 7AM with updates (2 hours before game)	410-313-4455
Cedar Lane Park	MTWTF @ 4pm; S/S @ 7AM with updates (2 hours before game)	410-313-4453
Western Regional Park	MTWTF @ 4pm; S/S @ 7AM with updates (2 hours before game)	410-313-4372
HC Public Schools	MTWTF @ 4pm; S/S @ 7AM	410-313-6827
Meadowbrook Athletic Complex	MTWTF @ 4pm; S/S @ 7AM	410-313-2727

### Reporting of Scores

- HCRP staff will report scores to the Conference Manager, Kelly Jones, at [kejones@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kejones@howardcountymd.gov).

## VI. PLAYING RULES

Unless modified by this set of rules, all games will be played in accordance with FIH rules.

### Timing

- For Fall and Spring seasons the games will consist of 12-minute quarters with a two-minute halftime. Regular season games can end in a tie. For Spring, there will be no conference finals and only 8 regular season games. For playoff games a winner needs to be decided in the Fall. We will play a five-minute overtime, if there is no winner after this, we will go to one on ones. Best of 5. If tied, the game will go to sudden victory one on ones.

### Spectators

- All spectators must view the game from the bleachers. Only coaches and players on the roster may be in the team area.
- HCDRP managed facilities are smoke free. Playing venues (field, sideline benches, spectator viewing areas, etc0 are tobacco free – NO tobacco products
- Blandair Park requires adherence to “Be a GoodSport” program as detailed on field signs.

## **VII. FORFEIT**

In the event a team cannot field a team for a game, the coach of that team must notify the Conference Manager no later than **9:00 AM the day prior to Game Day**. This will allow for adequate time to contact game officials (regarding paying officials) and contact the other team to avoid needless travel to a canceled game. The team that initiates the cancellation shall forfeit that game and loses the game by a score of 1-0. Teams who have forfeited one game may be ineligible for the playoffs.

If a game cannot start because a team has fewer than 6 dressed players in U-10 and U-12 or 10 dressed players in U-14, U-16 and U-19, the game shall be declared a forfeit, and the team without necessary personnel shall lose the game by a score of 1-0.

After the forfeit has been declared, both teams may agree to play a “unofficial scrimmage game” with the winning team loaning players to the losing team.

## **VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Uniforms** - All teams are required to have two different numbered and colored game jerseys or reversible uniforms with numbers on both sides.

**Tie Breaking 3 points for a win, 1 point for at tie** - End of season tie breaker procedures:

1. Record/Winning percentage.
2. Head to Head.
3. Total winning percentage of teams you have beaten.
4. Total winning percentage of all your opponents.
5. Least goals allowed.
6. Goal differential.
7. Total goals scored.
8. Coin toss.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Conference Supervisor, Kelly Jones at: (410) 313-1694 or [kejones@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kejones@howardcountymd.gov)

**Howard County Recreation & Parks, through its assigned Conference Manager, reserves the right to amend the rules and schedules as conditions may warrant. All decisions made by Conference Manager are final.**