**Yorkshire Hockey Association**

**RULES/GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN’S CLUBS WISHING TO RUN A SUPPORTED TEAM**

***The guidelines below are taken from the Men’s Supported Team notes as issued by David Woodward. They have been adapted due to the small number of women’s clubs running such a team and therefore may be altered each season accordingly. For season 19-20, Thirsk 4 in Div 5N, Chapeltown 3, Rotherham 2 and Sheffield Hallam 5 in Div 5S and KuH 6 in Div 5E are the supported teams.***

1. The existing League Rules will apply except where detailed below.
2. The following will only apply to teams across Division 5. Teams who wish to have Supported status must apply before the start of the season to be considered. These rules/guidelines will also be issued to all teams in the division in which the supported team is playing so that all players are aware of the situation.
3. Clubs who adopt these guidelines will become **Supported Teams** and they will be allowed some doubling up of players and player selection from the team **immediately above them**. It is important that such players are previously identified and should not be used if a team can be raised from the normal playing squad.
4. Players selected from the higher team will be classed as **Bulleted Players**. There should be no **more than 8 players in the club’s next highest team squad and only 4 of these players will be allowed to double up or play lower down on one day.** They should **only** be used when the lower team is short and must be identified on the team sheet and to the Divisional Rep. Players who are being supported should take priority in matches.
5. Supported teams must send in a register of players identifying which squads they will be playing in and ensure that up to 8 **Bulleted Players** are listed as such.
6. **Bulleted Players** should be encouraged to play in the positions that are vacated by missing players so that the developing players play in a regular position. It is important that when selecting Bulleted Players the current division the higher team is playing in is taken into account. Please consult your Div Rep if necessary.
7. The use of **Bulleted Players** is to avoid the selection of the lowest team from a big pool and to restrict the use of players from higher teams who may just be free that week. The **Bulleted Players** list can be amended every 4 weeks but **only with the agreement of the Divisional Rep**. Players then deleted from the list will not be allowed back for 4 weeks.
8. Please note that any team who uses Bulleted Players will be classed as a Supported Team and will not be eligible for promotion that season.
9. If teams have 7 players then they should contact the Div Rep to see if they should still play the game as a friendly and, if the opponents agree, can borrow similar standard players from the opposition in order that the game is still played for the sake of the supported players.
10. The above guidelines will rely on Supported Teams honouring the relaxing of some rules and will mean more work for the Div Reps.

**The Women’s League Committee endeavours to increase the number of teams/players wishing to play league hockey and does not wish to deny anyone from playing if at all possible. However, any abuse/misuse of the guidelines may result in sanctions the Committee feels appropriate to impose.**

**June Smith**

**Women’s League Sec**

**Amended Sept 2018**