

English Ice Hockey Association

JUNIOR SECTION ICE HOCKEY LEAGUES

RULES OF COMPETITION



2018-2019

Last updated 27 Oct 2018 Tony Lack

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	page 3
2. LEAGUE IDENTITY	page 3
3. LEAGUE APPLICATION	page 4
4. FORMAT	page 4
5. PROMOTION & RELEGATION	page 5
6. PLAY OFF FINALS	page 5
7. LEAGUE SEASON	page 5
8. GAME LENGTH	page 5
9. FIXTURES ADMINISTRATION	page 6
10.COMMITMENT	page 6
11.AVAILABILITY	page 6
12.GAME REQUIREMENTS	page 7
13.GAME PROTOCOL	page 8
14.DISCIPLINE	page 9
15.LEAGUE TABLE POSITIONS	page 10
16.OTHER ISSUES	page 10
17.EMPLOYMENT POLICY	page 10
APPENDICES	page 11
DECLARATION	page 20

JUNIOR SECTION ICE HOCKEY LEAGUES
RULES OF COMPETITION 2018/19 SEASON

1. INTRODUCTION

The Junior Leagues section of the EIHA is managed by the Junior League Management Committee (JLMC) which is made up of the following

Director for Junior Hockey	Charles Dacres
Chair Junior League Management Committee	Charles Dacres
Secretary Junior League Management Committee	<vacancy>
Registration Secretary	Valerie Wilkinson
Fixtures Secretary	Tony Lack
Chair North	Ian Traill
Secretary North	Georgina Crebbin
Chair Midlands	Dave Hayward
Secretary Midlands	<vacancy>
Chair South East	Allison Taylor
Secretary South East	Jo Sylvester
Chair South West	Carol Ann Watt
Secretary South West	Fiona Heron

The EIHA's Board of Directors appoints the post of Chair; all other posts are appointed by the JLMC Chair in conjunction with the EIHA Board of Directors.

The JLMC is charged by the Board of the EIHA with the management of all Junior and Under 20 ice hockey.

The JLMC reserves the right to amend and change the Rules of Competition as they see fit for the benefit of the leagues without prior notice to the Clubs participating. Notice of any changes will be circulated immediately to the Club's designated contact. Any changes will be identified.

2. LEAGUE IDENTITY

- 1.1. The Junior Leagues will consist of 4 Regions, North, Midlands, South East and South West.
- 1.2. Cross Ice games will be played at U9.
- 1.3. Leagues games will be played in the age groups, U11, U13, U15, and U18.
- 1.4. The League structure shall comprise the North and Midlands forming one Section and the South East and South West the other, with the exceptions of
 - o U11 which will be organised according to Regions in the North and Midlands and a combined Region covering the South East and South West together.
 - o U9 which will be organized into groups of 4 (four) teams mostly based on travel distance and not on Sections or Regions.

- 1.5. In Sections at U13, U15 and U18 there will be 3 (three) Divisions where appropriate. Leagues will consist of teams accepted into the league structure.
- 1.6. Further details regarding the management of U9 competitions and cross ice games are contained in the “Under 9 Guidelines” document which is available on the EIHA website (www.eiha.co.uk).
- 1.7. Further details regarding the management of U11 competitions are contained in the “Under 11 Rules of Competition” document which is available on the EIHA website (www.eiha.co.uk).
- 1.8. Rules of Competition for U20s are inherited from NIHL RoC and are contained in the “NIHL Rules of Competition” document which is available on the EIHA website (www.eiha.co.uk). The only exception being Playing Up as covered in Appendix D.
- 1.9. The rules below apply to U13, U15 and U18 leagues.

3. LEAGUE APPLICATION

- 3.1. No team will be accepted into the league structure unless the Club has signed the required declaration by the deadline for doing so. By signing the declaration, Clubs agree to abide by the JLMC Rules of Competition and all other rules and regulations as set down by the IIHF and IHUK and EIHA.
- 3.2. Each team must apply to join the leagues before the notified date.
- 3.3. Each team must have as a minimum 2 nominated coaches, at least one of which must be EIHA registered Level 2, an EIHA registered Level 1 Coach is acceptable as the second coach. Each team must also have a nominated Manager.
- 3.4. By 31 August 2018 U13 U15 and U18 teams must have a minimum of 12 (twelve) players registered, 1 (one) of which must be an identified net-minder.
- 3.5. Each club is allowed one team per age group. Entering a second or third team at the same age group in a particular league is a concession and the JLMC reserves the right to refuse an application (e.g. if there are already too many teams in a league).
- 3.6. If a club enters a team at a specific age level in more than one Division (e.g. Division 1 and Division 2) the teams can have the same name. However, if applying to enter two teams into the same Division the original team in the league will be known by the Club’s name. The second and third teams’ names will have to be associated with the Club’s area and must not be an object e.g. “Eagles”. As an example, Sheffield’s second team could be Don Valley.
- 3.7. The minimum number of players required for a club to enter additional teams into the same age group in the league is 16 players per team.

4. FORMAT

- 4.1. At each age group from U13 to U18 the League is a single league split into multiple (up to three) Divisions.
- 4.2. Each registered team will be placed in the appropriate Division relevant to the position in which they finished the previous season. Divisions will be ‘locked’ as felt appropriate by the

Fixtures Secretaries and Chair of JLMC after the instigation of Rule 5 (below). See Appendix A for further details.

- 4.3 New teams will automatically be placed in the final League position

5. PROMOTION / RELEGATION

For Division 1 and 2 only, there will be promotion and relegation playoffs. Playoff and relegation details are at Appendix A

6. PLAY-OFF FINALS

Play-off finals will be as determined by the JLMC. Full details are at Appendix B.

7. THE LEAGUE SEASON

- 7.1 All league games will be played between September 2018 and June 2019. The start and finish dates for each league are set out at Appendix C.
- 7.2 If a club has 2 (two) teams in the same age group and in the same division those games must be scheduled to be played at the start of the season before any other league games are played. In exceptional circumstances, dispensation from this rule can be granted by the JLMC chair.
- 7.3 No games in Division One and Two will be scheduled for the weekend of the Conference tournament unless agreed by the JLMC
- 7.4 Any games outstanding after the dates set out in Appendix C will be decided by the JLMC. The decision will be made subject to the reason why the game did not get played and / or on the recommendation of the fixture secretary, the JLMC Chair and the Regional Chairperson(s). The decision and the reason for it will be published on the EIHA website.
- 7.5 Games will be awarded as a 0-0 draw if no team is at fault or awarded 5-0 (2 points) to the non-offending team if fault is determined.

8. GAME LENGTH

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---|
| 8.1 | Under 13 | 3 x 15 minutes stopped clock |
| | Under 15 | 3 x 15 minutes stopped clock |
| 8.2 | Under 18 Division 1 | 3 x 20 |
| | Under 18 Division 2 | 3 x 15 minutes or 3 x 20 minutes to be stipulated when the fixtures are submitted. Changes to game timings within the season are not permitted. |
| | Under 18 Division 3 | 3 x 15 |

9. FIXTURES ADMINISTRATION PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEASON

- 9.1 Teams will submit their fixture dates to the Fixture Secretary within 7 days of the publishing of the Leagues' Fixtures for the Senior team(s) playing out of the same rink.
- 9.2 Each team will make sufficient home game dates available to allow completion of the League schedule within the dates set out in Appendix C.
- 9.3 If a mid-week fixture is necessary or required, the Fixtures Secretary will schedule a game with a neighbouring team in a midweek slot.
- 9.4 Requests for dates to be excluded from the schedule must be notified to the League Fixture Secretary at the time the dates are submitted as per 9.1 above. . The final decision will be made by the Fixture Secretary before the start of the season.

10. COMMITMENT

- 10.1 If a team has registered to participate in a league but then decides to withdraw after the official start of the season they will be fined £250.00. Failure to pay the fine will result in that team being unable to participate in a league for 1 (one) season.
- 10.2 All outstanding team & club fines must be paid prior to acceptance into the league and participation within the Junior Section.
- 10.3 Failure to travel to a fixture or to host a fixture, without acceptable cause (as determined by the JLMC and Fixture Secretary) will make a team liable to a fine of up to £500. This amount, or part thereof, may be claimed as part of any compensation charge requested and approved by the JLMC by the non-offending team. Each team will be required to supply information justifying the amount they have claimed/offered. In addition, the offending team will forfeit the game 5 – 0 and will be deducted 2 points.
- 10.4 Any team contravening this rule twice in a season without acceptable cause (as determined by the JLMC and Fixture Secretary) will be subject to a further fine (as per 10.3 above), forfeit the game 5 – 0 and be deducted 4 points.
- 10.5 A team that continually fails to travel to a fixture or to host a fixture each season, without acceptable cause, will be reported to the JLMC where further sanctions may be applied including expulsion from the league.
- 10.6 If, for any reason a game has to be abandoned, the result at that point in time will stand if more than 50% of the game has been played. The Fixture Secretary and the Chair of JLMC will determine the outcome if less than 50% of the game has been played.

11. AVAILABILITY

- 11.1 Clubs wishing to participate in the league structure shall be expected to make themselves available on any Saturday or Sunday (including school holiday and bank holiday weekends) during the specified season.
- 11.2 Clubs may be requested to play midweek games as set out in 9.3 above.
- 11.3 All scheduled league matches set by the League's Fixture Secretary will take priority over challenge games and tournaments, home or abroad.

- 11.4 A team can only request the re-scheduling of a league game in the following circumstances:
- i. If 3 (three) or more registered players from that team are on National duty with England, or Great Britain. In all situations independent confirmation to support the request will be required.
 - ii. Severe weather prevents travel.
 - iii. The ice is withdrawn by the venue or ice is lost to a team in a Senior league.
 - iv. Ice facility failure.
- 11.5 All weekend games (Saturday and Sunday except tournaments), to face off no earlier than 11.00am and no later than 7.30pm. Special Dispensation on application to JLMC Chair in exceptional circumstances may be granted.

Note: For 2018/19 season dispensation to Guildford JIHC Dispensation for earlier face off times has already been granted.

12. GAME REQUIREMENTS

- 12.1 Each team must have a light and dark uniform. The home team plays in the light uniform, the visiting team plays in the dark uniform unless there is prior agreement between the 2 teams. If there is a clash on the day it is the home side's responsibility to change shirts. If not available the game will be awarded 5 - 0 to the non-offending team and the game will be played as a challenge game
- 12.2 The minimum bench strength is 11 (eleven) players consisting of 10 skaters and 1 Netminder. However, in the event of players arriving late, a game can be started with 6 (six) players (as per the EIHA In House Rules) but the full minimum bench requirement of 11 (eleven) players must be reached by the start of the second period. These players must be fully kitted and at the team bench ready to participate by the start of the second period. If the required number of players have not joined the bench by the start of the second period the game will be awarded to the non-offending team and played as a challenge game.
- 12.3 If a game is to be played with less than 11 (eleven) players including the Netminder, dispensation must be sought from the JLMC Chair verbally in the first instance, which will be followed by a confirmation email to the Club, Regional Chair, Chair of the opposition Club's Region (if another Region is involved), Fixture Secretary and Statisticians. Dispensation will not be granted for less than 10 (ten) players including the net minder. Further details on Dispensation are at Appendix D.
- 12.4 If a game is played without dispensation the result stands if the non-offending team wins. If the offending team wins, the game is then awarded 5-0 to the non-offending team. If neither team has sufficient bench strength the game will be played as a challenge and neither team will receive any points and the game will be recorded as 0-0 in Fixtures Live.
- 12.5 To aid development, all players (including net minders) registered for a Club's second or third team shall be permitted to ice for 3 (three) appearances for the Club's team in the Division immediately above the Division in which the player is registered, in sanctioned league games. The Club's Registration Secretary will have to transfer the player to the higher Division side before they can play a 4th (fourth) and subsequent game. Once the transfer has been approved, the player can then take no further part in any lower Division games for that Club. If a Club allows a player to play for the higher Division team for a 4th time without having an approved transfer in place, the Player's registration will automatically be transferred to the higher Division team, the player must take to further part in any lower Division games for that Club and the game played will be awarded to the opposition team 5-0.

- 12.6 The deadline for player transfers to other clubs or to teams within the same club to but in a higher Division, is 31 January 2019.
- 12.7 Players are not permitted to play down a league or Division.
- 12.8 Where a club has two teams in the same Division, players can only move between those teams by instigating a formal transfer. A formal transfer between two teams in the same Division cannot take place without the prior approval of the JLMC Chair.
- 12.9 The appropriate registered player team list must be produced from Fixtures Live which shows the registration details of the participating players for all games. The names, level and licence number of all Coaches and Managers should be recorded on the team list. It is the responsibility of both team managers and the referee to check the opposition's team list(s) prior to the game.
- 12.10 If a player's name does not appear on the electronic game sheet they must not participate in the game.
- 12.11 For a game to take place each team must have as a minimum on the bench 1 x EIHA registered Level 2 Coach and 1 x EIHA registered Level 1 Coach. No person under the age of 18 can take control of the bench during a game. An EIHA registered Manager can go onto the bench for a game but cannot take control of the bench if the Level 2 is ejected from the game. If a team has only one Level 2 Coach and one Level 1 Coach who is under 18, the game cannot proceed if the Level 2 Coach is ejected from the bench.
- 12.12 Registered Managers and Coaches must display their licences for the duration of the game. Failure to produce a licence showing the official to be a fully registered official of the EIHA and holding the correct level required will be reported to the relevant discipline committee for action and must be recorded on the game sheet by the referee. The official without a licence must remove themselves from the bench and take no part in the game. The minimum coaching requirements for a game to take place (Rule 12.12 above) must still be adhered to.
- 12.13 The deadline for changes to be made in Fixtures Live and to be effective is midday on the Friday before the weekend in which a game is taking place.

13 GAME PROTOCOL

- 13.1 Recommendations for pre-game protocols are set out in Appendix E.
- 13.2 All teams must use electronic game sheets.
- 13.3 Teams are not required to submit Team Lists or Shots on Goal sheets. However, it is the Club's responsibility to retain these hard copy documents and make them available if requested.
- 13.4 If on-ice officials fail to arrive for a game the Home club is required to contact either the Regional Chair or JLMC Chair to gain permission for the game to play. An EIHA registered Level 1 coach from each side must take responsibility for the officiating of the game.
- 13.5 In relation to 13.4, this will require all Level 1 coaches to be in possession of their on-ice equipment (helmet, whistle, skates) at all games in order to undertake this role.
- 13.6 U13 hockey is played as non-checking.

- 13.7 Scoring of games will cease if the goal difference is excessive as defined in Appendix G.
- 13.8 Playing Up rules are defined in Appendix D
- 13.8 Players aged 3 to 5 Years
The following section sets out the information provided by the EIHA's insurers and sets out when players aged 3 to 5 can play:

This is on the basis that:

- 1) The situation is properly risk managed and the children are properly supervised.
- 2) A parent is present - although not necessarily on the ice
- 3) Insurers have concerns regarding the vulnerability of these very young children and would expect you to carry out the appropriate risk assessment to ensure their safety. They have suggested it may be inappropriate for them (the players aged 3-5) to be involved in sessions with older children who might not fully appreciate the care that needs to be taken and this does seem a prudent measure.

14 DISCIPLINE

- 14.1 For all matters under this section please refer to the separate EIHA Discipline document which is available on the EIHA website (www.eiha.co.uk).
- 14.2 It is the responsibility of the teams themselves to maintain their own records in terms of disciplinary points accrued by its team members and coaching staff.
- 14.3 Any player or coach receiving a suspension in any game will be suspended from all hockey they are eligible to play until such time as the suspension is served at the level at which it was received.
- 14.4 Teams will be subject to further penalty for not applying bans and suspensions brought about through the disciplinary system.

15. LEAGUE TABLE POSITIONS

15.1 The League will maintain adequate statistics to determine League positions and results tables. League position will be determined in the following order:

- i. Points
- ii. Points in games between the tied teams
- iii. Goal difference in games between the tied teams
- iv. Goals scored in games **between** the tied teams
- v. Team with the lowest penalty minutes

15.2 In the event of further criteria being required, the League statistician will provide this.

16 OTHER ISSUES

16.1 A player's age is determined by the year of their birth. Where reference is made to a player's age (i.e. in Rule 13.13.8 and Appendix D) then the player must have reached their actual birthday.

17. EMPLOYMENT POLICY

The EIHA policy so far as teams' employing individuals (in whatever capacity).is set out at Appendix F.

APPENDIX A

PROMOTION, RELEGATION AND LOCKING OF LEAGUES

At the end of a season: -

- i. the club finishing at the bottom of the Division 2 will automatically be relegated.
- ii. the club finishing at the top of Division 3 will automatically be promoted.
- iii. The winner of Division 2 will play the bottom team in Division 1 and the runners up in Division 2 will play the team finishing 2nd bottom of Division 1, in a single game at a venue and date to be determined by the JLMC. The winners of these games will be promoted to Division 1.

Note there will be no provision for a promoted club to request that they are not promoted.

Irrespective of the above or those detailed in appendix A, the JLMC may vary these rules if the number of teams in Divisions becomes imbalanced & may require clubs to be demoted or promoted to maintain league balance.

PLAY OFF FINALS

Junior National Finals

For the 2018/19 season, the National Finals for U11s, U13s, U15s and U18s will be held over the weekend of the 25th – 27th May 2019 at Ice Sheffield

The following teams will participate in the 2018/19 Junior National Finals:

U11
U13
U15
U18

South East/South West Section and North/Midlands Section Division 1 League Winners and Runners up.

APPENDIX C

LEAGUE DATES

For the 2018/19 season, the Leagues will start on the weekend of 1/2 September 2018 and must be completed by the following dates:

U18 Division 1	End	19 th May 2019
U15 Division 1	End	19 th May 2019
U13 Division 1	End	19 th May 2019
U11 Division 1	End	19 th May 2019
U18 Division 2	End	19 th May 2019
U15 Division 2	End	19 th May 2019
U13 Division 2	End	19 th May 2019
U18 Division 3	End	9 th June 2019
U15 Division 3	End	9 th June 2019
U13 Division 3	End	9 th June 2019

DISPENSATIONS

PLAYING UP

There is no dispensation in junior leagues for players to play for an age group above their own with a different club. However:

- i. When a player has reached their **15th birthday** and the parent club has no **U20's** team the player can apply for dispensation to join an U20's team at another club.
- ii. Where the parent club has no NIHL team a player once they have reached their **16th birthday** can apply for dispensation to join an NIHL/ team at another club.
- iii. Where the parent club has no Senior Ladies team a female player, once they have reached their **15th birthday** can apply for dispensation to join a senior ladies team at another club.
- iv. If the parent club has only an NIHL Division 1 team and it is deemed the player is not of the required standard, applications will be considered for the player to have dispensation to play NIHL Division 2 at another club.
- v. If the parent club only has an NIHL Division 2 team and it is deemed the player is of the required standard, applications will be considered for the player to have dispensation to play NIHL Division 1 at another club.
- vi. No player will be given dispensation to play from Division 2 in an age group to Division 1 in the same age group, for another club.
- vii. Where a player's parent club has no league team at a player's registered age group, the player can apply for dispensation to join a team at another club, but only in the player's registered age group.

It should not be assumed that dispensations requested will be granted.

All dispensations have to be in place before 31 January of the current season.

The appropriate signed dispensation form must be sent to the following:

- i. Junior Leagues: – Chair JLMC
- ii. Under 16 Girls: – Chair Ladies Section
- iii. U20: – Chair JLMC
- iv. NIHL and Senior Women: application must be made to the appropriate Section Chair using whatever rules they have in place for dispensation

Where a dispensation under these rules is requested, the Regional Chair of the player's home club (i.e. the one that holds its registration) must be informed by email by the home club's secretary.

PLAYERS WITH SPECIALISED SKILLS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE POSITION PLAYED (NETMINDERS).

Dispensation depending on circumstances for those players with “specialised skills and equipment for the position played” (hereafter referred to “Net minder(s)”) will be considered on an individual basis.

Any reference to dispensation requirements noted elsewhere in the rules, do not apply to Net minders. Any dispensation for Net minders is at the discretion of the Chair of the JLMC and the guidelines set out in the “Special Dispensation” section below apply.

Dispensation can be either short or long term but must be in place before 31 January 2018.

The appropriate signed dispensation form must be sent to the following:

- i. Junior Leagues: – Chair JLMC
- ii. Under 16 Girls: – Chair Ladies Section
- iii. U20: – Chair JLMC
- iv. NHL and Senior Women: application must be made to the appropriate Section Chair using whatsoever rules they have in place for dispensation.

SPECIAL DISPENSATION

Under extreme circumstances dispensation may be given for a club to request the loan of a Net minder from another club, after 31 January of the current season.

To request special dispensation, one of the following must apply. The length of the dispensation will be at the discretion of the JLMC Chair:

- i) Broken limb
- ii) Serious illness/Death
- iii) Contagious illness
- iv) Any unavoidable predicament that the Chair feels is appropriate to granting dispensation.

To qualify for special dispensation the club will need to supply the following:

- i. A medical letter from the doctor confirming the medical condition and length of time the injured/sick Net minder may be out of the game.
- ii. A dispensation request form (available at EIHA.co.uk) complete with the required signatures of approval from the Club lending the Net minder and the Club taking the Net minder on loan.

Or

- lii A club letter giving full details of the situation the club finds itself in with regard to having to request dispensation for the use of a player with specialised skills and equipment.
- iv The appropriate dispensation request form complete with signatures and if applicable within the age restrictions.

The appropriate signed dispensation form must be sent to the following:

- i. Junior Leagues: – Chair JLMC
- ii. Under 16 Girls: – Chair Ladies Section

APPENDIX E

RECOMMENDED PRE- GAME PROTOCOLS

It is advisable, and courteous, for the visiting team to contact the designated officials of the home team by the Tuesday preceding the game to confirm the following:

- i. The face-off time and date of the game.
- ii. What colour shirts each team will play in.
- iii. Forward a team list for the programme if requested.

EIHA EMPLOYMENT POLICY

EIHA POLICY STATEMENT - EIHA MEMBERS AND EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATIONS

The English Ice Hockey Association (the Association) takes on board all aspects of British and European law in its effort to be fair and equitable to both members Clubs/Teams and players registered with the EIHA in the proper manner.

It is the policy of the Association that any situation whereby a member Club/Team employs a person or persons (as players, coaches, management or other positions) that that employment situation should be covered by an adequate employment contract which meets the obligations of employment and other laws in England. The Association strongly recommends the use of a suitable qualified legal advisor in the development and implementation of such a contract. The Association will not recommend any one source of such advice; the employer in any such situation needs to resolve their own employment issues and there will be no recourse to the Association as the employment contact will be solely between the Club/Team as the employer and the player or other person as the employee. The Association strongly recommends that the employee should seek legal advice on the structure and contents of any contract prior to signing acceptance of it and its obligations.

The employment situation also needs to pay regard to the health and safety, insurance and other issues which arise from such a contractual position as would any other employment situation within the country.

MERCY RULE (Added October 2018)

The JLMC have agreed to introduce the mercy rule to all junior games:

When a team is winning by 12 (**twelve**) goals the score will be recorded as e.g. 12 - 0 or 2 -14 or 16 - 4 and so on. At this point the score will be removed from the scoreboard, no more goals will be added to the game sheet with a line being drawn under the last goals scored.

At that time any of the following can take place:

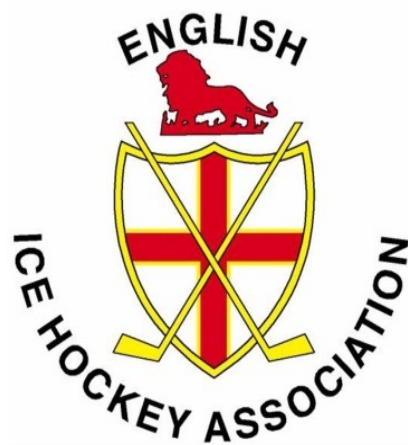
- players can be swapped in the teams
- goalies can be swapped
- teams can stay as they are

However, it is important that the game continues to the end.

The statistics for the game including all penalties and goals up to and including the 12th clear goal will stand.

Teams will not be allowed to forfeit the game and games fees will be met as usual.

English Ice Hockey Association



CLUB LEAGUE DECLARATION

CLUB LEAGUE DECLARATION SEASON 2018/2019

I, as club secretary of Ice Hockey Club, confirm, on behalf of all the Junior teams within our club that the club and teams will undertake to comply with the Junior League Management Committee (JLMC) Rules of Competition, the Regulations and Bylaws of the EIHA, IHUK and the IIHF.

Signed..... Club Secretary

Email address.....

PRINT NAME

An electronic signature (name typed in different font) will be accepted provided name is printed.

Date.....

Please keep a copy of this document and email the original by **28/09/2018** to the Chair JLMC