

British Para Ice Hockey Association (BPIHA)

Constitution

1) Name

The Official Name of the organisation shall be the **British Para Ice Hockey Association (BPIHA)**

2) Definitions and Abbreviations

British/Great Britain	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Disabled	Pertaining to people having one or more physical, sensory or learning disabilities
B.P.A.	The British Paralympic Association
I.P.C.	The International Paralympic Committee
The Association	The British Para Ice Hockey Association

3) Aims and Objectives

- i. To govern, promote and develop the sport of Para Ice Hockey throughout Great Britain.
- ii. To appoint a coach to the Great Britain Men's and Women's teams
- iii. To organise and Manage the Great Britain Men's and Women's programs
- iv. To manage and continue to develop a competitive league
- v. To support and help develop new teams/clubs
- vi. To promote and develop plans for the continued growth of the sport
- vii. To ensure each club/team are working within the guidelines of the association.
- viii. To liaise with the IPC & the BPA
- ix. To ensure new rules and regulations regarding the sport are shared with each club/team
- x. To raise funds and receive contributions where appropriate to finance the GB program and other development opportunities.
- xi. To take any action that is lawful, which would help it to fulfil its aims.

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4) Membership

Membership of BPIHA shall be open to anyone who is interested in playing the sport and shall include the following.

- a) Players – All Registered Players
- b) Non-Playing Members - including Coaches, Administrators and Supporters

5) Registration and termination of membership.

Membership shall run from 1st April – 31st March

Membership fees shall be set each year by the committee

Every member shall have one vote at general meetings

The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse membership to an applicant, where it is considered such membership would be detrimental to the aims, or activities of the group.

The Management Committee may, by resolution passed at a meeting thereof, terminate or suspend the membership of any member, if in its opinion his/her conduct is prejudicial to the interests and objects of the association, PROVIDED THAT the individual member or representative of the member organisation (as the case may be) shall have the right to be heard by the General Committee before the final decision is made. There shall be a right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.

Any member of the association may resign his/her membership and any representative of a member organisation or section may resign such position, by giving to the secretary of the association written notice to that effect.

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6) Management

The Association shall be administered by a Management group consisting of not less than four (4) officers elected at the group's Annual General Meeting and one (1) representative appointed from each club.

The officers of the Management group shall be:

- i) The Chairperson
- ii) The Vice Chairperson
- iii) The Treasurer
- iv) The Secretary

Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands on a majority basis. If there is a tied vote, then the chairperson shall have a casting vote.

The management group retains the Power to set up sub-groups and working parties as deemed necessary who shall be accountable to the committee.

7) Finance

Any money obtained by the BPIHA shall be used only for the associations' aims and objectives. Monies donated for specific requirements will be restricted funds for that purpose.

Any bank accounts opened for the BPIHA shall be in the name of the association, any cheque issued shall be signed by at least two of any three nominated signatures and the Management Committee will ensure that the group stays within the budget.

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8) Committee Meetings

The committee shall meet at least four (4) times each year.

The quorum (minimum number of people required) for a meeting shall be three (3).

The committee shall always be accountable to the members.

All meetings must be minuted and available to any interested party.

All committee members shall be given at least a months' notice of a meeting unless it is deemed an emergency meeting.

9) Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting shall be held within six months of the close of the financial year of the BPIHA (31st March), the business of which shall include:

- i) the receipt of the accounts and balance sheet,
- ii) the election of Committee Members, if it has been decided to have such a Committee.

The quorum for Annual General Meeting shall be at least eight (8) persons of which no more than four (4) shall be committee members.

An Extra ordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be convened at any time by order of the Management Committee or at the written request of a simple majority of Full Members.

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10)Application of surplus

The BPIHA shall not trade for profit. Any surplus of the BPIHA shall be used as a general reserve for the continuation and development of the sport.

11)Disciplinary Procedure

The Organisations Disciplinary Procedure is outlined in a separate document, (Appendix 1) and whilst it is generally anticipated that these procedures should cover any eventuality, changes may be proposed and presented to any general meeting for the approval of at least two thirds of those members present and voting at the meeting.

12)Alteration of the Constitution

Proposals for amendments to this constitution, or dissolution must be delivered to the secretary in writing. The secretary in conjunction with all other officers shall then decide on the date of a meeting to discuss such proposals, giving at least four weeks (28 days) clear notice.

Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by at least two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting.

13)Dissolution

The BPIHA may be wound up at any time if agreed by two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting. Any assets shall be returned to their providers, if they require it, or shall be passed to another group with similar aims.