

27th August 2020

**RE: APPEAL OF AVOCA HOCKEY CLUB
FROM PARTICIPATION IN
EYHL2
FOR THE SEASON 2020 – 2021**

Dear All,

Following the appeal hearing on the 26th August 2020, the appointed members of the appeals panel have, taking into consideration the information submitted to the panel and the very detailed submissions made on behalf of Avoca Hockey Club, and the response on behalf of Hockey Ireland, concluded that they reject the appeal of Avoca Hockey Club.

While acknowledging the genuine concerns of Avoca Hockey Club and the submissions which they made, it is the view of the panel: -

- (a) That the decision of Hockey Ireland not to proceed with the increase in the number of teams playing in Leinster was within the range of reasonable decisions and reflected a choice made in a complex and evolving situation, where consensus had not been reached among the principal stakeholders of Hockey Ireland.
- (b) Furthermore, the decision or otherwise to increase the number of participating clubs would not necessarily have served Avoca which was not the next ranked club and, which was not one of the clubs elected by Leinster Branch. This is not a situation therefore where Leinster Branch was led into error based on any expectation that the number of teams would be increased and, in the view of the panel, there was no expectation specific to Avoca which arose by virtue of any communication between Hockey Ireland and Leinster Branch. The delays which were attendant on communicating the final position to the clubs are regrettable but, the issues and relationship complexities were clearly substantial.

The panel recognises that genuine concern on the part of Avoca and thanks them for the detailed submissions which were made on their behalf. The panel does not accept the interpretation however in relation to the consequences attendant on the declaration that the EYHL2 Season 2019 / 2020 had been declared null and void and the panel recognises the

unusual constitution of the EYHL2 League which is in the effect reconstituted by the nominations of the province every year and thus, differs from ordinary Leagues.

In the circumstances, Avoca's appeal against their exclusion from participation in EYHL2 in the 2020 / 2021 Season is rejected.

Yours,

Aisling Keogh (Chairperson – Appeal Panel)
Paul Fogarty (Member of Appeal Panel)
Dermot Judge (Member of Appeal Panel).

Dated the 27th August 2020.