

Men's Club Guide 2025/2026

A Note On Respect *WIP

The objective of all these bye-laws and rules and guides is so that everyone can have a good time playing hockey. One of the key elements of that is mutual respect.

Most of the people you deal with have lives outside of hockey. The procedures detailed here are designed to ensure everyone has clear expectations. You should respect that.

There are a lot of volunteers in hockey - they are not paid to do what they do. Do not treat anyone like a service provider.

Hockey needs respect to thrive.

This document may be updated during the year. Please refer back to it occasionally (and specifically before your first match in each competition).

*Also, if you have questions or comments, just add them directly to the document.
(Insert/Comment from menu)*

Quick Links

If you have a question the answer is very likely to be in one of these:

- This document: <http://bit.ly/lhamen-clubguide>
- Calendar, where all information about leagues, cups, dates, structures etc etc is to be found: <https://bit.ly/lhamen-calendar-2025>
- Section Bye Laws [LHA Documents - Governance & Bye Laws](#)
- Details for all clubs (contacts, emails etc): www.leinsterhockey.ie/clubinfo/

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This document is available at: <http://bit.ly/lhamen-clubguide>

Note: This is only a guide. Please consult the LHA Bye-Laws for official positions on any and all content.

Contacts

General Queries	men@leinsterhockey.ie
Registration queries	mensregistration@leinsterhockey.ie
LHUA Contact for Match Updates	appointments.lhua@gmail.com

The Men's Section Committee

The purpose of the Men's Section Committee is for the most part to moderate the Men's Section - not to administer it or to govern it. The members of the Men's Committee are ordinary members of clubs who have volunteered their time to perform this moderation.

The ideal scenario is that clubs/teams would be able to organize the operation of the Men's Section on their own without any interference, or that situations could be resolved by defined processes.

There are a limited number of situations that the Men's Committee must take control:

- Initial organization of competition structures
- Creation of an initial set of fixtures
- Approval of modification of fixtures (postponements, bringing forward matches, reversals)
- Reporting violations of the Bye-Laws resulting in penalties

Structure

The Men's Committee is organized according to three tiers:

1. *The LHA Director responsible for Men's Hockey* (a.k.a. Men's Chair): The director is responsible for representing the interests of Men's Hockey within the LHA Board. The director is also responsible for ensuring that Leinster Men's Hockey operates smoothly.
2. *The Men's Committee Executive*: These are individuals who carry out the required roles of the Men's Committee. The roles are identified as:
 - a. Registration
 - b. Fixtures
 - c. Competitions
 - d. Communications
 - e. Fines
 - f. etc

3. *The Men's Advisory Group*: A group of representatives drawn from as many clubs as possible who will be available to respond to requests for opinion on specific issues. The Advisory Group exists solely as a mailing list.

Link to the Section Bye Laws: https://www.leinsterhockey.ie/content_page/10045374/

Mens Section Calendar (“The Calendar”)

The Calendar is available here: <https://bit.ly/lhamen-calendar-2025>

The calendar is a spreadsheet containing all the information pertaining to the organization of Leinster Men's Hockey.

It contains the actual calendar listing all the dates for International, National and Provincial Hockey which have determined the dates that have been selected for fixtures.

The calendar contains a sheet for each competition (Leagues and Cups) that lists each team and how they appear. Cup draws were performed by using the randomization function of the spreadsheet.

The calendar also lists contact details for all the clubs in Leinster (from the LHA website), as well as the contact details for the Men's Committee.

Communicating with the LHA

All general emails to the branch must be made through men@leinsterhockey.ie. If there is a dispute over emails only emails recorded at the above address are valid..

All communications regarding fixture changes/postponements/delay/reversals etc must be communicated to:

- The Opposition Fixtures Secretary
- The Men's Committee Division Manager
- The LHUA Contact

(Contact details are at the end of this document)

Arranging Fixtures

All Home Match Secretaries are required to receive confirmation when organising times with the opposition match Secretary. Home Match Secretaries are required to re-seek

confirmation if none is forthcoming and inform the Division/Cup manager of any difficulties. Match times should be arranged by Sunday Evening. Any delay in organising times will result in a fine.

Match times **must** be updated on the LHA website **FOUR WEEKS IN ADVANCE**. Failure to do so will result in an immediate fine.

Clubs are required to provide accurate contact information on the Leinster website. Incorrect emails/phone numbers provided on the Leinster site by clubs will be considered the fault of the club and could result in a €50 fine.

Arranging Umpires

The LHUA must be consulted with at least 1 weeks notice in the following cases - without exception:

- All Division 1A and 1B matches
- All Neville Cup, Mills Cup and Railway Cup matches
- The final match of all cup competitions
- All fixtures that have changed.

Leinster Umpires (LHUA)

Leinster Umpires use <http://www.irishhua.com/> to communicate with all their umpires. The Home team is primarily responsible for all communication.

For weekend matches, match times for Men's Division 1 and 2 must be updated on the umpire's website (and the LHA website) by 11pm on the previous Sunday.

Once individual umpires have been assigned, they must be included in ALL communications about a fixture. Umpires **MUST** be contacted by Monday night confirming both team colours, venue and time.

Where insufficient notice is given of changes, clubs may be charged the full fee for the umpires and/or the match may not be permitted to go ahead. Also, separate fines/penalties may be imposed by the LHA.

As a matter of simple respect, where matches are cancelled the LHUA and/or individual umpires must be contacted as early as possible.

Rules of Hockey 2.3c: it is not acceptable for players to abuse [...] umpires or other technical officials verbally or through body language and attitude.

This rule is about respect - and this respect includes keeping umpires properly informed before the game.

The umpires representative is listed at the end of this document.

Postponements

Postponements are only granted in exceptional circumstances. Clubs are advised to bring matches forward in most cases as opposed to seeking a postponement.

Handy hint: This is useful for any match issues, but especially for postponements. If you click on the envelope on the right hand side of the fixtures list for matchcards it will fashion an email that has all the details you should include.



Postponing

In order to streamline the postponements process, the onus for granting a postponement in a number of cases will be reversed for this season.

In the following cases, where the procedure has been correctly followed, the postponement is automatically granted:

1. The match is to be played on an earlier date than scheduled with the agreement of the opposition.
2. The match is to be reversed with the agreement of the opposition.
3. The specific team requesting the postponement OR the next highest team in their club¹ is playing in one of the following competitions:
 - a. Irish Senior Cup
 - b. Irish Hockey Trophy
 - c. Irish Hockey Challenge
 - d. Irish Junior Cup
 - e. Leinster Indoor Competition
4. The specific team requesting the postponement is playing in one of the following competitions:
 - a. EYHL Division 2 (does not apply to EYHL Division 1)
5. The specific team requesting the postponement has been scheduled in the Leinster fixtures (not because of a refix) to play more than one match on the same day.
6. The specific team requesting the postponement is the last team in the club.

In the case of tragic circumstances, i.e. a death, please contact the Mens Committee directly.

University Postponements as detailed below require approval.

¹ So for example, the 3rd team in the club may get a postponement if, and only if, the 3rd team itself or the 2nd team is playing in one of these competitions.

All other postponements require approval (and are not likely to get it).

Procedure

To get a postponement the requesting fixtures must send an email to:

- The Mens Fixtures Secretary of the opposing club (or Fixtures Secretary if it is a joint role) as listed on the Leinster Hockey website here:
www.leinsterhockey.ie/clubinfo/
- The LHUA Fixtures contact listed at the end of this document as “LHUA Contact for Match Updates”
[For every match - NO EXCEPTIONS!!]
- The Mens Committee: men@leinsterhockey.ie

The email must clearly state the case for rescheduling (copied from the list above) and should indicate the competition and all teams involved.

Once the email is received, then the postponement is granted (a response from the Mens Committee is not required).

The home team is, as ever, responsible for updating the fixture on the LHA website. A late matchcard fine will automatically result if the date is not updated.

Standard notifications, postponement limits etc still apply, and failure to comply with these may result in the imposition of scheduled fines. Failure to correctly notify the opposition or the umpires may result in a “Failure to fulfil fixture” fine as well as a possible imposition of costs.

If a postponement is taken as automatically granted and it does not comply with the list above, a “Failure to fulfil fixture” fine may be imposed on both teams.

When requesting a postponement, you are kindly asked to suggest one or two suitable refix dates. You will not be held to them - but we would like to get to a point where postponements are more streamlined. New dates for fixtures, either earlier or later must be agreed by the opposition and the umpires (as per the existing Bye-Laws).

It would be appreciated if you would include the word “POSTPONEMENT” at the start of the email subject (This will make your email easier to find if there is a problem).

Here is a sample notification for a postponement (apologies to Avoca/Pembroke):

Subject: POSTPONEMENT Division 3: Avoca 3 v Pembroke 2

To Pembroke, the LHUA and the LHA

We are postponing this match, scheduled for 22/11/2021 because Avoca 2nds are

playing in the Irish Hockey Trophy on that day.

By agreement with Pembroke we will play this match within 8 days of the original fixture on 25/11/2021.

Regards,

Joe Bloggs,

Fixtures Secretary, Avoca Hockey Club

University Postponements

It is long recognized that at the start of the season University teams will not have had an opportunity to induct new members joining at the start of the year and that students are away at the start of the calendar year. With this in mind postponements will be granted, but with the following strict provisos:

1. Only the following matches may be rescheduled:
 - a. Matches in Division 2 or lower scheduled for before the Saturday of "Freshers Week"
 - b. Matches scheduled from Christmas Eve to the Wednesday before the first teaching week of the calendar year.
2. These matches can be rescheduled/postponed to the next available Tuesday evening ("available" meaning the teams or their next higher teams are not already playing a match).
3. These re-fixes must be flagged with the opposition teams at least 30 days before the original fixtures and the LHA website updated - otherwise they must be played or forfeit.
4. Alternative arrangements can be agreed with approval from the Mens Committee.

Cancellations

A cancellation is a special kind of postponement where the pitch is unavailable because of circumstances completely beyond the control of the clubs playing. The most common form of cancellation is where the umpires/team captains decide, for safety reasons, that the pitch is unplayable (e.g. severe weather or frozen pitch). No specific notice period is required for cancellations - it depends on the circumstances (but as in all cases, clubs are expected to be respectful to each other).

Notification of the cancellation is to be sent to the LHA, the LHUA and the opposition and will include details of the reason for the cancellation. Substantiation, such as photographic evidence, may be requested to validate the cancellation reason.

Cancelled fixtures shall be rearranged in the same way as postponements.

Matchcards

Electronic Matchcards must be filled out on the day of the match.

The Matchcard system is at: <http://cards.leinsterhockey.ie>

There must be **7 players** from the final playing team listed on the matchcard before the start of the match. Failure to do so will result in a fine of up to €25.

Each team must complete their matchcard before **midnight on the day of the match**. Failure to do so will result in a missing matchcard fine of €25.

Strict Processing

Certain competitions are listed as “strict” for matchcards. This means that the following restrictions apply:

- Only umpires can add yellow/red cards
- All players must have shirt numbers
- Umpires are assumed to be official umpires - once they sign the card the card is closed and further changes will not be valid.
- There is a limit* to the number of players that can be added after the start of the match. A fine will be issued if this limit is exceeded.

Currently strict processing only applies to Division 1 matchcards. (*For Division 1, the limit is 0).

Uniform

Where teams with similar colours play one another the away team shall wear different coloured shirts and socks for the match.

Shirt numbers are recommended for all players - though they are only mandatory as per the Bye-Laws. (Division 1A/1B/2 and LHA Cup Finals).

Registration

In order to submit a registration, do the following:

1. Login to the matchcard system as your club's registered secretary
2. Go to 'Registration'.
3. Click the Upload button, and submit the file.

Please see the [Matchcard User Guide](#) for more detail.

The simplest format of a registration file is a basic text file with the name of each players listed one per line. This will upload, but a more correct format is either a CSV or XLSX file with three columns:

1. HI Membership Number
2. Player Last Name
3. Player First Name(s)

The order of the players is from the top team down. Don't worry too much about mistakes - you can upload another file immediately. Click the 'View' button to see your registration (although you might need to change the date - as the registration shown is for now, but any file you upload will only take effect tomorrow.)

The LHA Men's Registration Secretary can override the registration system if you are certain the registration is valid.

- On Monday night the Registration Secretary of each club will receive an email listing the following information:
 - Incidents occurring in the past week (incidents are Ineligible Players, Cards and other issues with matchcards).
 - Matchcards submitted. The matchcards are hyperlinks to the image of the matchcard stored on the system.
- If there is an incident regarding an ineligible player, the LHA will not do anything about this. It is up to the opposition if they wish to challenge the player, which they can do in accordance with the bye-laws.
- It is the responsibility of the club secretaries to ensure that the LHA has the correct contact details for their club.
- Fines, once issued, will only be reversed if we have made a communications mistake or on appeal as per the Bye-Laws.

Age Limit Eligibility

Official LHA position. TBC.

~~To play Men's Club Hockey a player must have passed his 15th birthday.~~ To play in School League, Cup Competitions, Colts and Underage competitions under the auspices

of the LHA, the relevant date is 1st July 2018 for the 2018/19 season.

To Play interprovincial and/or international, the relevant date is 1st January for that season.

Challenges

Where the identity of a player is being challenged: only a photograph/video of that player playing in the match in question will be accepted as evidence.

Photographs/Video must be taken in a manner that is not intrusive or confrontational and that respects players, officials, the rules of the game, and all ethical codes etc.

The LHA Registration is not responsible for initiating challenges. They must be initiated by the club.

Player Rating

Player rating is a simple number that is used to rank the standard of each player. It is generally considered that a player with a lower valued rating is better placed in higher divisions.

The highest rating of all the players assigned to a team cannot be higher than the lowest rating of any player assigned to the next lower team.

Currently the rating is calculated as follows:

- The initial rating of the player is the division number of whatever the highest team in a club the player has played for. So, if the player played any match for the 2nds during the year his initial rating is 2.
- The rating is then increased by the fraction of matches that the player has played for any team other than his initial rating team. So, if the previous example player has played 9 matches - but 4 of these were for the 3rd and 2 for the 4ths, then his rating is adjusted by $(4+2)/9 = 0.66$ - and so his final rating will be 2.66.

Outside of the rating, the club can place a player on any team they like. So, for example, they can take a player that played EYHL all last year and put him on their Division 6 team this year, and as long as he only plays for the Division 7 team, he is perfectly entitled to. However, if he plays even one game for the EYHL team, his rating will preclude him from playing for the Division 6 team.²

Squad Size

² This sounds terribly unfair - but it is very unlikely to happen. It also assumes that the club doesn't just have an EYHL and Div 7 team, which is also unlikely.

From the Rules of Hockey (2022):

Team A team consists of a maximum of sixteen persons composed of a maximum of eleven players on the field and up to five substitutes.

This may be amended by Regulation to a maximum of eighteen players.

So, if you can't find a competition Regulation from the LHA, it's 16. There are Regulations for Hockey Ireland competitions, but they just apply to specific HI competitions.

Division 1A

Matches between EYHL 2 teams can be fulfilled with the corresponding EYHL 2 result.

Division 6

Divisions 1-5 operate on a standard pattern where each team plays the others twice, home and away.

Division 6 has more than the standard 10 teams and so is slightly more complex. There is also the possibility of a team dropping out from or adding into Division 6 before the second half of the season.

So the first half of the season will involve every team playing every other team once.

Depending on how many teams remain the second half will be as follows:

Remaining Teams	Second Half Format
11 or less	Complete the division with the reverse of the first half fixtures.
12 or higher	The Division will split in two based on the ranking after the last match of the first half is originally scheduled to be played.

Where the number of matches a team has to play exceeds 18, the team may be permitted to call a second fixture's result based on the first fixture, with the agreement of the opposition and the Division Manager.

Points gained in the first phase of the second are maintained only in respect of matches

against teams in the same group in phase 2.

Cup Competitions

Clubs will be automatically entered for all cup competitions (with the exception of the Galtrim and the Walters). They are free to withdraw before the first match is played.

NOTE: There are no “divisional cups” in Leinster Men’s Hockey

Eligibility

The Cup Competitions are as follows:

Cup	Eligibility
Neville Cup	One entry from each club. Leinster league players only.
Neville-Davin Cup	Teams eliminated/withdraw from Neville Cup before the quarter finals
Mills Cup	All National League Teams and Division 1 Team
Railway Cup	All Division 1B and Division 2 Teams
Intermediate Cup	All Division 3 and Division 4 Teams
Junior Cup	All Division 5 Teams
Minor Cup	All Division 6 Teams. (<i>Clubs may request to have a non-league team added to the Minor Cup - subject to approval by the Mens Committee</i>)
Galtrim Cup	TBD
Walters Cup	TBD

Cup Match Format

- As per the Bye-Laws each cup match will be 70 minutes long.
- The 70 minutes will be divided into 4 periods of 17.5 minutes with a 2 minute, 5 minutes and 2 minutes break between periods.
- If after the 2 periods there is still no result, then a penalty shoot-out competition (1v1) will take place. The penalty shoot-out competition will be in accordance

- with Appendix 11 of the FIH Tournament Regulation for Outdoor Competitions³.
- *There will be no extra time.*

Promotion/Relegation

At the end of the season, the promotion/relegation rules will be applied as per the Bye-Laws, which state that *“If there are still spaces remaining, the Section Committee may promote any team they adjudge suitable, and mandate play-offs as they see necessary.”*

In respect of this:

1. Teams finishing first or second in their division will be promoted automatically to the next highest division if they are eligible
2. The highest team moving down may challenge the lowest team coming up that is not promoted automatically to a play-off. (Challenges must be arranged before the LHA AGM).

³ <http://www.fih.ch/media/8997723/general-tournament-regulations-august-2017.pdf>

Administration

Work in Progress

The following section describes the processes that can be used by the Men's Committee to organize the season. This is a guideline only - but following it should result in smoother operations.

Season Preparation

The season cannot officially move on until the EYHL competitions for the closing year have been complete.

Once the EYHL season has closed and we are aware of who will be going up to/coming down from EYHL, the Division 1 manager should immediately move to establish the teams to be included in Division 1. This should include those teams coming down from EYHL.

Then in accordance with the Bye-Laws he should identify the teams to be relegated and organize any play offs (to be played within 2 weeks).

This should be complete within 7 days of the close of the EYHL (14 days if play-offs are required and the outcome affects the next deadline).

This should be repeated on the same timescale for all subsequent divisions.

Any optimizations that can speed up this process should be implemented.

Scheduling

Scheduling cannot occur until Hockey Ireland issues their calendar. This can then be used to create the section calendar.

Once this is available it should be copied into its own sheet within the Calendar.

Remove (or hide) all columns related to Women's/Girls hockey as this is not relevant to the planning.

It is necessary to determine, by agreement with other sections, on the final's date. Every other fixed date is predetermined.

Cups are scheduled as follows. This will produce a draft schedule, which must be adjusted based on scheduling requirements from Hockey Ireland.

Note: in the initial draft of all cups the matches should be scheduled for Sunday. Once the

final fixtures are released, where the corresponding Saturday is free, they can be moved.

Neville Cup

The Neville Cup will be drawn 14 days after EYHL has closed. At this point all known clubs will be available.

The Neville Cup will only be for teams playing in the domestic leagues.

A draft schedule of the Neville Cup can be provided - assuming 5 rounds, the schedule is as follows:

- December 26th - Final
- Saturday on/before December 1st - Semi-final
- Saturday on/before November 6th - Quarter-final
- Saturday on/before October 12th
- Saturday on/before September 17th

Mills Cup

Once the league structure has been finalized the Mills Cup can be drawn.

The Mills Cup will consist of all EYHL and Division 1 teams.

A draft schedule of the Mills Cup can be provided - assuming 5 rounds, the schedule is as follows:

- March 17th - Final
- Saturday on/before February 3rd - Semi-final
- Saturday on/before December 9th - Quarter-final
- Saturday on/before October 26th
- Saturday on/before September 24th

Neville Davin Cup

After the 2nd Round of the Neville Cup is complete the Neville Davin Cup will be drawn. The draw will take place two days after the official date for the Neville Cup second round. Any team that has not played their matches by then will not be eligible for the Neville-Davin Cup⁴.

A draft schedule of the Neville Davin Cup can be provided (combined from both the Neville and Mills Cups) - assuming 5 rounds, the schedule is as follows:

- March 17th - Final
- Saturday on/before February 3rd - Semi-final
- Saturday on/before December 9th - Quarter-final

⁴ Apologies to anyone this affects, but there is a tight turnaround for the Neville-Davin Cup and we can't really wait.

- Saturday on/before November 6th
- Saturday on/before October 26th

Other Cups

All other cups have the same final day. This must be agreed by the Leinster Board. For the purpose of draft calculations the weekend after March 17th will be used.

- Saturday after March 17th - Final
- Saturday on/before March 3rd - Semi-final
- Saturday on/before January 29th - Quarter-final
- Saturday on/before November 30th
- Saturday on/before October 12th

League Competitions

From the Calendar exclude the following dates:

- All dates from the 17th December to 3rd January inclusive
- The last two weekends in January
- The weekend of the October Bank Holiday
- The weekend immediately before the Monday specified as the start of the February mid-term Post-Primary school break
- All dates from the 12th March to the 18th March inclusive
- Weekend containing the first round of the Neville Cup
- Weekend containing the first round of "Other Cups"
- Weekends containing more than 8 cup matches (across all cups)
- The weekend of the Cup finals
- Easter Weekend

The first half of the season will end on the last available Saturday in that year and the dates will be 9 non-excluded Saturdays going backwards. The second half of the season will start on the first available Saturday in the year and the dates will be the 9 non-excluded Saturdays going forwards.

Ordering Teams in Leagues

It makes for a better outcome if teams can be ordered such that adjacent teams are playing in the same location as much as possible. To achieve this, each team is marked in the league structure with a H or an A. This indicates that in odd weeks the team will be either home or away respectively.

It is important, however, also not to overload the pitches and so it is assumed that the maximum a pitch can support in one day is 3 matches.

To this end, where a club has:

- 1, 2, or 3 teams - these teams are assigned the same H/A value.
- 4 teams, two are assigned the H and the other 2 the A.
- 5 teams, the bottom 3 are assigned the H and the top 2 the A
- 6 teams, the bottom 3 are assigned the H and the top 3 the A

EHYL teams are not included in this consideration (for example, Monkstown has 5 teams. Their 1sts in EYHL are ignored. The 2nd and 3rd are assigned an A, the 4ths and 5th a H).

Once the teams are listed in leagues and the H and A is assigned the league need to be adjusted so that in each division there are 5 Hs and 5 As. This will involve reverse the H/A for all the teams in one or more clubs until this is achieved. If this cannot be achieved then clubs in the last division that have more than 3 teams will have this last team reversed.

When all the H/A is assigned, then teams should be numbered between 1 and 10, assigning odd numbers to the Hs and even numbers to the As. Then each Division is sorted by this number.

Cup Draws


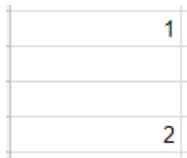
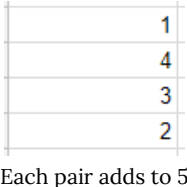
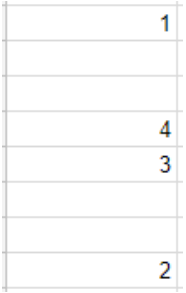
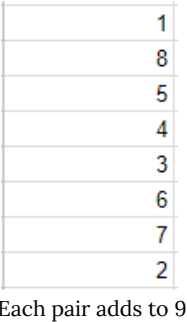
Each Cup is drawn in a spreadsheet on the Calendar. The sheet has generally 3 columns: Rank, Ordering and Team.

Ordering is the order of the teams before the draw (initially 1 to 8/16/32)

Rank is the order of the teams after the draw. Rank is created as follows:

1. The first 2 values insert vertically are 1 and 2
2. Between each consecutive pair of numbers insert two new cells
3. For each new consecutive pair of cells the total should be the total number of cells plus one
4. Repeat from step 2 until there are enough cells in the ranks for every team.

Example:

Initial State	Step 2 (1st Pass)	Step 3 (1st Pass)	Step 2 (2nd Pass)	Step 3 (2nd Pass)
				

Finally the teams are placed into the Teams column in any particular order. Blank rows are placed at the end with zzz in them.

tl;dr⁵ version of this:

Just put the following numbers in the first column of the spreadsheet (and put 'Rank' at the top).

For 32 teams:

1,32,17,16,9,27,25,8,5,28,21,12,13,20,29,4,3,30,19,14,11,22,27,6,7,26,23,10,15,18,31,2

For 16 teams:

1,16,9,8,5,12,13,4,3,14,11,6,7,10,15,2

In the second column just put 1,2,3,4... 16/32 (and put 'Order' at the top).

In the third column put the names of the teams and put zzz in the blank rows (put 'Team' at the top)

Making the Draw

To make the draw, first randomize the ordering of the teams (but not the zzz rows) using the Randomize Range command (in Google Sheets).

Then just sort everything by the Rank column. This will then create a balanced draw with all Byes in the first round. (Note this won't produce a first round match between two zzz rows).

⁵ "Too Long; Didn't Read"