

**ISHF LIGA PRO**  
**WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES**  
**SEASON 2020 / 2021**



**LIGA PRO**

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1.	<b>GENERAL PROVISIONS</b>
1.1.	ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES is an international multistage tournament in which club teams from different countries participate;
1.2.	Each stage of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES is an independent tournament that determines its winners and prizewinners and is held in a single established format for all stage tournaments and as part of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES international calendar;
1.3.	The International Short Hockey Federation is the founder of the competition and the main holder of all commercial rights both for the entire championship and for its individual stages;
1.4.	It is allowed to differentiate rights with the organizers of stage tournaments under special individual conditions;
1.5.	All stages of the competition are held under the same Short Hockey rules approved by the ISHF;
1.6.	The organizers of the competition stages are approved by the ISHF and the local National Federations of the countries in which a particular stage of the tournament is held;
1.7.	These regulations are the main document for all competitions within the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES programme and may replace the individual competition regulations of each stage tournament;
1.8.	The ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES season is the time interval between the start of the first stage of the series and the final game of the final stage;
1.9.	The ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES series has a maximum duration of 10 calendar months;
1.10.	The season may last from 01 September of the year, when the competition starts, to 31 May of the next calendar year; the final stage of the series is held in June by ISHF decision;

1.11.	The final stage of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES is a drawing of the world's strongest teams at the end of a series of stage tournaments, determining the strongest team of the season.
1.12.	The venue of the final stage of the series, as well as the composition of the participants in the final stage, shall be approved by ISHF at least one month before to the final stage;
<b>2.</b>	<b>PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES</b>
2.1.	Development and popularisation of short hockey as an independent sport in the world;
2.2.	Identifying the best short hockey club teams in the world;
2.3.	Expansion of short hockey in the world and expansion of short hockey clubs around the world;
2.4.	Increasing its own loyal audience of fans of this sport around the world;
<b>3.</b>	<b>TOURNAMENT STAGE REGULATIONS</b>
3.1.	Each stage of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES competition is an independent championship in which teams from different countries participate;
3.2.	Stage tournaments are divided into two categories: "A" and "B".
3.2.1	<p>Category "A" stage tournaments must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of participating teams from 12 and more</li> <li>○ Number of countries represented 3 or more</li> <li>○ Tournament duration from 26 calendar days and more</li> </ul> <p>If any of the above requirements, even one of them, is not met, the stage tournament cannot get the category "A"..</p>

	3.2.2.	<p>Category "B" stage tournaments must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of participating teams from 8 and more</li> <li>○ Number of countries represented 2 or more</li> <li>○ Tournament duration from 14 calendar days</li> </ul> <p>If any of the above requirements, even one of them, is not met, the tournament stage cannot get the category "B".</p>
3.3.	Each stage of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES must be included in the local national sports calendar of the country in which it takes place in order to be included in the ISHF single programme;	
3.4.	Each stage of the competition, in agreement with the ISHF, determines for itself the duration of the competition not exceeding 31 calendar days;	
3.5.	Each stage of the competition, in agreement with the ISHF, determines the number of teams ready to take part in the competition;	
3.6.	If the ISHF has preliminary applications from teams from other countries, the organizer of the stage is obliged to accept these teams for participation in the competition according to the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES unified calendar;	
3.7.	Teams taking part in one or more stages of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES tournament are participants in a single championship with the right to try to reach for to the final stage of the series, where the strongest club of the season in the world is determined;	
3.8.	At the end of each stage, each team receives personal rating points, which determine its place in the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES world classification;	
3.9.	After one team participates in several stages of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES tournament, its rating points are summed up;	

3.10.	Each stage of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES series takes place in two stages:	
3.10.1.	Regular championship	
3.10.2.	Drawing of playoffs with identification of all places	
3.11.	<p>Each stage of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES is given its own name after the organizers have agreed with the ISHF, which is formed according to the following principle:  <b><i>LIGA PRO (name of the partner) - name of the host country - OPEN CHALLENGE CUP - year of the event</i></b>  It is also assigned a category: "A" or "B";</p>	
3.12.	<p>After the agreement of the organizers with ISHF, assigning a personal name and category to the tournament stage, the tournament gets into a single International calendar of the whole series ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES;</p>	
3.13.	<p>Each stage of the series is served by international referees licensed by ISHF;</p>	

3.14.	<p>In order to complete the stage tournament, the organizers must submit the following documents to ISHF for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter (excerpt) of inclusion of these events in the National calendar of sports competitions of the country in which it is planned to hold a stage tournament from the relevant organization, certified by the local National Federation (ISHF member)</li> <li>• Application from the local National Federation (ISHF member) for the inclusion of the tournament in the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES stage tournaments</li> <li>• Regulations for ISHF approval, signed by the National Federation (ISHF member) of the event, displaying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dates of the event,</li> <li>▪ The country of the event,</li> <li>▪ The city where the event takes place,</li> <li>▪ The venue of the competition,</li> <li>▪ Format of the event,</li> <li>▪ The organizers of the event,</li> <li>▪ Detailed schedule of game days</li> <li>▪ Instruction from the head of the panel of referees</li> <li>▪ Indication of contacts of the Organising Committee</li> <li>▪ Specification of the main information website displaying all information about the tournament</li> <li>▪ Dates and number of transfer windows during the tournament stage</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>REGULATIONS ON THE ORGANIZER OF STAGE-TOURNAMENTS</b>
4.1.	<p>Only the National Short Hockey Federation (or a federation that represents a given country within the ISHF's official members) may organise a stage tournament and apply to the ISHF to host the tournament in their country within the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES single competition calendar;</p>

4.2.	The ISHF-recognised National Short Hockey Federation, which is a full member of the ISHF, ensures that all ISHF principles and rules are followed when holding a specific stage tournament;
4.3.	The local National Federation may delegate the direct running of the stage tournament and all possible organisational activities to another organisation, but strictly with the agreement of the ISHF and in compliance with the tripartite agreement;
4.4.	The organizer of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES series stage tournament can have direct relations with ISHF partners on the basis of a trilateral cooperation agreement with ISHF;
4.5.	In order for the organizer of a stage tournament to be able to include his event in the general programme of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES, he must submit an application to the ISHF and other documents in accordance with point 3.14 of these Regulations.
4.6.	The organizer must provide information on the composition of the Chief Referee Board of the ISHF for approval;
<b>5.</b>	<b>REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITORS</b>
5.1.	The participants of the competition under the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES single programme are short hockey teams that have submitted preliminary applications for participation in one of the tournaments in the series;



5.2.	<p>To participate in the competition teams must provide the Organizing Committee of the competition with the following package of documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General team application (<i>in the form approved by ISHF</i>) for participation in the competition. The application is signed by each player personally and certified by the club management;</li> <li>○ Questionnaire of each player of the team in a uniform form;</li> <li>○ Insurance policy for each player of the team for a period not less than the duration of the planned competitions and operating in the country where the team plans to participate;</li> <li>○ Medical admission of each player of the team, allowing him to play the game power sports and admission to increased sports loads;</li> </ul>
5.3.	<p>Each player of the team-participants of the competition is obliged to sign a personal pact on observance of the principles of fair play, which is duplicated by the Organizing Committee in the main headquarters of the ISHF tournament;</p>
5.4.	<p>Up to 10 players from each team are allowed in the application for each stage of the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES series, provided that a player has not played for another club within the last three months within the framework of the series competitions;</p>
5.5.	<p>Players may be replaced in the competition application form during the time period specifically allocated for this purpose, which is called the 'Transfer Window';</p>
5.6.	<p>The team is obliged to maintain a lineup of up to 50% of the players during the whole season when applying to any stage of the tournament in which it takes part;</p>
5.7.	<p>If a team does not comply with the provisions of point 5.6 of these Regulations, it will automatically drop out of the applicants to qualify for the final stage of the entire season;</p>

5.8.	It is allowed to exchange players between teams, strictly under the condition of transfer the rights to the application of one player from his previous team ( <i>Form on transfer of a player from one team to another, approved by ISHF</i> );
<b>6.</b>	<b>RELATIONS BETWEEN PLAYERS AND CLUBS GOVERNED BY THIS REGULATION</b>
6.1.	In order for a player to participate in competitions under the auspices of the International Short Hockey Federation, he must be declared for any team participating in the competition;
6.2.	Personal relationships between players and clubs are not regulated by ISHF, but in order to comply with the order, ISHF reserves the right to apply administrative penalties to clubs and players who have open violations in relations with third parties. These issues are considered by a special ISHF Disciplinary Committee;
6.3.	<p>Among the administrative penalties imposed by the ISHF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary separation of a player or club from participation in competitions under the auspices of ISHF, even in the middle of the season;</li> <li>• Introduction of penalties for both - players and clubs;</li> <li>• Lifetime suspension from participation in official short hockey competitions, both - players and clubs</li> </ul> <p>Any decision made by the ISHF Disciplinary Committee in relation to any player or club is recognized and respected by all ISHF members;</p>
6.4.	If a player has already been declared for any club in one of the tournaments of the stage, and does not have any contractual obligations to this team, he is still recognised by ISHF as a player of this team during the next 3 calendar months;

6.5.	In order to be able to play for any other club in the official tournaments ISHF, a player must get an official draft of the rejection from the previous team for which he was declared, that they make the rejection of the player in the application for his club in this season of the series (withdrawal form approved by ISHF);
6.6.	During one season, a player may not make more than two transfers between teams;
6.7.	During one season, a player may not be returned to the team if the team has already issued a waiver for that player once in that season;
6.8.	In the event of a dispute between a player and a team, either party may unilaterally submit a request for resolution to the ISHF arbitration committee;
<b>7.</b>	<b>PROVISIONS ON THE FORM OF COMPETITION</b>
7.1.	ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES held in two stages:
7.1.1.	The <b>first stage</b> - the qualifying stage, consisting of the number of tournaments - stages, recorded in the Single Calendar of the whole program ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES;
7.1.2.	The <b>second stage</b> is the Final Tournament of the series, which determines the strongest teams of the World of the whole tournament;
7.2.	Each team participating in a single program ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES itself determines the number of stage tournaments in which it takes part.  The advantage in the unified classification of teams of ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES series is naturally given to the teams that take part in more tournaments and stages;

7.3.	<p>At the end of each stage tournament, teams are assigned rating points, which affect its place in the overall World Classification of teams series ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES.</p> <p>The rating points are influenced by such factors as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category of the stage tournament, in which the team takes part</li> <li>• Final place taken according to the results of the team's performance in the regular championship of the tournament-stage</li> <li>• Each victory in the draw of the play-off tournament of the stage.</li> </ul> <p>Points are awarded in accordance with the approved system of rating points calculation to teams for participation in tournaments - stages ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES;</p>
7.4.	<p>Prior to participation in the final tournament-stage of the whole series ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES are allowed teams that take the first 16 places in the unified classification of teams of the whole series according to the results of all held tournaments-stage of the series ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES in this season;</p>

7.5.	<p>In case 2 or more teams gain the same number of rating points, the highest place is occupied by teams that meet the following characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participated in more tournaments and stages.</li> <li>2. Participated in more "A" category tournaments and stages.</li> <li>3. Participated in a larger number of playoff tournaments of the stages.</li> <li>4. Participated in a larger number of playoff tournaments of "A" category stages.</li> <li>5. Played more games in the whole series;</li> <li>6. Have won more games in the main time in the whole series ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES</li> <li>7. Have won more after match penalty shot series of the whole series and ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES</li> <li>8. Scored more goals in all ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES series</li> <li>9. Scored more goals in A-stage tournaments.</li> </ol>				
7.6.	Each stage tournament consists of two stages, in accordance with paragraph 3.14 of these Regulations.				
7.7.	Depending on the number of teams participating in the tournament-stage, a tournament schedule is built and the number of rounds in the tournament-stage is prescribed in the Tournament Regulations agreed by ISHF and the Tournament Organizer;				
7.8.	<p>The organizers must comply with the following requirements when setting up the schedule and the Regulations for Stage Tournaments:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="379 1816 1509 2076"> <tr> <td data-bbox="379 1816 512 1962">7.6.1.</td> <td data-bbox="512 1816 1509 1962">During one game day, each team can play no more than two matches;</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="379 1962 512 2076">7.6.2.</td> <td data-bbox="512 1962 1509 2076">The time break for one game day between two games for each team should be not less than 2.5 hours;</td> </tr> </table>	7.6.1.	During one game day, each team can play no more than two matches;	7.6.2.	The time break for one game day between two games for each team should be not less than 2.5 hours;
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	7.6.3.	Teams can spend no more than 6 game days per week, with obligatory one or more weekends;
	7.6.4.	A regular championship of a stage tournament can be held in at least two and a maximum of 5 laps, depending on the number of teams declared;
7.8.		At the end of the Regular Championship of each stage of the tournament, teams go into a playoff draw, where they have face-to-face retirements;
7.9.		The number of matches between rivals in different playoff rounds is determined individually by the competition regulations approved by the organizer of the stage tournament and ISHF;
7.10.		When rating points are calculated for teams based on the results of playoff matches, it is not the total number of actual victories in teams' matches that counts, but the number of victories gained in rivals between these teams confrontations;
7.11.		Rating points for teams participating in tournaments of the series are calculated according to the table of points approved by ISHF at the beginning of the season;
<b>8.</b>	<b>PROVISIONS FOR THE FILING AND CONSIDERATION OF PRO-TESTS</b>	
8.1.		Each club participating in the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES series stage tournament has the right to submit a protest to the ISHF LIGA PRO WORLD CHALLENGES SERIES stage tournament's Referee Committee, as the first instance, and to the ISHF disciplinary arbitration committee, as the highest instance for the resolution of such disputes;
8.2.		The protest is made by the team no later than 12 hours from the moment the match is played and until the next game of the team to the Tournament Stage Organising Committee as the first instance;

8.3.	<p><b>The protest must be accompanied by an attachment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative video recording of the match;</li> <li>• A complete transcript of the episode(s) in writing of the grounds for annulment of the decision.</li> </ul>
8.4.	<p><b>Grounds for refusal to consider the protest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Untimely protests;</li> <li>• Protests that are not recorded in the Official Match Protocol;</li> <li>• Protests based on claims to the quality of refereeing the Match, including those based on mistakes in refereeing the Match in determining the places where the puck is to be thrown, in imposing penalties, in determining the goal to be taken.</li> </ul>
8.5.	<p>If the protest procedure is followed and there are no grounds for leaving the protest without consideration, the Tournament Organising Committee will take the protest for consideration, consider it and make a decision on it within 24 hours of receipt;</p>

**ISHF President**

**Maksim Sivalnev**