

Hunter Coast
Premier Hockey League

OPERATIONS MANUAL
2017

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23. TROPHIES 23**1. NAME**

The name of the competition shall be Hunter Coast Premier Hockey League herein after referred to as “the HCPHL”.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the HCPHL shall be to promote, foster, control and manage the Hunter Coast Premier League Hockey under the sponsorship of the Central Coast Men’s & Newcastle Men’s Hockey Associations.

3. DEFINITIONS

- a. “Rules” means the rules set forth in this Operations Manual document as amended from time to time.
- b. “By-Laws” means the By-Laws appended to the Rules as amended from time to time.
- c. “Hockey” means the game of hockey and variations of hockey (eg 7-a-side) and includes other competitions played outside the normal winter season.
- d. “Member” means a financial member of either Newcastle Men’s Hockey Association or Central Coast Men’s Hockey Association.
- e. A reference to “in writing” includes letter, fax or email.
- f. A “Suspended Player” is a player who has been suspended by a Judiciary Committee.

4. AFFILIATIONS

The HCPHL may affiliate with any bodies it may deem appropriate to further the objects of the HCPHL and if thought fit, to withdraw or retire from any such bodies.

5. COMMITTEE

- a. The HCPHL Committee is to consist of:

One (1) delegate from each member club and the HCPHL Committee Office Bearers.

- b. The club delegates to the HCPHL will elect the following Office Bearers:
 - i) Administrator
 - ii) Umpires Convenor
 - iii) Judiciary Convenor
 - iv) Grading Convenor – The Grading Convenor must be elected from the committee members of the CCMHA Grading Committee or the NMHA Grading Committee
 - v) Registrar
 - vi) The Grounds and Fixtures Convenor
 - vii) Publicity Officer
- c. The above Office Bearers (Clause 5b.), although members of the Committee, do not have voting privileges, the exception being the Administrator who will have a casting vote in the event that the voting delegates to the Committee are tied.

There is nothing in these rules to prevent a club delegate being elected to any of the above positions. In these instances, delegates would retain their voting privileges.

Further, there is nothing in these rules to prevent any of the Committee's Office Bearers being held conjointly with the same or other positions within their respective associations.

6. SUB COMMITTEES

- a. The Committee shall appoint Sub Committees as required.
- b. The Administrator shall be an ex-officio member of all Sub Committees.

7. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the HCPHL shall consist of all financial members of affiliated clubs and all HCPHL Office Bearers.

8. ELECTIONS

- a. Nominations for election of Office Bearers and other functionaries may be in writing, endorsed by the nominee or received by electronic devices, and lodged with the HCPHL Administrator before the relevant Annual General Meeting. Nominations may also be accepted from the floor of the AGM.
- b. Office Bearers of the HCPHL Committee will be declared vacant with the previous Registrar assuming the Chair to conduct an election for the HCPHL Administrator. The elected HCPHL Administrator then assumes the chair for the election of the remaining Office Bearers.
- c. Where nominations are called for from the floor of a meeting, the nominee shall either be present at the meeting or shall have given written confirmation as assurance of acceptance of such nomination which shall be presented at the meeting.
- d. In the instance of a vacancy or resignation, the Committee is empowered to appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term of office.

9. FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a. Each team entered into the competition shall be deemed unfinancial if it carries outstanding debt with its respective association.
- b. Unfinancial members or teams may not play in the HCPHL.
- c. Any club playing a player who has been declared unfinancial shall be deemed to have forfeited any competition match in which such player may take part. This provision applies equally to unfinancial teams/clubs.

10. MEMBERS LIABILITY

The members of the HCPHL shall have no liability to contribute towards the payment of debts and liabilities of the HCPHL or the costs, charges and expenses involved in the winding up of the HCPHL except to the amount of any unpaid membership fees.

11. DISCIPLINING OF MEMBERS

- a. Clubs, or affiliated bodies referring a complaint to the HCPHL shall forward in writing, particulars of the complaint to reach the HCPHL

Administrator, the NMHA Secretary and the CCMHA Secretary, within seven (7) days of the said incident.

A non refundable fee of \$50 must be lodged before any complaint will be advanced. Cheque made payable to the complainant's club respective association.

- b. A complaint may be made by the executive of any club of the HCPHL to the HCPHL Administrator that some other member/club of the Association:
 - i) has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of these rules; or
 - ii) has and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of HCPHL.
- c. On receiving such complaint the HCPHL Administrator:
 - i) must inform the HCPHL Committee details of the complaint;
 - ii) must cause notice of the complaint to be served on the member/club concerned;
 - iii) must give the member/club at least fourteen (14) days written notice from the time the notice is served, so as the member/club can make a submission to the HCPHL Administrator in connection with the said complaint;
 - iv) must take into consideration any submissions made by the member/club in connection with the complaint.
- d. The HCPHL Committee may, by resolution, levy the member/club an amount determined by the HCPHL Committee, not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) per offence, and/or expel the member/club from the HCPHL or suspend the member from membership of the HCPHL if, after considering the complaint and any submissions made in connection with the complaint, it is satisfied the facts alleged in the complaint have been proved. Penalties levied are payable to the association of the offender and must be paid in full within seven (7) days of receipt of written notice unless subject to appeal in which case, the penalty shall be deferred pending the outcome of the Appeals Tribunal.
- e. The expulsion or suspension of membership takes effect within 24 hours of service of the written notice.

12. RIGHT OF APPEAL OF DISCIPLINED MEMBER/CLUB

Any member/club may exert their right of appeal in writing to the HCPHL Administrator within seven (7) days from the receipt of written notice of any penalty or suspension.. The appeal will be heard by a committee consisting of an Executive Committee member from the CCMHA, an Executive Committee member from the NMHA plus the HCPHL Administrator. The Appeal Committee will make a recommendation to the HCPHL Committee on its decision. The recommendation of the Appeals Committee, although offering compelling advice, is not binding on the Committee.

The right of appeal must be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars (\$50) which will only be refunded if the appeal is upheld. Cheque made payable to the defendant's club respective association.

13. MEETINGS

- a. All meetings of the HCPHL Committee will be chaired by the Administrator or in his absence, the Registrar. A minute secretary to record proceedings will be appointed at each meeting. Records of meetings and documents of the Committee will be retained by the Administrator.
 - i) General Meetings will be held on a regular basis or as required.
 - ii) Special General Meetings will be convened by the Administrator as required to deal with specifically referred matters.
 - iii) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the HCPHL must take place prior to the commencement of each (winter) hockey season. The Administrator must provide all affiliated clubs and associations with twenty one (21) days written notice.

NOTE: There is no reason why General Meetings, Special General Meetings and/or Annual General Meetings cannot be held concurrently.

- b. A quorum for the above meetings shall be at least five (5) club delegates.

14. FINANCE

The Committee shall, within the terms of these Rules, have the power to:

Purchase, lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal estate for the purpose of the HCPHL.

15. RULES AND BY-LAWS

- a. The interpretation of these Rules or of any By-Laws made hereunder shall be the sole determination of the Committee whose decision shall be binding on all members of HCPHL.
- b. Any matters not covered by these Rules or By-Laws of the HCPHL shall be dealt with as they arise by a quorum of the Committee and ratified by the next General Meeting.

16. ALTERATION OF RULES AND BY-LAWS

- a. The HCPHL Rules and By-Laws may be altered at the AGM. Alteration shall be made by consent of more than fifty percent (50%) majority of those present and eligible to vote at the AGM (refer to the *NOTE* in Operations Manual Clause 5c.).
- b. The HCPHL Rules and By-Laws may be altered by a Special Resolution of the HCPHL Delegates at a Special General Meeting provided that:
 - i) Notice of any proposed alteration shall have been given in writing to the HCPHL Administrator at least fourteen (14) days before the Special General Meeting.
 - ii) The HCPHL Administrator shall have forwarded a copy of such notice to the HCPHL Delegates of each club and any other member entitled to such notice, at least seven (7) days before such meeting.
 - iii) Alteration shall be made by consent of more than a fifty percent (50%) majority of those present and eligible to vote at that meeting (refer to the *NOTE* in Operations Manual Clause 5c.).
- c. The HCPHL Rules and By-Laws may be altered by a Special Resolution of the HCPHL Delegates by an “email vote” provided that Clause 16b i), ii) and iii) are adhered to.

17. HCPHL MEMBERS TEAM COLOURS

Any new clubs are to register with the HCPHL Committee their playing colours, including an alternate strip (if applicable). Players are to wear numbered shirts and the numbers are to be recorded on the match score cards.

There must be no duplicate numbers.

Away teams are to have an alternative strip if there is any clash with home team.

Teams must notify the HCPHL Committee prior to changing their strip.

18. WINDING UP THE ASSOCIATION

The HCPHL may at any time be dissolved upon a resolution of a Special General Meeting held for that purpose and such resolution must be passed by a seventy five percent (75%) majority.

Hunter Coast Premier Hockey League

BY-LAWS

2017

1. COMPETITION

From year to year NMHA & CCMHA member clubs may apply to enter additional teams.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- a. All team players must be registered with Hockey NSW prior to participating in any HCPL matches.
- b. All team players must be registered (Primary or Duel) registration with either Newcastle or Central Coast Men's Hockey Associations, prior to participating in any HCPL matches.
- c. All team players must be registered as per By-Law 2 - a & b by the 30th June,
- d. No Players will be able to be registered to participate in the HCPL after June 30th deadline. (Special request can be submitted in writing for approval by the HCPL committee.

Penalty for playing an unregistered player is covered in By-Law 15

3. TRANSFER AND CLEARANCE:-

- a. A player leaving a Newcastle Hockey Club or a Central Coast Hockey Club to join another Newcastle or Central Coast Club prior to and during the season must first obtain a written clearance from the Secretary of the Club he intends to transfer from and provide that clearance to the respective NMHA or the CCMHA Secretary of the club he is transferring to. A club playing a player without a clearance will be deemed as losing the match, and any further matches until the clearance is received.

The result will be recorded as a 3-0 victory unless the non-offending team win by a greater margin, in that case the original goals scored by that team will stand.

B&F Points and Goalscorers stand only for the non-offending team.

- b. No internal transferring of players will be permitted after the 30th June.
- c. No Newcastle or Central Coast Club shall refuse a clearance to a player to play with another Club unless the player is unfinancial with that club.
- d. If a club plays a player who has been "declared unfinancial" the match will be awarded to the opposition.

This result will be recorded as a 3-0 victory unless the non-offending team win by a greater margin, in that case the original goals scored by that team will stand.

B&F Points and Goalscorers stand only for the non-offending team.

4. TEAMS

- a. A HCPHL team may consist of a maximum of sixteen (16) players with eleven (11) to take the field at any given time. This eleven (11) may consist of ten (10) field players and a fully equipped goalkeeper OR eleven (11) field players.
- b. If a team chooses not to have a goalkeeper then no player has any goalkeeper privileges.
- c. A HCPL team shall field a maximum of 4 players per match, who do not have their primary registration with either Newcastle or Central Coast Mens Hockey Association
- d. All teams shall have team grading list submitted to the grading committee no later than 4.00pm on the Friday prior to the scheduled weekend fixtures.

5. AFFILIATION FEES AND GAME FEES

Each participating Club will be responsible to their respective Association that all match fees are paid on time. Disciplinary action for failure to comply with this provision will default to the individual associations (see Part 9 of the Operations Manual).

6. SCORE CARDS

- a. Associations are to ensure that score cards, signed by the umpires, captains and match official, are faxed (or scanned and emailed) to the HCPHL Registrar within twenty four (24) hours of the relevant game's completion. The HCPHL Registrar shall provide the registrars of NMHA and CCMHA with information concerning such games as necessary and by consent.
- b. No player names to be added to the Game Card after the commencement of the second half. Player to be present before name is entered on card.

7. FORFEITS

- a. A team receiving a forfeit shall be credited with two (2) points for win plus a six (6) goal to nil (0) advantage. The forfeiting team shall receive nil (0) points and a 0-6 goal quotient.
- b. No team will be allowed to take the field and play a competition match unless they have seven (7) or more registered players. Any team failing to field a team with seven (7) or more players within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time shall be considered to have forfeited and the opposing team may claim a forfeit. These seven (7) registered players do not have to include a fully kitted goalkeeper.
- c. Claims for forfeits on grounds of insufficiency of players or lateness of starting shall be lodged with the HCPHL Administrator in writing within forty eight (48) hours of the scheduled match.
- d. The forfeiting team must pay the whole match fee.

8. CHANGES TO DRAW

- a. A club or team seeking an alteration to the draw, game date, time, venue etc, shall provide seven (7) days written notification to the HCPHL Administrator, HCPHL Registrar and HCPHL Grounds and Fixtures Convenor. In order for such alteration to take effect, consent must be obtained by the HCPHL Grounds and Fixtures Convenor from all affected parties.
- b. The Committee is aware that only in exceptional situations a match may be deferred. The HCPHL Grounds and Fixtures Convenor or the Committee may initiate alterations to the draw provided all parties are advised and consent to such changes obtained.
- c. Any altered game must be played within twenty eight (28) days of the scheduled day or as agreed by the HCPHL Committee.
- d. HCPHL Registrar, HCPHL Grounds and Fixtures Convenor, HCPHL Umpires Convenor and HCPHL Administrator to be informed immediately of amended game, date and time.
- e. Each club must supply three (3) email contacts to the HCPHL Grounds and Fixtures Convenor. These contacts will be used for notification of changes to draw.

- f. Any club failing to show up for a rescheduled match will lose on forfeit provided the HCPHL Grounds and Fixtures Convenor have applied the provision contained within Part 7 of these rules.

9. ABANDONED MATCHES

- a. A match, once started, may be suspended or abandoned by the two (2) umpires in conjunction with the two (2) captains for inclement weather, blackout, riot or serious injury. The final decision to suspend or abandon the match shall rest with the umpires.
- b. Suspended Matches:
 - i) A match may be suspended at the beginning or during a game at the discretion of the umpires.
 - ii) If a match is suspended, the match clock will be stopped and if twenty five (25) minutes or less, in total is lost, the game shall recommence.
 - iii) If a match is suspended for more than twenty five (25) minutes in total, the game is abandoned and shall be replayed.
- c. Abandoned Matches:
 - i) If a match is abandoned and the game has less than twenty five (25) minutes of play remaining, the score at the time of final abandonment of the match shall be taken as the final score of the match.
 - ii) If a match is abandoned and the game has twenty five (25) minutes or more of play remaining, then the game shall be replayed.
- d. If the game cannot be replayed, the game will be deemed a nil all draw.

10. JUDICIARY COMMITTEE (also refer to the attached “HCPHL Judiciary System”)

- a. The Judiciary Committee will comprise of the Judiciary Convenor and two (2) members from NMHA and two (2) members from CCMHA.
Each member association shall supply the names of their Judiciary delegates plus two (2) alternate delegates each to the HCPHL Administrator before round two of the competition proper and that these appointments be for the full season.

In the event of the Judiciary Convenor being absent at a hearing or having a vested interest in any hearing, the Convenor is required to appoint an “Alternate Convenor” from the permanent members of the Judiciary Panel to facilitate that particular hearing.

- b. No club shall have more than one (1) member on the Judiciary Committee including the Judiciary Convenor.
- c. A quorum for a Judiciary Meeting shall be three (3).
- d. Where an Umpire has issued a Red Card to a HCPHL player,
 - i) The Registrar shall report the matter to the Judiciary Convenor within twenty four (24) hours.
 - ii) The umpire shall provide a written report to reach the Judiciary Convenor no later than 6.00 pm on the Monday following the suspension. If the umpire’s report is not received by the Convenor by that time, the Convenor will make such enquiry as he deems necessary to determine the Category of the offence (after consultation with two other Judiciary Members).
 - iii) The Red Carded player or his club may provide a written statement to reach the Judiciary Convenor no later than 6.00 pm on the Monday following the suspension.
 - iv) Any witnesses may provide a written statement to reach the Judiciary Convenor no later than 6.00 pm on the Monday following the suspension.
- e. All Judiciary hearings will be heard where possible before the player’s next scheduled HCPHL game following the incident but must be heard within ten (10) days.
- f. If a Judiciary hearing is scheduled in the week prior to the finals series or during the final series it must be heard by the Wednesday following the incident.
- g. If a Red Carded player or his representative fails to appear at his Judiciary hearing the player remains suspended in accordance with the original charge until such time as he or his representative appears before the Judiciary. The Judiciary Committee should be sympathetic to any extenuating circumstances.
- h. Should the Judiciary Committee fail to convene for lack of a quorum, a Red Carded player shall be permitted to resume play until the Judiciary Committee can be convened.
- i. An umpire shall record on the match card all temporary (minor yellow cards or major yellow cards) and permanent (red card) suspensions during a game.

- j. The Judiciary Committee shall use the HCPHL Judiciary System (as agreed by the HCPHL Delegates) in determining outcomes of judiciary hearings.
- k. No member of the Judiciary Committee, including the Judiciary Convenor, shall attend and hear a disciplinary tribunal if that member belongs to the same club as the player before the tribunal. In the event that the Judiciary Convenor is disqualified in terms of this Part, the Convenor shall appoint an "Alternate Convenor" from the permanent members of the Judiciary Panel.

11. DUTIES OF THE JUDICIARY CONVENOR

The Judiciary Convenor shall:-

- a. Co-ordinate and control Judiciary Hearings.
- b. Set the venue, date and time of Judiciary Hearings as required. These arrangements will be by mutual agreement.
- c. Notify personally members of the Judiciary Committee and the Secretary of the club(s) of the player(s) cited, the date, venue and time of the said Judiciary Hearing. Additionally, he is required to provide the relevant club(s) secretary(s) with notification of the charge and a copy of the umpire's report not later than twenty four (24) hours prior to the Judiciary Hearing time.
- d. Keep true and proper records of the attendees, all written evidence and the committee's findings and penalties if any.
- e. May have casting vote only at Judiciary Meetings.
- f. Shall communicate to the HCPHL Administrator each of its findings and the penalties imposed, if any, within twenty four (24) hours of the date of Judiciary Hearing.
- g. Communicate to the Secretary of the club(s) of the player(s) on report, each of its findings and the penalties imposed, if any, within twenty four (24) hours of the date of Judiciary Hearing.

12. RIGHT TO APPEAL

- a. Any player or the player's club on his behalf, may exert their right to appeal by telephone, fax, letter or other electronic device to the HCPHL Administrator within twenty four (24) hours of the decision made by the Judiciary Committee.
- b. The decision under appeal must exceed one (1) competition round.

- c. Pending hearing of an appeal a player may not play hockey.
- d. The decision under appeal shall be heard by the Appeals Committee before the players next competition match or as soon as possible.
- e. If the Appeal hearing is scheduled in the week prior to the finals series or during the final series it must be heard before the players next scheduled match.
- f. The right of appeal must be accompanied by a fee of \$50 which will only be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- g. Cheques made payable to the defendant's respective association.

13. THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

- a. Where a Right to Appeal has been duly lodged that appeal shall be heard by an Appeals Committee.
- b. The Appeals Committee will comprise of two (2) members from NMHA, two (2) members from CCMHA and the HCPHL Administrator acting as the Appeals Convenor.
- c. The Appeals Convenor shall have the casting vote only.
- d. The duties of the Appeals Convenor shall be similar to By-Law Part 10.
- e. No member of the Appeals Committee, including the Appeals Convenor, shall attend and hear a disciplinary tribunal if that member belongs to the same club as the player before the tribunal. In the event that the Appeals Convenor is disqualified in terms of this Part, the Administrator shall appoint a substitute convenor.
- f. No club shall have more than one (1) member on the Appeals Committee.
- g. The Appeals Convenor must report the findings with any penalty, within twenty four (24) hours of the date of the Appeals Hearing to the HCPHL Committee.
- h. No member of the original relevant Judiciary Committee shall sit on the Appeals Committee.
- i. A quorum for an Appeals Meeting shall be three (3).

14. SUSPENDED PLAYERS

- a. If a HCPHL player receives a Red Card in an earlier game, that player is permitted to play until he receives notice of suspension from the HCPHL Judiciary Convenor.
This Red Card could have been received playing hockey anywhere in Australia.
It is the player's club administration responsibility to ensure that the player is in a stable state of mind as required to participate in a game of hockey.
- b. A player who is suspended by either the HCPHL, NMHA & CCMHA Judiciary Committee is suspended from playing hockey in all three (3) of these Associations.
The respective Judiciary Committees should state if the player is suspended from all hockey activities (playing, umpiring, coaching or manager) or playing only.
- c. A HCPHL player who is suspended by a Hockey Association outside of HCPHL, NMHA & CCMHA is allowed to play in the HCPHL competition unless: i. the PHL Administrator is notified that the player has been suspended from another Association or ii. Hockey NSW or any other State Hockey body wishes the suspension to apply to our Associations. In this case the suspended players name must be listed on the Hockey NSW website, or any other State Hockey website in Australia.
The HCPHL Administrator will then refer this matter to the HCPHL Judiciary Committee for determination.

15. PENALTY FOR PLAYING AN UNREGISTERED OR SUSPENDED PLAYER

If a club plays an unregistered and/or suspended player the match will be awarded to the opposition.(also refer to By-Law 13c).

This result will be recorded as a 3-0 victory unless the the non-offending team win by a greater margin, in that case the original goals scored by that team will stand.

B&F Points and Goalscorers stand only for the non-offending team.

16. UMPIRES AND MATCH OFFICIAL

- a. The HCPHL Umpires Convenor will provide two (2) qualified or competent umpires for each game.
- b. The HCPHL Umpires Convenor to provide a Match Official (in addition to the umpires) at each match to complete score cards, check players eligibility, run sin bin and generally control side line behaviour.

- c. Umpires and Match Official are to be paid a sum to be agreed at the AGM of the HCPHL.
- d. If an appointed HCPHL umpire fails to show up for their allotted game and has not organised a replacement umpire or notified the Umpire's Convenor forty eight (48) hours prior to the game, they will be fined a one (1) match payment. The Committee is empowered to dismiss any penalty in extenuating circumstances.
- e. Best and fairest points are to be issued by the umpires on a 3-2-1 basis for the game.

17. CARDS - GUIDE ONLY

Umpires are advised that the HCPHL has endorsed the use of cards as follows:

Green – Two (2) minute suspension.

Yellow – Minor: minimum suspension of five (5) minutes.

Yellow – Major: minimum suspension of ten (10) minutes with the discretion of the umpire to extend this period as they see fit.

Red: - Given to players who commit a serious breach of rules and conduct. The player must leave the confines of the playing area.

ALL offences and injuries MUST be recorded on the match card. Reports relating to the issuing of yellow and red cards must be submitted to the HCPHL Judiciary Convenor, the HCPHL Registrar and the HCPHL Administrator.

18. COMPETITION POINTS

- a. Points shall be awarded on the result of each competition match as follows:

WIN	2 POINTS	
WIN ON FORFEIT	2 POINTS	(6 – 0 result)
DRAW	1 POINT	
LOSS	0 POINTS	
LOSS BY FORFEIT	0 POINTS	(0 – 6 result)
BYE	0 POINTS	

- b. Teams being equal on competition points for first position shall be declared joint Minor-Premiers.
- c. If teams finish on equal points they will be considered to have tied for that position. For the purpose of determining whether they play in the 'major' or 'minor' semi final and/or have the right to determine the venue for a match, the following shall apply:
 - i) competition points, or, where equal
 - ii) goal differential, or, where equal
 - iii) most goals scored, or, where equal
 - iv) competition points, gained against equal team/s, or, where equal
 - v) most wins during the season, or, where equal
 - vi) penalty stroke play off.

19. QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS SERIES

- a. Players must have played a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of all games played in the HCPHL competition.

OR
- b. Players must have played seven (7) of their teams last ten (10) games in the HCPHL competition.

OR
- c. Players graded in their respective local competitions in Newcastle and the Central Coast may qualify to play in the HCPHL final series if they have played a minimum of fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) game for their HCPHL club.

OR
- d. A player may combine games played for their HCPHL club in HCPHL and in his respective local competitions to qualify for HCPHL finals series. Games played in the same round in both HCPHL and the local competition only count as one (1) round towards qualification for HCPHL finals series.

Explanatory Note to d.

The object of sub-paragraph d is to permit a HCPHL team to bring up substitutes from their teams playing in their respective local competitions to cover injuries, player unavailability and the like. If a player plays both HCPHL and in his local competition in the one (1) round, then that only counts as one (1) round towards qualification for the finals series, not two (2). This rule has been inserted to cover a situation that could arise where a player might for example play say seven (7) HCPHL games throughout the season, but not seven (7) out of the last ten (10) and in different rounds, and play say six (6) games in his local competition. In this example the player would not qualify under paragraph a, b, or c for the HCPHL finals series. If however, these total of thirteen (13) games are played in different rounds he would then qualify for the HCPHL finals series.

Exemptions:

- i) Exemptions may be granted by the HCPHL Grading Committee for those players who have been engaged in representative commitments as a player, umpire, administrator or official.
- ii) Exemptions may also be granted by the HCPHL Grading Committee for those players who have been injured whilst training or playing hockey at any level.
- iii) Players must provide written notification of their representative commitments to the Grading Convenor and the Administrator within ten (10) days after the representative event.
- iv) Players must provide written notification of their injury to the Grading Convenor and the Administrator within ten (10) days with formal evidence to be received within 21 days, such as a doctor's certificate, health provider's letter etc.
- v) If written notification of either injury or advice on representative commitment is received outside the notification window of ten (10) days and injury formal evidence is received outside the notification window or twenty one (21) days, exemption credits will be considered from the date of notification only.
- vi) A one (1) PHL match credit will be granted to any player who represents either NMHA or CCMHA at the NSW Men's Open State Championships.
- vii) The HCPHL Grading Convenor will notify the HCPHL Registrar, the players club secretary and the secretary of the players home Association of any exemptions.

- viii) Exemptions are credited for the actual round that the exemption is granted.

Notwithstanding i) to vii) above a player must physically take the field in at least six (6) HCPHL matches during the season to qualify for the final series except if the player has qualified under By-Law Clause 17c. or 17d.

20. GRADING DISPUTES

- a. Any disputes regarding qualification for the final series shall be decided by the Grading Committee.
- b. The Grading Committee will comprise of two (2) members from each of the NMHA and the CCMHA Grading Committees.
- c. The Grading Committee Convenor is to have a casting vote as well as an ordinary vote.
- d. The decision of the joint committee is to be final and no appeals are permitted.
- e. A quorum for a Grading Committee Meeting shall be three (3).

Explanatory Note:

The joint committee will be provided with all relevant information regarding players during the season. A club will be permitted to provide information orally or in writing in support of their contention that a player qualifies for the final series. It is preferable if the committee's deliberations can be done "on the papers" but if a club requests a personal appearance before the committee then the committee can decide whether or not such a personal attendance will be permitted, but will not be bound to do so. Any such personal attendance will be arranged at the Doyalson-Wyee RSL Club or an agreed alternative venue.

21. FINALS SERIES

- a. The top 4 teams will proceed to a semi final series where 1 v 2 and 3 v 4. The loser of 1 & 2 will play the winner of 3 v 4 in the final. The winner of 1 v 2 will play the winner of the final in the grand final.
- b. Teams finishing 1 & 3 at the conclusion of the competition rounds will have the option of playing their respective semi final games at their home ground.
- c. The loser of 1 v 2 semi final will have the option of playing the final at their home ground.

- d. Grand final will be played at the Newcastle International Hockey Centre.

22. CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR FINALS SERIES

- a. Teams will only be allowed five (5) minutes warm up time on the field where the match shall be played.
- b. Teams shall assemble in front of the dug out and all sticks shall be checked by match officials.
- c. Umpires shall call the captains to toss for choice of playing ends or possession of the ball.
- d. The teams shall file onto the field in tandem behind the two umpires.
- e. The match shall start on the umpires whistle.
- f. If at the closing stages of any playing period ((if less than ten (10) seconds) a penalty corner has been awarded it is recommended that the umpire delay the taking of the corner until the siren has sounded prior to playing out the penalty corner. Under these conditions the game shall finish on the umpires whistle.
- g. In all other instances the game or period of play shall finish on the siren.
- h. The playing period of normal time shall be two (2), thirty five (35) minute halves with time out for stoppages of play with a five (5) minute break between halves.
- i. If, at the end of the second thirty five (35) minute period the scores are equal there will be a three (3) minute break followed by two (2) additional periods of play, both being of “golden goal”, i.e. if a goal is scored the match is immediately finished and the team scoring that goal shall be declared the winner.
- j. The two (2) extra periods of play shall be of six (6) minute duration with the teams changing ends at the completion of the first period. There will be a two (2) minute break between the two (2) periods of extra time to enable teams to reduce the number of field players.
- k. At the start of the first period of extra time the number of players in each team shall not exceed nine (9) players, one of whom may be a fully kitted goalkeeper, subject to any player who was suspended during normal time shall continue to serve out that sentence or team penalty.
- l. At the start of the second extra period of time the number on each team shall not exceed seven (7) players, one of whom may be a fully

kitted goalkeeper, subject to any player who was suspended during normal or the first period of extra time shall continue to serve out that sentence or team penalty.

- m. If at the end of the second period of extra time the score remains equal there will be a five minute break. During this time each team shall nominate five (5) players from those named on the match card (subject to following Condition o.) to conduct penalty strokes. The end of the field at which the penalty strokes shall take place is the sole prerogative of the umpires
- n. If at the end of the first set of five (5) penalty strokes, the scores remains equal another set of penalty strokes shall be repeated but the team which misses on scoring a goal (provided both teams have had an equal number of attempts) shall be declared the loser (as per FIH rules).
- o. If a player has been given a red card during normal, extra time or penalty strokes he will be unable to participate any further during the match and must leave the confines of the playing area.
- p. If a player has been temporally suspended at any time he shall serve out the temporary suspension before being eligible to participate further in the match, except that he may participate in the penalty strokes at the end of the second period of extra time.
- q. A suspended player must remain in a designated area until permitted by the umpire to resume play.
- r. If at any time during the match a team wishes to make a substitution, it is required that the substitute player report to the control bench prior to making the substitution. The player being substituted shall leave the field in the area of the control bench before the substituted player is allowed to take the field. If the player to be substituted is injured he may be removed from the field at the nearest point to where the injury occurred provided play has been suspended by the umpires. In this instance, the substitute may take the field under the direction of the Match Official before play is resumed by the umpires.

23. TROPIES (*under review*)

HCPHL Perpetual trophies shall be awarded for:

- a. Premiers
- b. Most Valuable Player in Grand Final (the Life Members Trophy)
- c. Best and Fairest in Competition (the Kennedy Trophy)

- d. Best Umpire (the Condon Trophy)
- e. Leading Goal Scorer