

Far North Coast
Hockey Inc.
RULES & REGULATIONS
Competition Rules



FAR NORTH COAST HOCKEY INC.

COMPETITION RULES INDEX

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These Competition Rules shall be used in conjunction with the
Rules and By Laws of Far North Coast Hockey Inc.

COMPETITION RULES

1. APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE COMPETITION RULES

- 1.1 These Competition Rules will be applied to hockey competitions that are conducted by FNC Hockey Incorporated unless determined otherwise by the FNCH Inc. Board.
- 1.2 For clarity, these Competition Rules do not apply to any school student competitions or summer/social competitions conducted by FNC Hockey Inc. Any rules for these competitions shall be determined by By-Law or otherwise by resolution of the FNCH Inc. Board. This Rule does not limit in any way the ability of the FNCH Inc. Board to discipline members in accordance with the Constitution or otherwise regulate players who use FNC Hockey Inc. facilities.
- 1.3 Unless otherwise specified in these Competition Rules, the game of hockey shall be played in accordance with the rules issued by the International Hockey Federation ("FIH Rules") as amended from time to time and to any directives to umpires issued by Hockey Australia and or Hockey NSW from time to time.
- 1.4 All committees of FNC Hockey Inc. when applying these Competition Rules, shall do so in a way that is consistent with any By Laws in operation for that committee from time to time.
- 1.5 Any contingencies not provided for in these Competition Rules, or any issue arising as to their interpretation or interaction with By Laws or the Constitution of the FNC Hockey Inc. shall be decided by resolution of the FNCH Inc. Board.
- 1.6 Decision for Board: Any failure to strictly comply with these Competition Rules does not invalidate any decision or action taken pursuant to the Rules except to the extent determined by the FNCH Inc. Board.
- 1.7 Definitions:
 - (a) The "**FNCH Inc. Board**" means the Far North Coast Hockey Incorporated Board of Management.
 - (b) The "**FNC Hockey Inc.**" means Far North Coast Hockey Incorporated.
 - (c) "**Member**" means any person who is a registered member or dual member of FNC Hockey Inc. in accordance with Rules 4.3 or 4.4 of these Competition Rules.
 - (d) "**Senior Member**" means any member who is over the age of 18 years as of 1 January of the relevant year and any Junior member who has been approved by the FNCH Inc. Grading Committee to play in the Senior Competition pursuant to the Rules in Section 6.
 - (e) "**Junior Member**" means any member who is under the age of 18 years as of 1 January of the relevant year.
 - (f) "**the Constitution**" means the Constitution of the FNC Hockey Inc. that is currently registered with the Office of Fair Trading.

2. ALTERATION TO THE COMPETITION RULES

- 2.1 Any alterations to these Competition Rules shall be made by resolution of the FNCH Inc. Board, in accordance with the Constitution.

3. CONDUCTING COMPETITIONS IN THE FAR NORTH COAST REGION

- 3.1 The FNC Hockey Inc. shall conduct competitions for Senior and Junior Members in the Far North Coast region as follows:

- (1) A Senior Competition will be conducted that is open to all Senior Members and Junior Members who are approved to play in the Senior Competition pursuant to Rules in Section 6.
 - (2) A Junior Competition will be conducted that is open to all Junior Members.
- 3.2 The Draw Committee shall decide the number of grades within the Senior Competition and the Junior Competition after teams have been nominated in accordance with Rule 3.4 and graded in accordance with Rule 4.9 and Rule 4.10. The number of grades shall be the number that is necessary to include all teams that have been nominated into the Senior and Junior Competitions.
- 3.3 The Draw Committee may schedule games between teams that have been nominated in accordance with Rule 3.4 prior to the commencement of the Competition Rounds. To avoid any doubt, the Competition Rules apply to all pre-season games except Rule 3.5(7), Rule 3.5(8), Rule 3.5(9), Rule 3.6(1), Rule 3.6(2) and Rule 3.6(3).

3.4 Competition Rounds for the Senior and Junior Competitions

- (1) There are two (2) Competition Rounds for each grade:
 - (a) The Minor Premiership; and
 - (b) The Major Premiership / Final Series.
 - (2) The number of rounds within the Minor Premiership are determined by the Draw Committee.
 - (3) A round within the Minor Premiership shall comprise each team in a grade being scheduled to play each other team in that grade once (including one team having a bye in the event of an odd number of teams in that grade).
 - (4) The rounds within the Major Premiership / Final Series to be played are set out in Rule 16 and Rule 17.
- 3.5 Competition Points in the Minor Premiership for all teams in all grades shall be recorded in a cumulative point-score at the conclusion of each round by the Competition Registrar as follows:
- (1) A team that wins a match shall receive three (3) points.
 - (2) Each team that draws a match shall receive one (1) point.
 - (3) Where all matches in one grade are cancelled, each team in that grade shall receive zero (0) points. To avoid any doubt, matches may be cancelled or rescheduled by the Draw Committee in accordance with the By Laws and Rule 10.3, Rule 10.4 and Rule 11.7.
 - (4) Any team that forfeits a match shall receive zero (0) points, and their opponents shall receive three (3) points and be recorded as having a 3-0 win.
 - (5) If the event that both teams in a match forfeit, each team shall receive zero (0) points.
 - (6) Any team that is scheduled for a Bye shall receive zero (0) points.
 - (7) Any team who plays a person in a match who is not a member shall have three (3) points deducted.
 - (8) Any team who plays a member in a lower grade than that in which that member is registered shall have three (3) points deducted.
 - (9) Any team playing a player whose name is not included on the Score Book prior to the completion of the first half of any match shall have three (3) points deducted.
 - (10) Any team who plays a member who is suspended from playing hockey by a decision of the Judiciary Committee, the FNCH Inc. Board, NSW Hockey, Hockey Australia or any other hockey association shall have three (3) points deducted.
- 3.6 During Competition Rounds in the Major Premiership / Final Series in each grade, any team in breach of the following will be deemed to have lost the match:

- (1) Any team who plays a person in a match who is not a member.
- (2) Any team who plays a member in a lower grade than that in which that member is registered.
- (3) Any team playing a player whose name is not included on the Scorebook prior to the commencement of the match.
- (4) Any team who plays a member who is suspended from playing hockey by a decision of the Judiciary Committee, the FNCH Inc. Board, NSW Hockey or Hockey Australia.

3.7 Duration of Matches for all Competition Rounds:

(1) Junior Competition:

- (a) Minky: Two 20-minute halves (with 5 minutes half time)
- (b) Under 10: Two 20-minute halves (with 5 minutes half time)
Precede this with 'Hookin2Hockey' coaching program for part of the season.
- (c) Under 12: Four 15-minute quarters (with 5 minutes half time and 2 minutes in between quarters)
- (d) Under 14: Four 15-minute quarters (with 5 minutes half time and 2 minutes in between quarters)
- (e) Under 16: Four 15-minute quarters (with 5 minutes half time and 2 minutes in between quarters)
- (f) Game Times: Run the Junior Games at the same time each week if the Draw allows.

- (2) **Senior Competition:** Four 17.5-minute quarters (with 5 minutes half time and 2 minutes in between quarters)
- (3) On the recommendation of the Draw Committee, the duration of times can be reviewed and changed when required by resolution of the FNCH Inc. Board.

3.8 A match will have deemed to have been played:

- (1) In the Senior Competition – where the match has been played for at least 40 minutes as determined by the Umpires of that particular match.
- (2) In the Junior Competition – where the match has been played for at least 30 minutes as determined by the Umpires of that particular match.

4. PLAYERS & TEAMS

Teams

- 4.1 Only teams from Clubs affiliated with FNC Hockey Inc. or invited/approved by the FNCH Inc. Board may participate in competitions conducted by FNC Hockey Inc.
- 4.2 Team nominations shall be submitted by each Club to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary no less than two (2) weeks prior to the first round of the Minor Premiership.
- 4.3 No player or official may participate in a match in any FNC Hockey Inc. Competition Round unless they have previously registered online via an affiliated Club's website or the FNC Hockey Inc. website as a member and have paid any required registration fees.
- 4.4 A member or official who is currently registered in another State or Territory or with another hockey association or another affiliated club may play in a team participating in a competition conducted by FNCH Inc. once they comply with the following:

- (1) Register online via their secondary affiliated associations website or their secondary affiliated Club's website as a member and have paid any required registration fees.

4.5 Prior to the first round in the Minor Premiership:

Each Club must provide to the FNCH Inc. Board a complete list of their intended members and teams including each player's surname, first name, umpire grading, DOB, contact phone number and identify if under 18. These lists shall be on FNC Hockey Inc. supplied team lists or other approved documentation.

- 4.6 Except where Rule 6.1, Rule 6.2 and Rule 4.16 apply, a person may only be registered as a playing member of one Club and may only be nominated to play for one team within that Club in any one Competition.

4.7 Senior Competition:

- (1) Clubs must register a minimum of eleven (11) playing players in all other senior grades who are registered and financial with Hockey NSW and FNC Hockey Inc. for each team nominated.
- (2) To play in a match, a team must have present at the scheduled starting time a minimum of eight (8) members eligible to play in that match.
- (3) If a senior player misses four (4) consecutive scheduled games with the team in which they are registered, then an additional player will be registered in that team (Any regrading's will be as per By Law 2). Clubs have the right to appeal to the Grading Committee.
- (4) Clubs may be considered for dispensation on this rule when unable to field eleven (11) players in the lowest graded side by applying to the FNCH Inc. Board.

4.8 Junior Competition:

- (1) Minky and Under 10 – There is no minimum number of members for Minky and Under 10 teams.
- (2) Under 12's, Under 14's and Under 16's all to play full field and need to register 11 players, they must include a kitted Goalkeeper in any match. Teams will need to have 8 players at a minimum to contest any match and one of those 8 must be a kitted Goalkeeper.
- (3) Clubs may be considered for dispensation on this rule when unable to field eleven (11) players in any side by applying to the FNCH Inc. Board.
- (4) If an Under 18 wishes to play in the Junior Competition, they can play in the Under 16 division BUT are not able to play in either Division 1 or Division 2 of any Senior Competition in this case. These players would also be subject to a Grading Committee review and if deemed unsuitable for this age division, regraded.

4.9 A member may play in higher graded teams for their Club in any Competition Rounds.

4.10 Major Premiership / Finals Series eligibility:

- (1) During the Competition Rounds a player must play five (5) games with the CLUB they are registered with during the season to qualify for the finals. If a player only plays 5 games for the club they are registered with then the player is only eligible to play in the final series in the highest grade that they have played in.
- (2) If a player; because of an injury and or medical condition is unable to complete five (5) games prior to the "**commencement**" of the Major Premiership and the player has participated in three (3) games throughout the season and can provide Doctor's Certificates and other supporting information "**may**", be considered for an exemption and be allowed to play in the Major Premiership. This review will be conducted by the FNCH Inc. Executive.
- (3) A player is eligible to play finals in whichever grade the player is registered to play in, **providing they have played at least five games with the CLUB they are registered with Rule 4.11(1)** See Special Provisions for Goalkeepers Rule 4.11(4). The Grading Committee can choose to regrade if necessary,

however need to provide a recommendation as to which player is dropped down a grade to accommodate the player being regraded.

- (4) The Competition Registrar(s) appointed by FNCH Inc. Board shall determine in the first instance members eligibility for the Final Series. Any decision of the recording secretary may be reviewed by the FNCH Inc. Board.
- (5) This rule does not apply to specialist Goalkeepers to whom Rule 4.14 applies.
- (6) Finals eligibility for the Junior Competition is determined by the number of games played by a member in that competition only.

4.11 Grading of Players

- (1) The Grading Committee is responsible for determining the appropriate grade for each member during the Minor Premiership.
 - (2) Clubs may make a request in writing to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary for a review of a member's grading ("re-grading") any time up until the completion of the Minor Premiership.
 - (3) Upon receipt of a request for a re-grading, the Grading Committee shall decide whether to approve or not approve the request and the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary shall inform the Club in writing of the decision, reasons for the decision if a decision is made not to approve the request, and the date from which any approval is effective (which shall not be retrospective).
 - (4) If a request pursuant to Rule 4.12(2) is submitted before midnight on Monday, the Grading Committee shall take all reasonable steps to make a decision about re-grading pursuant to Rule 4.12(3) prior to the start of the next Competition Round, or if that is not possible then at least as soon as practicable.
 - (5) Decisions of the Grading Committee may be reviewed by the FNCH Inc. Board.
- 4.12 Except where Rule 4.14 applies (specialist Goalkeepers), a member must not play in lower graded teams for their Club in any Competition Rounds.
- 4.13 A Club may apply to the Grading Committee for a specialist Goalkeeper to be graded as a field player or a field player may apply to be a specialist Goalkeeper. If approved, the member will then be registered as a player of two teams (with the same Club). If this player relinquishes their position as a designated Goalkeeper, then the privileges of this rule cease to apply. The said player will be eligible for finals in both grades provided they have fulfilled the eligibility for each grade.
- 4.14 During the Competition Rounds where one Club has two (2) teams in the one Grade:
- (1) They must register eleven (11) players in each senior team and as applicable with junior sides (could be eight (8), Both teams will be considered equal. Players in these teams will need to be graded 1-11 (or more). The gradings will require the support of the Grading Committee. Players 1-7 will not be eligible to support any other team in the Major Premiership as per (4) below.
 - (2) A maximum of three (3) players may play across in any one game.
 - (3) Each player may play across a maximum of three (3) games. If a player plays a 4th game across, they will be re-graded to that team and not allowed to play back into their original registered team.
 - (4) Players must remain with their registered teams for the Major Premiership / Final Series. However, if either of teams ***in the same competition*** do not progress to semifinals. Then clubs can request that two (2) players graded from 8 down can cross over to the other team for the Major Premiership.
 - (5) Players must be noted on the Score Book sheet when they play up or across.
- 4.15 Clubs, Captains, Coaches, Umpires and Officials must ensure that the Score Books of each match clearly reflects any members playing for another team pursuant to Rule 4.15.
- 4.16 Responsibility of captains (and coaches in junior competition): In addition to the responsibilities as set out in FIH Rules, the captain and coach are required, before signing the Score Books are to:

- (1) Check that the Score Books correctly records the names of the goal scorers and the total goals scored by each team.
- (2) Ensure that any player named on the Score Books have been either ticked in the relevant column on the Score Books if they took the field or crossed off if they did not take the field. Any player whose name is not ticked or not crossed off will be recorded by the recording secretary as having played in the game.
- (3) Ensure that the original Score Books sheet for their team is removed from the Score Books and left at the Goonellabah or Ballina control rooms when matches are played at these centres. If a match is played at another centre then the score sheets need to be submitted to the FNCH Inc. Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of match completion, to enable correct recording of all information associated with all matches. If one (1) scoresheet or both are not submitted, then the match will be deemed a no game for one (1) or both sides. No points or any other statistic will be recorded for that match.

5. CLEARANCE:

- 5.1 Any player desiring to play with a Club other than the one which they were previously registered with, shall first obtain a clearance from their former Club, (regardless of where that club was within Australia), before they register as a member of their new Club.
- 5.2 No Club shall refuse a clearance to a player to play with another Club unless that player is unfinancial or has failed to meet in full their commitment to the Club they are leaving.
- 5.3 The clearance must indicate that the player has met in full their commitment to the Club they are leaving and must be submitted to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary before they may register with another Club.
- 5.4 A player has the right to appeal to the FNCH Inc. Executive if a clearance is not granted.

6. JUNIOR MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE SENIOR COMPETITION

This rule applies to any Junior Members wanting to play in the Senior Competition:

- 6.1 A Junior Member must be nominated in writing by their Club to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary for a specific grade in the Senior Competition complying with Rule 6.3 and Rule 6.4.
 - (a) An FNC Hockey Inc. 'Age Waiver' form must be completed and signed by the junior members parent/guardian and the affiliated Clubs Executive and the FNC Hockey Inc. Executive prior to participating in any senior match.
- 6.2 If a request in Rule 6.1 is to allow a Junior Member to play in the Senior Competition for a Club that they are not registered with, then both the Club that the Junior Member is registered with in the Junior Competition and the Club that they intend to play with in the Senior Competition must confirm in writing to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary of their consent to the request.
- 6.3 When the Grading Committee receives a nomination, it shall:
 - (1) Decide whether the Junior Member is eligible by reference to the primary considerations of the benefits of junior development within FNC Hockey Inc., the skill level of the Junior Member and the safety of all players; and
 - (2) Inform the relevant Clubs in writing of their decision, including their reasons for their decision if they decide that the Junior Member is not eligible.
- 6.4 If a Junior Member is eligible pursuant to Rule 6.3, the Grading Committee shall decide what grade within the Senior Competition the Junior Member may play during the current season of hockey and shall inform the relevant Clubs in writing of their decision. To avoid any doubt, this grading decision does not affect any existing grading decisions for that Junior Member in the Junior Competition or the ability of the Grading Committee to regrade a Junior Member in the Junior or Senior Competition from time to time in accordance with these Competition Rules or the By Laws.

7. CONDUCT OF MEMBERS, PLAYERS & OTHER PERSONS

- 7.1 All Members, non-Members, Officials, Umpires, Spectators and persons playing in or otherwise in attendance at competitions or events run or hosted by FNC Hockey Inc. must conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times in accordance with the Codes of Conduct set by FNCH Inc. Board.
- 7.2 All members playing in competitions run or hosted by FNC Hockey Inc. are bound by the Code of Conduct Rules in the FIH Rules as modified by these Competition Rules.
- 7.3 Umpires may award the following personal penalties to members during any match that they are officiating (including before or after the match commences):
- (1) A Green Card – Automatic suspension from play for two (2) minutes; and the time shall commence when the player is seated at the control center or as otherwise directed by the Umpire or Tech bench of the match. When a player is temporarily suspended the game shall immediately start after the issue of the Green Card.
 - (2) A Yellow Card – Minimum suspension from play for five (5) minutes and or other period as nominated by the umpire; and the time shall commence when the player is seated at the control centre or as otherwise directed by the Umpire or Tech bench of the match. Players receiving a Yellow Card; the umpire is to record this on the Score Book and fill in all particulars.
 - (3) A Red Card – Automatic permanent suspension from the match and the member must immediately leave the grounds that the match is being conducted on and will be required to appear before the Judiciary Committee.
 - (4) For a player receiving a Red Card the umpire is to also record this in the Score Book and then is required to fill out the written report sheet for the Judiciary Committee. This report is to be delivered to FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary within twenty-four (24) hours of the Red Card being given.
 - (5) Umpires shall follow the Code of Conduct Rules in FIH Rules when issuing personal penalties in accordance with Rule 7.3, except that upon a member being issued a second yellow card for **the same misconduct in the same match**, either umpire shall immediately issue that member a Red Card to indicate that they can no longer participate in the match and are required to leave the dugout but Rule 7.3(4) does not apply.
- 7.4 When an umpire issues a member with a personal penalty, the following shall apply:
- (1) In the case of a Green or Yellow card, the member shall be temporarily suspended from all match play for the period nominated by the relevant umpire to the Control Centre. The time shall commence when the member is seated at a place directed by the Control Centre or umpire during the suspension.
 - (2) The match shall continue for the period of the suspension.
 - (3) At the conclusion of the match, the umpire who issued any personal penalty against a player shall do the following:
 - (a) Complete all required particulars of each personal penalty issued on the relevant Score Book(s);
 - (b) For each Yellow Card issued against a player, the relevant umpire shall record on the relevant Score Book the specific conduct that led to the award of the penalty and nominate a score for the conduct based on the Yellow Card Guidelines below; and
 - (c) For each Red Card issued against a player, the relevant umpire shall record on the relevant Score Book the specific conduct that led to the award of the penalty and shall within 24 hours submit to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary a detailed written report of the incident.

- (4) At the conclusion of the match, the official overseeing the match shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that each umpire complies with Rule 7.5(3) before signing the score Books.

7.5 If, during the Minor Premiership in each Competition, a member is awarded three (3) Yellow Cards or one (1) Red Card, that member shall be automatically suspended from playing any match until they have appeared before and a decision has been made by the Judiciary Committee, or in the case of any appeal from the Judiciary, the suspension continues until a final decision is made by the FNCH Inc. Board.

7.6 Where a member appears before the Judiciary Committee and/or FNCH Inc. Board and receives a penalty of suspension from playing in future matches:

- (1) That member is precluded from playing in the nominated number of matches that their team actually plays (excluding any Byes, washouts and forfeits).
- (2) If, upon a member completing a period of suspension, that member is awarded two (2) further Yellow Cards, they shall again be automatically suspended from playing any match until they have appeared before the Judiciary Committee and a decision has been made by the Judiciary Committee, or in the case of any appeal from the Judiciary Committee, the suspension continues until a final decision is made by the FNCH Inc. Board; and
- (3) Any player, who abuses the umpire or an official and receives a Yellow or Red Card after the hooter/whistle (when a game is completed), shall appear before the Judiciary Committee. Umpires are to note this on the Score Book(s) and provide a report as per Rule 7.1.

Note: Any player receiving one (1) Yellow Card during the Major Premiership/Final Series may, depending on past records in that season's Minor Premiership may be required to appear before the Judiciary Committee.

7.7 An Umpire is to report to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary in writing of any member who is in the dugout or control area and behaves in a manner that is disrespectful, abusive, rude or menacing in any way towards an Umpire, Official or Member.

7.8 Any spectator, behaving inappropriately at a FNC Hockey Inc. fixture shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The spectator shall be instructed by the umpire to remove him/herself from the vicinity;
- (2) If any spectator refuses to do so, the match shall be stopped and the captain of the team which the spectator supports shall be instructed by the umpire that the match will not continue until the spectator abides with the ruling;
- (3) If required, security or police are called to remove the spectator.

Points allocated to Yellow Card Misconduct:

The following are guidelines for Umpires to allocate a number of points for the seriousness of each Yellow and/or Red Card issued. **The Umpire must interpret the seriousness of each offence** and write a point score next to the reason for the Yellow or Red card on the Match Score Book(s).

The Umpire must still use their discretion as to the length of time a player is off the field for any temporary suspension and further satisfying themselves that any offence is serious enough to warrant a RED Card.

YELLOW CARDS Guidelines

3 Point Misconduct:

- Deliberately hitting the ball away after an infringement
- Deliberately failing to retire 5 meters after a free hit is awarded
- Delaying the opponent from taking a free hit
- Playing the ball which is above shoulder height
- Misconduct and swearing
- Deliberate use of the foot to stop the ball

- Lazy/casual left side tackle

4 Point Misconduct:

- Barging/tripping/pushing
- Late tackle
- Swinging stick in tackle
- Dangerous/ over aggressive play
- Very serious illegal left side tackle (Not Casual)
- Bad stick or body tackle

5 Point Misconduct:

- Deliberate left side tackle bringing player down to the ground
- Wrestling
- Deliberately provoking opponent into retaliating
- Retaliating in a situation
- Confronting an opponent in a threatening manner
- Striking a player with a stick (Red Card)
- Running in to get involved in a melee (Red Card)
- Derogatory or abusive remarks about the umpire
- Derogatory or abusive comments towards the umpire

Any player given a RED Card, will be called to the Judiciary Committee and will be able to describe the sequence of events and the circumstances of the Red Card from their perspective.

8. MATCH PLAY

- 8.1 Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of hockey set out in FIH Rules and or any directives to umpires issued by Hockey Australia and or Hockey NSW.
- 8.2 Any team who has less than eight (8) members ready for a match at the scheduled time shall be deemed to have forfeited the match to their opponents.
- 8.3 A team shall be required to take the field at the appointed time for a match if they have eight (8) or more players present. Late arrival of members does not preclude them from participation in the game provided that their name is recorded on the Score Book sheet prior to taking the field and that otherwise the FIH Rules are followed.
- 8.4 In every match, each team shall provide at least one ball of the approved type for play as set out in the FIH Rules.
- 8.5 At the commencement of each match, the Captains of both teams shall hand to the Control Centre at the venue a Score Book containing a list of all members to be engaged in that match and the shirt number worn by each member.
- 8.6 At the Conclusion of each match:
 - (1) Each Captain/Coach shall review each Score Book so as to comply with their obligation in Rule 4.17.
 - (2) Each Umpire shall review each Score Book to ensure that the details required by Rule 12.7 are recorded and accurate, shall record the particulars of any personal penalties as required by Rule 7.5, and during the Minor Premiership in the Senior Competition shall allocate best and fairest points to players, and then shall sign each Score Book; and
 - (3) If either Captain/Coach or Umpire identifies any error on either Score Book, the Umpires shall confer and make such changes as they agree are appropriate or necessary and initial those changes.

- 8.7 After the completion of the match and the review and signing of the Score Books by the Umpires and the Captains, the original copy of the Score Book sheet for each team shall be collected by the Competition Registrar from each Control Centre.

9. FORFEITS & BYES

- 9.1 A team unable to take the field or has less than eight (8) players present at the scheduled commencement time of play as stated in the draw shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- 9.2 Any team forfeiting a match shall notify their opponents and the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary of their intention to forfeit as soon as possible, prior to the match.
- 9.3 Teams forfeiting will be required to pay the Turf Fees they would have paid for their match (as set at the time) plus a \$50.00 Forfeiting Penalty. The notification on the intended forfeit must be made forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled match. If notice is received after forty-eight (48) then the forfeiting side will be liable for the Turf Fees (as set at the time) for both sides plus the \$50.00 Forfeit Penalty. These costs will be invoiced to the forfeiting club.
- 9.4 Every effort must be made to avoid unnecessary travelling in forfeited matches.
- 9.5 Clubs will provide a list of contact details for each of their sides to assist in the management of communications around sides forfeiting.
- 9.6 Should such forfeit be due to exceptional circumstances, the Club, or team concerned may appeal to the FNCH Inc. Board Appeals Committee for consideration of a rematch or an exemption to pay turf fees.
- 9.7 Byes are not considered a match and no points or benefits as matches played are gained by virtue of a Bye in any grade's competition.
- 9.8 The non-forfeiting team must submit a team scoresheet and will receive three (3) points and three (3) goals for and all players on the score sheet will be marked as having played that game.
Please Note: that the FNCHI Executive may challenge any Club on the availability of any player with regard being available for a forfeited match. If it is resolved that a player was not available for any specific forfeited match, then that player will be removed from a team's scoresheet provided by any Club.

10. DEFERMENTS AND TIME RESCHEDULING

10.1 Date Deferments

The Club requesting a deferment is required to apply in writing twenty-one (21) days prior to the original match date to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary.

Any Applications for deferments may be made if at least five (5) members of any team are unable to play due to trialing for or representing either FNC Hockey Inc., PSSA, Secondary Schools, NSW or Australia in Hockey.

10.2 Time Rescheduling

In addition to delegations provided by Rule 11.5 of these rules. The Draw Committee and the Umpiring Co-Ordinator's with just cause may reschedule a match (time and venue) after having circulated the completed seasons draw.

The rescheduled match shall be played, or nil (0) points will be awarded to both teams.

11. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- 11.1 In the event of inclement weather, the FNC Hockey Inc. Executive shall decide whether play is possible.
- 11.2 The FNC Hockey Inc. Executive shall have the power to co-opt assistance from persons at outside venues, so as to ascertain the condition of fields at that venue.

- 11.3 The Draw Committee shall, if required play split rounds if only some grounds are unplayable. Postponed games will be rescheduled.
- 11.4 In the event that all or any of the games are not possible, the decision will be posted on the FNC Hockey Inc. website and or FNC Hockey Inc. Facebook Page as soon as practicable.
- 11.5 If in the event that due to, unforeseen circumstances or sudden weather change, prior to or after the commencement of a match, play is not possible to continue, or games are abandoned before the commencement of the second half due to inclement weather, the match/s shall be rescheduled on a date specified.
- 11.6 A game shall be considered abandoned, if, the umpires, in consultations with the Captains, decide that continuation of play is undesirable or impossible. The score of an abandoned game shall stand and points shall be awarded subject to Clause 3.8.
- 11.7 Games postponed due to inclement weather are not counted as games played for the purpose of suspended players.

11.8 LIGHTNING RULE

- (1) The Lightning Safety Code adopted by FNC Hockey Inc. applies to all competitions.
- (2) The Lightning Safety Code is based on the 30/30 rule which calls for play to be stopped when the lightning/thunder ratio reaches 30 seconds or less i.e., the time between when the lightning is seen, and the thunder is heard is 30 seconds or less. This indicates that the lightning is 10 km away and the next strike has a 'significant risk' of hitting people who have seen the lightning and heard the thunder.
- (3) Play shall not commence until 30 minutes after the last lightning flash within the 30/30 ratio.

12. UMPIRING

- 12.1 All games played during the Competition Rounds shall be controlled by two (2) umpires either appointed by the Umpiring Co-Ordinator's or appointed by the Club to whom the appointed umpires are registered.
- 12.2 Clubs shall be responsible for providing a minimum of two (2) umpires per team as directed by the Umpiring Co-Ordinator's.
- 12.3 Any A Grade umpire unable to officiate at a Competition fixture must advise the Umpire Co-Ordinator's as soon as practical before the allocated match. Any umpire other than A Grade unable to officiate at a competition fixture must seek his/her replacement of similar ability etc.
- 12.4 Failure of an umpire to officiate will result in the team in which they are registered with having three (3) points deducted.
- 12.5 Umpires have a responsibility to apply the FIH Rules (as amended from time to time) fairly and consistently throughout the matches that they umpire.
- 12.6 Umpires also have a responsibility to apply these Competition Rules and any directives from the Umpiring Co-Ordinator's and/or the FNCH Inc. Board.
- 12.7 Umpires/Technical Bench shall ensure that Score Books are completed, showing:
 - i. Names of players taking the field are written on the card
 - ii. Names of Interchange players not taking the field must be crossed off the card by the Captain of each team and Umpires are to ensure same is completed accurately and honestly at the completion of the game
 - iii. Names of any players sent from the field and details of any cards issued

- iv. Names of all goal scorers
- v. The final score
- vi. Any injuries to players
- vii. Signatures of umpires and team captains
- viii. Ensure 3, 2, 1 Best-and-Fairest Points for the game are awarded for the games during the Minor Premiership competition rounds.

12.8 Failure of an Umpire to comply with their obligations can be reported by a Club to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary to be considered by the Umpiring Co-Ordinator's.

13. UNIFORM

- 13.1 The FNCH Inc. Board must approve of all Clubs' colours and uniforms prior to the use thereof by any Club, affiliated with FNCH Inc. Such application for approval of uniforms and colours shall be accompanied by a sample of such uniforms and a sample of the materials to be used.
- 13.2 Any player not dressed in the approved uniform of their team could be prohibited by the Umpire/s from taking part in the match. All bike pants should be the same length as the skirt or shorts and of similar colour.
- 13.3 In any match, if both teams have a similar uniform, the team second named in the draw, shall wear shirts or pinnies and/or socks of a different colour to the opposition.

14. COMPLAINTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROTESTS (Refer By Laws)

- 14.1 All complaints and recommendations relating to any matter arising in relation to any Member, Player, Official, Umpire or other person arising in respect of the application of these Competition Rules or competitions or events organized by FNC Hockey Inc. shall be made in writing by the Club Secretary to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary, who shall submit the written complaint and any supporting documents/items to the FNCH Inc. Board for consideration.
- 14.2 For clarity, a report of an Umpire in respect of a player who has been awarded personal penalties under Rule 7 above, a decision of the Judiciary Committee or a protest in respect of a match in Rule 14.4 below are not "complaints" for the purpose of Rule 14.1 and Rule 14.3.
- 14.3 When considering a complaint, the FNCH Inc. Board shall in its absolute discretion:
 - (1) Have power at any time to call upon any member of a Club affiliated or spectator to attend a meeting and give such information that the FNCH Inc. Board considers necessary;
 - (2) Consider such available information, documents or other evidence that may be relevant to the complaint in such timeframe as is appropriate in the circumstances; and
 - (3) Determine, by reference to the objects of FNC Hockey Inc., relevant By Laws and these Competition Rules, the appropriate response to the complaint and notify in writing the relevant Club Secretary of the response within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision being made.
- 14.4 There shall be no appeal of any kind from a final decision of the FNCH Inc. Board. This rule does not limit the ability of the FNCH Inc. Board to review and/or make a decision inconsistent with any previous decisions made by the FNCH Inc. Board where that is considered appropriate.
- 14.5 Protests in relation to matches:
 - (1) Any protest in connection with a match or competition shall within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of such match or competition be made in writing by the relevant Club Secretary to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary, who shall forward the protest to the relevant subcommittee for consideration.

- (2) The subcommittee shall consider the written protest in accordance with the By Laws of that committee and advise the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary of the resolution.
 - (3) The FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary will advise the relevant Club Secretary in writing of the resolution.
 - (4) Should the relevant club wish to appeal the resolution of the sub-committee, their Club Secretary must within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notice of the resolution lodge an appeal in writing to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary and pay the sum of \$250.00 to FNC Hockey Inc.
 - (5) And the Appeal Meeting will be held only when a \$250.00 payment is secured by FNC Hockey Inc. that may (depending on the legitimacy of the appeal) be forfeited if the appeal is lost or withdrawn within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled meeting. The FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary will notify the Appeals Committee. (Refer: Appeals Committee By Laws)
- 14.6 The FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary, shall convene, at the earliest opportunity, a meeting of the FNCH Inc. Board to consider the protest and determine any penalty deemed necessary and whose decision shall be final.
- 14.7 Any person concerned with the outcome of such protest shall be eligible to appear before the FNCH Inc. Board in connection with the matters raised. The notice to be given to the FNC Hockey Inc. Secretary contain the reasons for such a protest. The FNCH Inc. Board, at such meeting, shall only to deal with the matter/s raised in the written protest and no further matter/s shall be brought forward at such meeting.

15. TROPHIES

- 15.1 At the completion of the competition and finals rounds, trophies shall be awarded to the winning teams of the Minor and Major Premiership.
- 15.2 Perpetual Trophies will be engraved and retained by the FNC Hockey Inc.
- 15.3 Awards may be made to all players of the winning teams of the Minor and Major Premiership.
- 15.4 A Club Championship Trophy shall be awarded to the Men's Club and the Women's Club which has been the most successful in the Competition Rounds during the season.

How to calculate the winners:

- i. Tally the point score of each Club's teams participating in all the Men's/Women's senior divisions upon completion of the Minor Premiership.
- ii. The total calculated for each Club is then divided by the number of teams plus one (1) participating in the senior competition.
- iii. The Club with the highest average is the winner.

16. DECLARATION OF WINNERS

- 16.1 At the completion of the pre-determined number of Competition Rounds the winner shall be the team which has scored the greatest number of points.
- 16.2 In the event of teams being equal on points at the completion of the Competition Rounds, prior to the semi-finals the four (4) place getters will be determined as follows:
- (1) By goal difference, i.e.: goals for minus goals against.
 - (2) If this does not yield a decision, then total goals scored.
 - (3) If this still does not yield a decision, then a 'Penalty Shoot-Out' is carried out to determine the winner.

17. DECLARATION OF WINNER - FINALS

17.1 Finals matches shall be played for each grade as follows:

- (1) The team standing third on the points score list shall play the team standing fourth on the list in the MINOR SEMI-FINAL.
- (2) The team standing first on the list shall play the team standing second on the list in the MAJOR SEMI-FINAL.
- (3) The winner of the minor semi-final shall play the loser of the major semi-final in the PRELIMINARY FINAL
- (4) The winner of the major semi-final shall play the winner of the preliminary final in the GRAND FINAL.

17.2 SENIOR GRADES: If at the completion of any finals match a result has not been determined, then a 'Penalty Shoot-Out' is carried out to determine the winner.

17.3 JUNIOR GRADES: If at the completion of any finals match a result has not been determined, then a 'Penalty Shoot-Out' is carried out to determine the winner.

Penalty Shoot-Out:

The attacker gets a chance to run with the ball in a one-on-one situation against the goalkeeper.

The attacker starts on the 23-metre line with the ball and the Goalkeeper starts on the goal line. When the whistle is blown, both can move, and the attacker has 8 seconds to score a goal.

Unlike a penalty stroke or penalty corner there are no restrictions on strokes the attacker may use to score and a goal is scored in the usual way. If the attacker commits an offence, the ball travels outside the [field of play](#), or 8 seconds elapse before the ball crosses the line a goal is not awarded. If the Goalkeeper unintentionally fouls the attacker, then the penalty shoot-out is re-taken; in the event the foul was intentional a penalty stroke is awarded.

The penalty shoot-out uses five players chosen from each team against a Goalkeeper. It is a best-of-five competition and, if scores are tied at the end of this, it progresses to sudden-death with the same players until a winner is established.

Which goal to use is chosen by umpires and which team starts is determined by a coin toss.

Sudden-death is started by the team that did not start the shoot-out and players may proceed in a different order from the best-of-five.

If a winner has not been determined, then in:

- (1) SEMI-FINALS - Team which came in higher on the point score is declared the winner.
- (2) FINALS - Team which came in higher on the point score is declared the winner.
- (3) GRAND FINALS - A winner to be determined unless circumstances on the day do not allow in which case FNC Inc. Board will decide the winner.

These competition rules were presented and accepted at a general meeting of FNC Hockey Inc. Board.

Nathan Kesteven

27th November 2023

FNCH Inc. President

Clinton Mallett

FNCH Inc. Secretary