PREMIER LEAGUE HOCKEY BY LAWS

(amended 27/4/2022).

**A) COMPETITION**

**Men’s Competition** Maximum 10 Teams in the following manner.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bathurst | 3 teams | Dubbo | 1 team | Lithgow | 2 teams | Orange | 2 teams | Parkes | 2 teams |

**Women’s Competition** Maximum 10 Teams in the following manner.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bathurst | 3 teams | Dubbo | 1 team | Lithgow | 2 teams | Orange | 3 teams | Parkes | 1 team |

From year to year Associations may request to enter additional teams other than their allotted numbers, if another Association fails to nominate their total allocation. (Amended 2008)

1. **QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS SERIES.**

Players must have played a minimum of 1/3 of the round robin competition games (excluding byes) for their nominated team.

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| Exemptions: Exemption may be considered by the Association for those players who have been registered as a player with Premier League Hockey the preceding year or named in the team squad before 1 April each year who have missed rounds due to pregnancy, major injury recuperation and/or representative duties, training at Country level or above.  Players that have moved residence part way through the season, that is moved into the western region from another region, may be granted an exemption to play the final series provided that they have played at least 5 competition rounds prior to the final series.  All requests for **medical** exemptions must be accompanied by a **Medical Certificate/evidence** for consideration. |

1. **FINAL SERIES –**

Series for more than 4 team competition

* + - 1. Major Semi: 1 Vs 2 To be played at Association of 1
      2. Minor Semi: 3 Vs 4 To be played at Association of 3
      3. Final: Major Semi Loser Vs Minor Semi Winner To be played at Association of Major Semi Loser
      4. Grand Final: Major Semi Winner Vs Final Winner. To be played at Association of Major Semi Winner\*

Series for 4 team competition:

1. Final: 2 v 3 To be played at Association of 2. Team 1 straight to Grand Final, Team 4 out of  
    competition.
2. Grand Final 1 v winner of Final. To be played at Association of Major Semi Winner or team 1\*

**GFs are to be held at one Location. In 2022 it will Home ground of Women’s Winner of Major SF. In 2023 it will be Home ground of Men’s Winner of Major SF or Team 1 and alternate years will be invoked..**

If Association cannot host games the Premier League Executive will arrange neutral ground.

All games in the Final Series will be played as 4 x 15 minute quarters in accordance withFIH Rules with time out for stoppages – **Injuries.**

PLH appoints all umpires & TOs for Final games.

If at the end of normal time, teams are drawn there will be a 5 minute break before extra time commences.

7.5 minutes sudden death each way to be played i.e. (extra time is played until one team scores, then the game is stopped and the team that scores is declared the winner). If second 7.5 minutes are required there is NO break – straight turnaround. If at the end of 15 minutes each way no team scores, we will adopt the following format (5 players, one on one with GK & 8 sec time penalty to shoot starting from 23 metre line. Best of 5. Should scores still be level it will be same 5 players & golden goal until a result is achieved.

1. **PLAYER REGISTRATIONS.**
2. Any players transferring to another team within the competition must submit a clearance letter from their previous team/club prior to playing with their new team/club. This must be forwarded to the Registrar/Secretary 48 hours prior to their first game with the new club/team.
3. All players must be registered with an Affiliated Association - To ensure that all players are provided with their home association’s insurance requirements all player registration forms (including late registrations) must include certification from their home association that appropriate arrangements have been made for that player’s registration with their home association**. By submitting Team registration sheets (Attachment A) person submitting is certifying that all players are Registered with both HNSW & home Association.**
4. **All team players must be registered with either, Bathurst, Orange, Parkes, Dubbo or Lithgow Association** - failure to be registered with 1 of these associations will incur loss of 4 competition points
5. Registrations must be completed on standard form (Attachment **A**) and FULL team lists must be supplied to the Registrar 2 weeks prior to **season start** each year. Failure to supply team list will result in loss of 4 competition points for each round until list supplied.
6. All players must be registered with the registrar a minimum of 48 hours prior to them playing their first game. Late Registrations must be completed on standard form (Attachment **B**)
7. In the event that a team fails to register/clear a player within the above mentioned time frame, the team will be deemed to have played an unregistered player and will lose 4 competition points. **The game will be declared a forfeit & PLH forfeit rules applied.**

**E) SCORE CARDS**

Associations are to ensure that scorecards signed by the captains and umpires are faxed/emailed to the registrar no later than **8am on Sunday** of the competition round. Teams receiving a forfeit are to submit a team scorecard for player qualification purposes**.**

**Pls include all injuries with some detail (player name, number & injury site) and all cards with offence listed**.

Both cards to Registrar: registrarplhockey@gmail.com

**F) CHANGES TO DRAW**

* + 1. 21 days written notification to associations, (not teams) to alter draw, game time, venue,
    2. No written notification will result in forfeit. - Forfeit team to pay $150.00 to host Association. Any altered game must be played within 28 days of the scheduled day or as agreed by the Premier League Executive.
    3. **Registrar is to be informed immediately of amended game time and date.**

**G) GENERAL**

1. If a team forfeits an away game in Round 1, they lose their home game in Round 2. Team receiving forfeit, if applicable, will need to organize with their home Association a time to play the game on original draw date & at a suitable time.
2. Away games are to be played on Saturday. No game is to be scheduled to commence prior to **12pm** and all games must commence before 4:00pm. (Unless on official draw when Associations have more than 2 games per day.) This rule does not apply to deferred games.
3. In the event that 2 teams from the one Association are to play each other, these games may be played during the week to suit the Association game allocations after agreement with Premier League Committee.
4. Teams may be required to perform technical or umpire duties for Premier League games only.
5. Game duration 4 x 15 min quarters in accordance with FIH rules. Except finals as per Rule C – Final Series.
6. Teams must notify the committee, at the time of nomination of team strip. Existing teams have preference on strip colour. All new strips must have the appropriate Premier League logo.
7. Players are to wear numbered shirts and the numbers are to be recorded on score cards. Away teams are to have an alternative strip if there is any clash with home team. Teams must notify the premier league Secretary prior to changing their strip.
8. No time out for stoppages in round games.
9. Breakdowns – Teams must notify host association as soon as possible of a transportation breakdown. Teams will not be disadvantaged by a mechanical breakdown which is out of their control. The game must be played within 28 days of the scheduled day or as agreed by the Premier League Executive**. Registrar to be informed immediately of amended game time and date.**
10. ABANDONED MATCHES DUE TO PLAYING CONDITIONS: A match, once started, may be terminated by the two captains in conjunction with the two umpires due to playing conditions. The final decision to terminate the match shall rest with the umpires. If the game has reached half time the score at the time of FINAL abandonment of the match shall be taken as the final score for the match. If the game has not reached half time the game shall be replayed within 28 days, or as agreed by the Premier League executive, at a convenient time and must be replayed prior to the last competition round. If the game cannot be replayed the game will be deemed a nil all draw.
11. SAFETY/TRAVEL DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS: The decision re cancellation of a game due to adverse travelling conditions will be made by the Executive in conjunction with team coaches. If more than 50% percent of competition is affected the whole round will be cancelled with no points awarded. Notice will be given 3 hours prior to game time or when road closures are announced.
12. SAFETY/FIRST AID: It is recommended that teams provide their own first aid kits including ice packs.
13. All Stars/Rising Stars Teams: Nominations for Coaches and players will be requested from Committee by 30th of July each year. Team Coaches will select up to 5 players for Opens and up to 5 players for Rising Stars. Team selections and coaches will be announced on Grand Final Day.

**H) UMPIRES**

# Premier League committee are to provide two qualified or competent umpires for each game. Umpires are to be paid $70 per game. The amount for umpire payments must be agreed to annually.

1. Umpires are to be paid by the Premier League committee via electronic transfer within 48 hours of game. Teams will be invoiced by committee prior to the week’s match.
2. Teams must nominate two (2) qualified or competent umpires no later than a week prior to the first round game. If teams are unable to nominate an umpire, notice must be given via email to the Registrar – [registrarplhockey@gmail.com](mailto:registrarplhockey@gmail.com).
3. All umpires that umpire Premier League games are to be umpires listed in the Premier League umpiring pool.
4. If a team is unable to supply an umpire for a home game and an umpire is supplied by Premier League, then the team that has failed to supply an umpire shall be invoiced an additional $30 by the committee.
5. Best and fairest points are to be issued on 3-2-1 basis by ~~opposing coaches~~ umpires and submitted to registrar via email or text no later than 7pm on the day following the game.

**I) CARDS**

* Green Card – 2 min suspension – No Substitute allowed.
* Yellow Card - Mandatory Suspension: (time to be determined by Umpire) with no substitute allowed. (Minimum of 5 minutes) – 4 Points
* Red Card - Mandatory Suspension for the remainder of the game with no substitute allowed. - 12 Points
  + 1. If a player accumulates 12 or more points during season they will serve a one (1) Match suspension. If a player, *coach, manager or other* *official* receives a RED card they will need to serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension & attend a Judiciary. Any points over 12 will not be carried over or forward after initial suspension. If a player accumulates a second 12 points during one season they will serve another one (1) match suspension & will be required to attend a Judiciary.
    2. Reminder that under FIH rules (& many Associations) any person that receives a RED card is required to leave Ground & Association Complex.
    3. Umpire’s responsibility to ensure player and/or team captain are informed of reason for Red card & to record this on match card. Both Umpires are also required to submit a written incident report by email to PLH Registrar within 24 hours of game conclusion (Sunday 6pm for Saturday games).
    4. Individual cards accumulated during the competition rounds continue into the final series. 3 or more Yellow cards or any red card issued will rule players out of winning B&F for the season.
    5. If sufficient individual penalty, (12 or 24 points) are accumulated in Round/Final games any suspension to carry over to next season.
    6. **All** cards are to be recorded on the game card with written details – Green, Yellow and Red Cards offences.
    7. Cards from Premier League are not to be added to or accumulated by Affiliated Association in regards to their individual competitions. Cards from Affiliated Associations individual competitions are not to be added to or taken into account for Premier League. (Pls note HNSW Suspension policy)

**J) RED CARD JUDICIARY SYSTEM**

1. Players (or other person receiving a red card) are to be dealt with in accordance with under the process in Schedule 1.
2. The process for convening and conducting a Judiciary Hearing is to be in accordance with in Schedule 2.
3. Appeals are only held if new evidence that was not available at time of Judiciary hearing is presented & a respondent was present at first hearing.
4. PLH Executive must be informed within 7 days of notification to Respondent of judiciary panel decision if an appeal is being made.
5. An Appeal Fee of $400 must be deposited by an appellant into PLH account at least 2 days prior to Appeal Hearing date. If Appeal is upheld, the Fee is refunded.
6. Process of any appeal is to follow Schedule 6 of the Hockey Australia Complaints, Disputes, and Discipline Policy, as in force from time to time, in respect of:
   1. the makeup of the appeal panel;
   2. the limits of the hearing; and
   3. the powers of the appeal panel.
7. Subject to the above, the appeal panel is to follow same procedure and process as set out in Schedule 2.
8. Subject to the decision of a judiciary panel, any Suspended Player (except a player suspended as a result of an accumulation of points), Coach, official, or spectator may not be present at any ground or within the vicinity (200m) during any PLH match.

- NB: HNSW Recommendation – that suspended players/persons should not participate in any umpiring or coaching positions while on suspension.

**K) RECOMMENDED PENALTIES FOR JUDICARY**

Ref Offence **Penalty**

a. Dispute umpire’s decision 2 matches

b. Verbally abusing umpire 2 matches

c. Verbally abusing umpire – 2nd offence 6 matches

d. Deliberately striking an umpire 2 years

e. Deliberately striking an umpire 2nd offence 5 years – life

f. Striking another player 3 matches

g. Deliberately striking another player 6 matches

h. Striking another Player with a Hockey stick 6 matches

i. Deliberately striking another player with a Hockey stick 10 matches

j. Deliberately striking another player with a Hockey stick – 2nd offence 1 year – life

k. Spitting at a player/official 5 matches

l. Rough, dangerous, intimidatory play 2 matches

m. Persistent and deliberate breach of the Rules 2 matches

n. Abusive and/ or offensive conduct 3 matches

o. Acting in a detrimental manner to the association – 3 matches

p. Use of a telecommunications device to threaten/abuse a player or official 3 matches

Other offences

* Tripping 1 Match
* Abusive conduct by spectator Min 3 matches
* Deliberate throwing of stick 4-10 matches
* Assault or attempted assault by spectator on umpire/player 1-4 matches
* Inappropriate physical play - 3 matches

A round shall mean a round of games during the playing season in which association controlled matches would have been available to the suspended player, and any suspension may extend into a subsequent season before being terminated, if necessary.

**PLH: a round is a week or a game or match in PLH. Byes do not count as a round when applying a suspension.**

**NB: HNSW Suspension Policy - A suspension from one affiliated hockey body applies to all affiliated hockey bodies.**

**L) AFFILIATION FEES & GAME FEES**

* 1. Affiliation and Game Fees to be decided annually for member teams.
  2. Team Fees $270 per team.
  3. Team Nomination Fees shall be paid prior to the commencement of the season.
  4. Game fees shall be as per association costs, per game at all centers unless advised otherwise.
  5. All teams are to pay Host Association Game fees prior to the commencement of the game via electronic transfer.

**M) COMPETITION PRIZE MONEY**

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| --- | --- |
| **Men & WomenPrize Money** | |
| 1st | $500 |
| 2nd | $250 |

**N) MATCH POINTS**

Points shall be award on the result of each competition match as follows:

A. WIN OR WIN ON FORFEIT 4 POINTS

B. DRAW 2 POINTS

C. LOSS 0 POINTS

D. BYE 0 POINTS

E. LOSS BY FORFEIT 4 POINTS Team receiving a forfeit shall be awarded a 3-0 goal balance

**O) TROPHIES**

Perpetual Trophies shall be awarded in the Men’s and Women’s competitions for:

A. Premiers B. Most Valuable Player in Grand Final C. B & F in Competition

The perpetual trophies shall be named after:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **TROPHY** | **WOMEN** | **MEN** |
| **Premiers** | Win Long | Tony Hendry |
| **MVP in Final** | T.B.A. | Stephen Davies |
| **B & F in competition** | Beth Shea | Brian Morgan |

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**SCHEDULE 1 – RED CARD AND BREACH NOTICE PROCESS**

1. The Judiciary Process is a modified version of the Hockey Australia Breach Offer Process.
2. Nothing in these by-laws circumvents or replaces the Constitution of Premier League Hockey Incorporate and displaces any process undertaken under the Constitution. In the event of any inconsistency, the Constitution prevails to the extent of that inconsistency.
3. Upon receiving a match card and requisite documentation from game officials that a red match card has been issued, the Committee shall, within 3 business days, appoint one of its members to be the Complaints Manager.
4. The Complaints Manager must be a person who has no affiliation with the club or person in which the game involved. If no member of the Committee is able to be appointed as a Complaints Manager, then the Committee may appoint a member of Premier League Incorporate as the Complaints Manager who has no affiliation with the club or person in which the game is involved.
5. The Complaints Manager may, at their absolute discretion, seek further information from any person, including conducting further investigation.
6. The Complaints Manager is responsible for communicating with the Complainant (being the officials in a red card situation), the Respondent (being the red carded person) and for ensuring that this process is implemented.
7. The Complaints Manager may at any time determine that the matter be referred to Hockey NSW for an external determination.
8. Within 7 days after receipt of a match card or report that a red card has been issued at a PLH game, the Complaints Manager must refer the alleged breach to the remaining Committee members, who must:
   1. Determine the applicable sanction that may, in their opinion, be likely to apply if the alleged breach was proven; and
   2. Determine the sanction, discounted or otherwise, to be offered to the Respondent, if any.
9. Upon this determination by the remaining Committee Members, the Complaints Manager must then issue the Respondent with a breach notice, using the a breach notice substantially in the form the same as Schedule 3 of the Hockey Australia Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy. The Breach Notice must:
   1. Notify the Respondent of the details of the alleged breach, including the alleged conduct and relevant rule breached;
   2. State the proposed sanction proposed for the alleged breach by the Committee;
   3. State that the sanction is to be publicly disclosed;
   4. State that the Respondent has a right to a hearing in relation to the alleged breach or the proposed sanction;
   5. State that the Respondent may admit the alleged breach, waiver their right to a hearing and accept the proposed sanction from the Committee;
   6. State that the Respondent has before the next round game, or otherwise 7 days, to respond, and if no response if forthcoming, be deemed to have admitted the alleged breach, waiver their right to a hearing and accepted the proposed sanction;
   7. Provide details for contact with the relevant Complaints Manager.
10. In response to the Breach Notice, the Respondent may notify the Complaints Manager:
    1. Admit the alleged breach, waive their right to a hearing and accept the proposed sanction in the Breach Notice;
    2. Dispute the alleged breach and/or the sanction, in which case the alleged breach will be referred to a Judiciary Hearing under Schedule 2; or
    3. Not respond within time for the next round game or 7 days, whichever is the later, in which case they will be deemed to have admitted the alleged breach, waive their right to a hearing, and have accepted the proposed sanction contained within the Breach Notice.
11. Where the alleged breach is admitted and sanction accepted, the Complaints Manager shall notify the Committee and the Committee shall take steps to ensure the sanction is enforced.

**Schedule 2 – Judiciary Process**

1. This process is an internal tribunal process.
2. The judiciary is to be convened as soon as reasonably practicable after referral under these By-Laws or the Constitution, and shall endeavor to convene no later than two weeks after notification by the Complaints Manager.
3. A judiciary's task is to:
   1. Determine whether the alleged breach has occurred (unless admitted);
   2. In the case of a match decision to issue a card requiring a judiciary, determine whether the action taken by an official is disproportionate; and
   3. Determine whether a sanction be imposed, and if so, what sanction (including whether a person may attend PLH games as a spectator).
4. A judiciary panel shall comprise of no less than 3 independent persons with no conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter of the complaint.
5. The judiciary shall be chaired by a person appointed by the Complaints Manager, and may be the Complaints Manager, and the chair shall be:
   1. A legal practitioner; or
   2. A person of experience and skills suitable to the function of chairing the judiciary.
6. The Complaints Manager shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure that the judiciary members selected:
   1. Do not have an actual or perceived conflict of interest in relation to the alleged breach that might reasonably call into question the impartiality of the judiciary; and
   2. Do not have any close personal connection to the Respondent or the matters being considered by the Judiciary.
7. Should a Respondent challenge the impartiality of any one or more judiciary member, the challenge is to be determined by the Chair sitting alone, unless that challenge relates to the Chair, the other members of the judiciary.
8. There shall be no right of appeal from a decision made under clause 7.
9. No judiciary decision shall be invalidated by an irregularity in the appointment of a judiciary member.

**Responsibilities of the Chair**

1. Without limiting any other duties of the Chair, the person appointed as the Chair of the judiciary shall have the following responsibilities:
   1. To chair the judiciary hearing;
   2. To ensure accurate records are kept of all the judiciary proceedings and decisions, including at a minimum:
      1. Particulars of the hearing, including date, time and location;
      2. The names of each judiciary member, complainant, respondent, witnesses called, and any other parties permitted to attend by the judiciary;
      3. The decision of the judiciary, including any sanction imposed, whether given to the parties orally, in writing, or a combination of both;
   3. To communicate to all parties of the judiciary the results of the judiciary and provide a copy of the record of the result to the Complaints Manager.

**Attendance at Judiciary**

1. The following persons shall be required to attend the judiciary hearing:
   1. The Respondent; and
   2. The Complainant.
2. A Complainant may not be required to attend if the Complainant has given a written report to the Complaints Manager to be tendered at the judiciary.
3. The following persons shall be entitled to attend a judiciary hearing as required by the Complainant or the Respondent:
   1. Witnesses called to give evidence by either the Complainant or the Respondent;
   2. Any person that the Complaints Manager in their absolute discretion believes will assist the judiciary and invites them to attend for that purpose;
   3. A support person for either the Complainant or the Respondent.
4. Legal Practitioners are not permitted to appear before, or represent a party at the judiciary unless in their capacity as a Complainant or Respondent. This clause does not prohibit a party in relation to an alleged breach engaging a legal practitioner to prepare materials to be used by that party at a judiciary.
5. A support person shall not be allowed to speak to the judiciary panel, make submissions on behalf of a Complainant or Respondent, present evidence or assist the Respondent or Complainant with the presentation of their evidence.
6. All parties shall bear their own costs.

**Non-Attendance by a Party**

1. If a Respondent fails to attend judiciary without reasonable cause, the hearing may proceed and a determination may be made by the judiciary in their absence, provided that the judiciary is satisfied that these by-laws have been complied with.
2. A Respondent or Complainant may apply to the Complaints Manager to have a judiciary postponed or to be convened in another way, such as via audio visual link. The Complaints Manager has sole discretion on whether to grant the application and shall take into consideration in making such a decision circumstances such as avoiding costs, hardship or significant inconvenience.
3. If a Complainant fails to attend judiciary without reasonable cause, the hearing may proceed and a determination may be made by the judiciary in their absence, provided that the judiciary is satisfied that these by-laws have been complied with.

**Judiciary Procedure**

1. A judiciary panel shall conduct the hearing in such manner as it sees fit and may in its absolute discretion:
   1. Consider any evidence, in any form that it deems relevant;
   2. Question any person giving evidence;
   3. Limit the number of witnesses presented to those who provide new evidence; and
   4. Act in an inquisitorial manner in order to establish the truth of the issue/case before it.
2. The hearing shall otherwise include the following processes:
   1. at commencement of the hearing, the Chair will identify the judiciary panel members and determine whether the Respondent is present to answer the allegation;
   2. the Respondent and Complainant will be notified of their right to remain in the hearing until all evidence is presented but not be present while the judiciary panel considers its findings and determines an appropriate sanction (if any);
   3. the allegations as contained in the alleged breach shall be read out in the presence of the persons who are entitled to be present.
   4. The Respondent shall be asked whether or not they intend to contest the allegation(s).
   5. If the Respondent does not contest, the Chair will provide the Complainant and the Respondent with an opportunity to make submissions as to the appropriate sanction (if any) to be imposed. Evidence may be called by either party in relation to the seriousness of the breach or otherwise, and any mitigating or aggravating factors.
   6. If the Respondent does contest, the Chair will ask all witnesses to leave the room and to wait to be called to give their evidence.
   7. The Complainant shall proceed to give evidence and call witnesses first. The Respondent is entitled to remain in the room for the entirety of this process and is also entitled to ask questions of the Complainant and their witnesses during when evidence is being given to the judiciary.
   8. Witnesses after giving evidence may leave the judiciary unless otherwise directed or may be allowed to stay in the hearing room after giving evidence with the permission of the judiciary.
   9. Once the Complainant's evidence has been dealt with, the Respondent shall then present their defence and evidence in support of it.
   10. The judiciary panel may allow evidence to be given electronically or via audio-visual link or telephone to limit inconvenience to any witnesses.
   11. Once the evidence is concluded, submissions are then made. Once submissions are finalized, all witnesses, Complainants, and Respondents must leave the room while the judiciary deliberates its findings.
   12. If the judiciary panel is satisfied that a breach has occurred as alleged, it shall find the breach proven. Otherwise the alleged breach shall be dismissed. The standard of proof for the judiciary panel is that it is more likely than not.
   13. If the judiciary panel is not satisfied, the alleged breach may be dismissed, or the judiciary panel may find that a lesser breach is proven. The judiciary panel may amend the allegations to a lesser breach and if so, the Respondent must be notified and be given the opportunity to respond.
   14. If the judiciary finds that an alleged breach, or a lesser breach, is proven, the judiciary must determine the sanction.
   15. Once a decision is reached, the decision of the judiciary is to be given by the Chair in the presence of the parties, unless they choose not to remain. Such decision may be given orally and if a party chooses not to remain, may be given in writing as soon as is practicable by the Complaints Manager.
   16. The judiciary panel may reserve a decision, but if it does so, must provide its decision within 7 days of the hearing.
3. The judiciary panel is not required to give reasons for its decision but may do so if they wish.
4. The Complaints Manager is to inform the Committee of the decision and the Committee must take steps to enforce the decision of the judiciary panel.