

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS HOCKEY INC.

WINTER COMPETITION RULES

CONTENTS

1. REGISTRATIONS	3
2. UNREGISTERED AND UNFINANCIAL PLAYERS	3
3. TEAM NOMINATIONS	4
4. TEAM LISTS	4
5. PLAYER TRANSFERS	6
6. UNIFORMS	7
7. PLAYER GRADINGS	7
8. COMPETITION GRADES/AGE GROUPS	9
9. FIXTURES & DRAWS	10
10. CONDITIONS OF PLAY	10
11. MATCH POINTS	11
12. RESULTS OF MATCHES AND MATCH CARDS	11
13. PROTESTS	12
14. FORFEITS	12
15. SUSPENSION OF PLAY	13
16. DEFERMENT OF MATCHES	14
17. ELIGIBILITY FOR SEMI-FINALS, FINALS & GRAND FINALS	14
18. CONDUCT OF FINAL SERIES	15
19. UMPIRES AND TECH OFFICIALS	16
20. PLAYER PENALTIES	17
21. SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT COMPETITION DATES	18
22. SCHEDULE OF CHANGES TO THESE RULES	19

These Competition Rules will apply to the Southern Highlands Hockey Winter season.

Modified rules are used by the Association for the Summer and Mixed competitions which are run from time to time.

The Association Executive Committee will have the power to change these rules if directed by Hockey NSW or in situations to protect player safety only. All other changes will need to be referred to Clubs and passed through a General Meeting as provided for under Clause 36.1 of the Constitution.

The Association Executive Committee will have power to determine any question of interpretation of these Rules.

TERMS

- **“Executive”** is the Association Executive Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting
- **“FIH”** is the Federation of International Hockey
- **“Grading Panel”** is a Club representative body who will meet to review Team Lists for Player grading’s
- **“HA”** is Hockey Australia
- **“HNSW”** is Hockey NSW
- **“Officials”** include Umpires, Technical Officials and any other person appointed by the Association to oversee the running of a scheduled match
- **“Players”** are those people registered with Hockey NSW and accepted by The Association on Club team lists
- **“Rules”** are the Winter Competition Rules outlined in this document
- **“SHHI”** is Southern Highlands Hockey Inc.
- **“SHHCC”** is Southern Highlands Hockey Centre Committee

1. REGISTRATIONS

- a) Players, Officials, Coaches and Managers must be registered with HNSW before participating in any SHHI scheduled match or Representative Team trials and training. Registration will be completed by either the Club or Player/Official/Person through HNSW's nominated registration portal.

As participants have no insurance coverage until registered with HNSW this requirement for registration will apply not only to the Winter Competition but also the Summer, Indoor and any other competition sanctioned by SHHI.

- b) No Senior Player will be allowed to register with more than one (1) Club affiliated with SHHI without approval of the Executive. The Executive will consider written requests for goalkeepers to play with two (2) Clubs under Clause 7 m)
- c) Player registrations will not be accepted after the 30th June in that current season. If extenuating circumstances do exist, such as a medical condition or booked leave, Clubs may seek approval for registration of a Player after this date and the request needs to be submitted to the Executive in writing outlining-
- reason the Player was not available to play prior to the registration closing date along with supporting evidence
 - team in which they will be playing.

Exemptions requested under this clause will only be available to anyone who has played in the previous SHHI Winter Competition.

The Player must not register in the HNSW portal prior to approval, and SHHI will not be liable for any costs incurred by the Player if they register and their request to play is not approved. The Executive will respond within seven (7) days to these requests.

2. UNREGISTERED AND UNFINANCIAL PLAYERS

- a) A team fielding a Player in any competition game who has not been registered in accordance with Clause 1 a) will forfeit that match and competition points. The team receiving the forfeit will be awarded win points and three (3) goals to nil (0).
- b) Clubs will be notified of the forfeit by the Association Coordinator following recording of the Match Card under Clause 14 b).
- c) Clubs have the opportunity to submit a list of any un-financial players from the previous season to the Executive up to 5 weeks prior to the start of the competition. Un-financial players will be those who have outstanding fees, uniforms or other equipment due to one Club and are moving to another Club or Association to play. The Coordinator will check the list of un-financial players against registrations prior to the start of the competition and advise the Executive accordingly.

- d) If a team knowingly fields an un-financial player they will forfeit that match.

3. TEAM NOMINATIONS

Dates for team nominations will be advised by the Executive to Clubs but generally the following timing will apply-

- a) The Executive will circulate the schedule for the Winter Competition by the 15th February each year so that Clubs have ample time to check their member's availability to play on those days and times. This will assist planning for Clubs Team Nominations.
- b) Clubs will be requested to submit nominations for teams to compete in the Winter Competition five (5) weeks before the start of the season. The final date for Team Nominations will also be advised to Clubs by the 15th February. The Association Coordinator will acknowledge receiving the Team Nominations to Clubs in writing by the end of the following week after the closing date.
- c) Three (3) weeks prior to the season start date Clubs will submit their Team Lists for the team/s nominated. If a Club fails to submit their Team Lists within this time, no points will be awarded for any of their Senior Teams in the competition until the grading meeting is held in round four (4) under the rules.
- d) The Executive will review all Team Lists and refer them for consideration by the Grading Panel two (2) weeks prior to the competition start date.
- e) The Association from time to time has conducted a paid Umpire program and will advise Clubs by the 15th February whether these arrangements will be used in the coming season so Team Lists can be reviewed to meet Clause 4 g).

4. TEAM LISTS

- a) As outlined under Clause 3 c) three (3) weeks prior to the season start date Clubs will submit their Team Lists with all Players nominated. These Team Lists will be submitted in the prescribed format as nominated by the Executive.
- b) Each Team List **should** include at least eleven (11), but not more than eighteen (16) Players. Where matches are conducted under the Nines format the Team List **should** include at least nine (9) players but not more than sixteen (14) players. 7.7.1
- c) All Team Lists **should** nominate their goalie and captain where possible. This requirement is so the Executive can consider requests for individual grading of goalies if requested. The Coordinator will record a notation of GK against goalies nominated in the Revolutionise system so this Players status prints on the Match Cards.
- d) As at the start of round one (1) of the Winter Competition the Team Lists submitted including any changes made by Clubs and approved under Clause 4 e) up to that date, will be referred to as the Club's Final Team Lists. Players named in those Final Team Lists will be deemed to have originated from, and belong to, that team for the season.

This team is referred to as the Players designated team for the whole of the current season.

Should the Grading Panel or Executive change a Players grading and in that action the Player moves to a new team within the grade approved, this new team will then be considered the Players designated team not that submitted on the Club's original Team List.

- e) If a Club needs to add a Player to a team after the original Team List has been submitted they must forward these details to the Executive for approval five (5) days prior to the person playing. This is to ensure that the Player is reviewed for grading in line with the original Team List. Should a team field a Player prior to approval being given, that team will forfeit the match.
- f) Clubs must list Players in each team with due consideration of the Players appropriate grading. Clubs should also nominate teams in the grade appropriate to the playing standard of the Team List. In the event the Executive believes a Player or team to be under graded they may instruct the Club to move the player or team in question to an appropriate grade. Clubs cannot argue for the inclusion of a Player in a grade lower than their judged ability because that Club is not fielding a team in a higher grade.
- g) In Team Lists submitted for the Senior Competition, Clubs will identify four (4) Players in eleven (11) Player format competitions as graded players. They will also identify four (4) Players in nine (9) Player competitions such as 1st Grade as graded Players. These people will generally be the best Players in the submitted Team List and will be restricted in their ability to play for other teams in their Club under Clause 7 is)

In Team Lists submitted for the Junior Competition Clubs will identify four (4) Players as graded players only when they are fielding more than one (1) team in the same age group. This requirement for grading four (4) Junior Players will apply equally to both eight (8) Player format competitions such as Under 11's and eleven (11) Player format competitions such as Under 13/15's.

These Junior graded players will also generally be the best Players in the submitted Team List and will be restricted in their ability to play for other teams in their Club under Clause 7 i).

- h) Clubs will be required to nominate the names of two (2) competent Umpires in their Team List to fulfill that teams umpiring duties when a paid Umpire program is not being run for the season. The intention to run any paid Umpire program will be advised to Clubs by the Executive under Clause 3 e).

If a team is unable to supply two (2) competent Umpires from their Team List then they must supply the name of one (1) person from another team or Club who is considered by the Executive to be a competent Umpire to fulfil the teams umpiring duties, and one (1) person to be trained to become an Umpire. These trainees will be coached to a competent level both on and off the field within that calendar year with the view to gaining a local

badge or equivalent HNSW umpiring qualification. Failure to submit Umpires names as required will result in the team's nomination being rejected until names are submitted.

- i) A Player may only play two (2) competition matches in Senior grades, and two (2) competition matches in Junior grades, in any given round.
- j) Only Female Players may compete in the Women's Senior Competition. Only Male Players may compete in the Men's Senior Competition.
- k) Junior Players must be of high school age at the commencement of the season to be eligible to play in the Senior Competition. Exemptions may be considered upon written application to the Executive. Any request for an exemption must include written consent from the Player's parent/guardian.
- l) Acceptance of Players in Team Lists will be at the discretion of the Executive. If the Executive for whatever reason refuses to approve a Player participating in the Winter or any SHHI sanctioned competition they must outline their reasons for refusal in writing at least seven (7) days prior to the competition start date. The Player will have the right to appeal this decision which will be referred to the Judiciary Committee for independent review. The appeal must be lodged with the Association Secretary within 48 hours of written refusal being given to the Player.

5. PLAYER TRANSFERS

- a) A Player is permitted to transfer to another Club within the Association **without** referral to the Executive up until the completion of round four (4) of the competition subject to both Clubs being in agreeance to the transfer.

Any grading for Players transferring under this clause will follow from their original team to their new team.

- b) If a Player is seeking a transfer between Clubs after round four (4) of the competition, or they have requested a transfer prior to this round and been refused a clearance from their Club, a request may be submitted to the Executive. The request is to be in writing and will only be considered if the player-
 - has registered with HNSW.
 - provides clear reasons for the request.
 - has no fees or other outstanding financial commitments to that Club including return of equipment and uniforms.
 - is given clearance by their former Club in writing to the Executive.

or

 - if clearance is not given their former Club must outline the reasons why in writing to the Executive.

6. UNIFORMS

- a) Teams must be in the full uniform, as nominated and accepted by the Executive, by round four (4) of the competition. Players in breach of this Rule will not be permitted to take the field. Any requests for an exemption to this rule are to be submitted in writing to the Executive.
- b) All Players must be clearly identifiable with a number unique within their team shown on the back of their playing shirt and noted on the Match Card.
- c) Jewellery, caps with hard brims or any other clothing or articles that could cause injury to other Players, become dislodged, or be capable of damaging the turf, must not be worn while playing. The match officials will have full discretion to request Players remove these items.
- d) Players' shoes must have a minimum of twenty-one (21) studs. Blade shoes, football boots or other footwear deemed by the match officials to be unacceptable, or capable of causing damage to the field, are not to be worn.
- e) Goalkeepers need to ensure that all buckles and sharp fastenings on their gear is taped to protect Players from injury and the turf from damage.

7. PLAYER GRADINGS

- a) The aim of reviewing grading's is to have a balanced group of Players and teams with similar ability in each competition grade or age group. To achieve this the Executive will call for a Grading Panel to review Player grading's submitted by Clubs on their Team Lists, Players who are not nominated as graded on Team Lists but have been graded the previous season, new players to the Club or Association and Players who have developed to a level warranting review.
- b) The Grading Panel will have a Men's teams and a Women's team's representative from each Club. Should a Club only have Men's teams in the Senior competition they will only be entitled to have a Men's representative present, and conversely Clubs who only have Women's teams in the Senior competition will only be entitled to have a Women's teams representative.
- c) The participants on the Grading Panel will be nominated by their Clubs.
- d) The Executive will schedule a meeting of the Grading Panel two (2) weeks before the start date of the Senior competition.
- e) The Grading Panel will meet again by round four (4) of the competition to consider Player grading recommendations referred to it by the Executive and to review Team Lists to ensure there are no new Players that have been added to teams after the start of competition that should be graded.

f) Meetings of the Grading Panel will be conducted as follows-

- The meeting will be chaired by the Association President or if they are not available the Vice-President or in the absence of both an Executive Committee member who is not selected by their Club to be a representative on the Grading Panel.
- The Association Coordinator will also attend the meeting to record the decisions of the Grading Panel. If the Association Coordinator is not available to attend, the Grading Panel will nominate a minute secretary to record the decisions of the meeting who will email the full list of graded Players to the Executive, the Coordinator and the members of the Grading Panel immediately following their meeting.
- The Men's and Women's teams representatives will all be able to provide input to the discussion on all grading matters (Men and Women), but only the Men's representative will vote on Men's Player grading's, and the Women's representative will vote on Women's Player grading's.
- The Chairperson will not enter into discussion or provide any opinions or influence on the decisions of the Panel. Their role is only to facilitate the meeting.
- As well as complete Team Lists, the Coordinator will provide the Grading Panel with the previous season's best and fairest results for the Senior competition along with copies of the previous year's Player grading's for their meeting.
- All decisions of the Grading Panel will be passed by a majority of vote by the relative Men's and Women's team's representatives. In the event of a tied vote the grading will be referred to the Executive for decision.
- The Association Coordinator will circulate the grading lists to Clubs and publish it on the Association website prior to the start of the season.

g) Clubs may appeal decisions of the Grading Panel to the Executive in writing. Until the Executive convey a decision on the appeal to the Club, the Player will abide by the grading decided by the Grading Panel.

h) Clubs will grade Players in their submitted Team Lists as outlined under Clause 4 g).

A Player nominated as graded by Clubs in Team Lists for the **Senior** competition or as graded by the Grading Panel or Executive, may play in another team of the same Club in any grade above that of the team in which they are named without restriction. They cannot play across to another team in the same grade or in a grade below that of the designated team in which they are named.

A Player nominated as graded by Clubs in Team Lists for the **Junior** competition cannot play across to another team in the same age group and Club of the designated team in

which they are named. A Junior Player can play down to a team of the same Club in a lower age group if they are eligible by age to drop to that competition regardless of being nominated as a graded Player in a team in an age group above.

- i) A maximum total of two (2) **non-graded** players may be borrowed either across from another team of the same Club in the same grade, or down from a team of the same Club from the grade above. A maximum total of two (2) players only can be used under this clause per round.

In the Senior Competition Clubs may bring up from a lower grade an unlimited number of players to fill in for a team in the same Club in a grade or grades above during the season. Additionally Clubs may bring up an unlimited number of Junior players to fill in for a team in the same Club in the Senior competition subject to them being eligible by age under Clause 4 k).

This Clause and Clause 7 i) only applies to matches during the general season and not the Finals series where all Players must meet the qualification criteria outlined in Clause 17 (a).

- j) Requests for approval to drop more than two (2) non-graded players to a lower grade or across from a team in the same grade or age group, must reach the Association Secretary five (5) days prior to the relevant match. Requests must be made in writing and a decision will be forwarded to Clubs at least forty eight (48) hours prior to the match.
- k) Designated goalkeepers may apply to the Association for an additional grading to allow them to play as a field player in grades other than those allowed by their goalkeeping grading. This additional grading will be viewed under these rules as a separate player in every regard except for matters relating to judiciary, disciplinary and suspension issues. To distinguish between the two approved grading's when the person is playing as a goalkeeper, the letters GK must be recorded against the Players name on the Match Card otherwise the field grading will be applied.

8. COMPETITION GRADES/AGE GROUPS

- a) The Executive will determine the grades within the Senior competition and will have power to make any changes to that competition prior to the start of the season as considered necessary.
- b) The Junior competition will follow the age groups nominated by HNSW for State representation. The Executive will have the discretion to allow a Club to enter a Junior Player in an age group below that for which they may be eligible based on a judgement of their playing ability or physical or mental impairment.

In respect to Under 15's Clubs will be allowed to enter **female** Players to participate in this competition up to and including the year the **female** Player turns sixteen (16) years of age.

9. FIXTURES & DRAWS

- a) All competition Hockey will be played at the Southern Highlands Hockey Centre with the match schedule, times and duration of matches for the Winter season decided by the Executive and communicated to Clubs by the 15th February each year as outlined in Clause 3 a)
- b) The Winter competition will have a minimum of twenty (20) rounds for Seniors and a minimum of sixteen (16) rounds for Juniors. This does not include Semi Final/Final & Grand Final matches which are in addition to the season competition draw. These minimum rounds are set for the SHHCC to meet their budgets and financial obligations for upkeep of the Hockey Centre and to Council.
- c) The competition schedule is to be presented to the SHHCC prior to issue to Clubs so that Committee can confirm it meets the minimum required rounds under Clause 9 b).
- d) The Executive will have the discretion to make changes to the draw as considered necessary for the proper conduct of the competition but must meet the minimum required rounds under Clause 9 b).
- e) The draw will be issued to Clubs and published on a week to week basis up to round six (6) so that any changes can be made as a result of teams either withdrawing or entering late into the competition. Following completion of round six (6) the full competition draw will be published on the Association website.

10. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

- a) Subject to these Rules, the Winter Competition matches will be played under the control of the Association and according to the rules of Hockey adopted by and issued under the authority of HA and HNSW.
- b) The format of any competition other than the Winter Competition that is sanctioned by SHHI, such as Summer Hockey will be decided by the Executive, who will also determine any modified rules that may apply to these competitions. These decisions on modified rules will be taken after consultation with our governing body HNSW to ensure they are consistent with the safe conduct of that competition.
- c) The timeclock will be started at the designated time for commencement of the match regardless of whether a team is ready to play. In the event that the timeclock was not started at the designated commencement time the elapsed time will be taken off the first half of play so that the match finishes as scheduled in the draw.
- d) Junior teams may not take the field without a fully protected goalkeeper. The goalkeeper's protective equipment must comprise at least headgear, leg guards and kickers. Junior matches played accordingly to modified rules are exempt from this rule.
- e) As Matches are played mixed gender and experience levels of Junior Players can vary considerably within their respective age group, no Player will be allowed to do a

Tomahawk style shot (defined as: A field hockey shot style that involves a Player turning their hockey stick upside-down and swinging it with an axe like movement so that its inside edge will come into contact with the ball, with the intention of raising the ball.) or pass in the Junior competition. Umpires will call a penalty if played and issue a blanket warning to all Players on the field. Further Tomahawk shots or passes played by any Player on the field, will attract a Yellow Card penalty to the offending Player.

- f) As Matches are played mixed gender and experience levels of Junior Players can vary considerably within their respective age group, no Player will be allowed to raise their stick above their shoulder for any purpose. Umpires will call a penalty if played and issue a blanket warning to all Players on the field. Any further occurrences of raising the stick above their shoulder will attract a Green or Yellow Card penalty to the offending Player.
- g) Senior teams goalkeepers will wear protective equipment according to the FIH Rules of Hockey.
- h) All Players in SHHI matches must wear a mouth guard and shin pads. A player may only take the field without a mouth guard or shin pads if they have lodged with the Association a properly completed SHHI Player Agreement Waiver form along with the required medical certificate. This waiver form can be found on the Association website.
- i) Any exemptions approved by the Executive for players or teams under any of the Winter Competition Rules will be published on the Association website within seven (7) days of the decision.

11. MATCH POINTS

Match points will be awarded on the result of each competition match as follows:

- For a win, a win on a forfeit or a bye – three (3) points;
- For a draw – one (1) point;
- For a loss – zero (0) points.

12. RESULTS OF MATCHES AND MATCH CARDS

- a) The Executive will advise Clubs each season of the format of Match Cards and any changes in the recording of results or officiating for matches.

Team Captains will be responsible for the correct completion of the Match Card even if the match is being officiated by a Technical Official. The Team Captains will ensure their players have been correctly recorded on the Match Card prior to the start of the game. Games will not commence until the Match Card has been fully completed.

- b) At the end of play the Match Card will be signed by both Umpires and the Team Captains. It will be the responsibility of the Team Captains to ensure that the Match Card is correctly completed, all writing on the card is legible, and the card is placed in the box in the Officials dugout immediately following the match. The results of matches will be

deemed to be correct only upon both Umpires and Team Captains signing the Match Card.

- c) For Junior grades the results of matches will be deemed to be correct upon the Umpire/s, Team Captains and or Team Coaches signing the Match Card.
- d) The Association Coordinator will check the Match Card and enter results. They will confirm that all players were eligible to play in the Match and there have been no breaches of the rules as listed under Clause 14 a). The Coordinator or Secretary will advise the Club of these situations and the loss of the match on forfeit prior to commencement of the next round of matches.
- e) The completed Match Card will be the only official record for the competition points table, player qualification for Finals and all other statistics such as penalty cards issued or best and fairest points.

13. PROTESTS

- a) A protest arising from a match will be lodged in writing with the Executive within forty-eight (48) hours of the relevant match, and will be heard by the Executive and a decision made within the week following the match. This is provided that circumstances permit the Executive to meet within that time period.

14. FORFEITS

- a) Matches will be forfeited if:
 - A team takes the field with fewer than seven (7) Players. Should both teams take the field with fewer than seven (7) Players no points will be awarded for the match
 - A team is more than ten (10) minutes late in taking the field
 - A team plays an unregistered or un-financial Player under Clauses 2 a) & d), a graded Player under Clause 7 i), exceeds the number of non-graded fill-ins under Clauses 7 j) & k) or plays a registered player, including goalkeepers, of another Club who is not approved previously by the Executive
 - In any Semi-Final, Final or Grand Final a team plays a player not qualified to play in that match
- b) The reasons for claiming of a forfeit under Clause 14 a) will be recorded on the Match Card and signed by the Captains in attendance and the Umpires.

The team receiving the forfeit will receive three (3) competition points and be allotted three (3) goals for the match. The team that has forfeited will be allotted three (3) goals against them.

- c) The forfeiting team will pay the full turf fee due for the match, for both their team and the team to which they forfeited where the Match was forfeited prior to the Match i.e. no one has shown up for the Match. It will be the responsibility of the Club whose team is claiming the forfeit to invoice the other Club directly for payment of the turf fee.

If the official Match is forfeited but a Match is played regardless of the numbers of Players participating, there will be no claim for the turf fee by the team receiving the forfeit.

- d) No Player statistics will be recorded for forfeited Matches regardless of whether a Match takes place after the forfeit is declared. Instead all forfeited Matches will be deducted from the calculation of available rounds for the purposes of qualification in Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals under Clause 17 a)

15. SUSPENSION OF PLAY

- a) As the Hockey Centre is a leased facility it is not subject to Council's policies for closing sports grounds through wet weather or other climatic or environmental events.

Decisions to suspend matches will be made by the Executive if they consider that conditions prior to a scheduled round or match are not suitable for safe or proper play. The Executive will convey these decisions by email to players and through social media at the earliest possible time.

- b) During a match Umpires will have sole discretion to suspend or abandon play where they consider the field to be unplayable or where imminent danger exists to players such as from electrical storms. All Umpires and Players will comply with the guidelines established by Hockey NSW for suspension of play when thunder is heard and or lightning is present. These guidelines are available on the Hockey NSW website.
- c) In the event of a suspension or abandonment of play the Umpires will record the reasons for this decision on the Match Card and the amount of time that was played prior to this action.
- d) A match will be considered complete and a result recorded after half-time has been called. If teams elect under agreement to replay this match it must be replayed within 2 weeks of the abandoned match. No additional turf fees will be charged for this replayed match and the teams will be responsible for providing their own umpires.

Should either of the teams refuse to replay the match, or the match is not replayed within the two (2) weeks, the first part-completed match will be recorded as the official result for points and Player stats.

- e) There will be no provision within the competition draw for cancellation of matches or rounds. Should matches or rounds be abandoned due to weather or any other reason, the Executive are to ensure these games or rounds are rescheduled within 2 weeks from the date of the abandoned match or round and prior to the Semi Finals.

If Clubs agree not to play any rounds they will still be charged the relative turf fee applying to that game and neither team will be awarded points or goals for and against. No refunds on turf fees will be considered.

16. DEFERMENT OF MATCHES

- a) If a team has three (3) or more Players unavailable due to representative commitments the Club may apply for a deferment of the match. Representative commitments will be taken as being a Player, Coach, Manager, Umpire or a playing parent accompanying a Player under 18, attending a State Championship as a representative of SHHI. The Coordinator will advise Clubs by email of the selected representatives and officials as soon as practical after the confirmation of selections so that Clubs can review their Players availability for rounds well in advance of the scheduled representative event.
- b) A request for the deferment of a match must be forwarded in writing to the Executive at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled match.
- c) Deferred matches will be rescheduled by the Executive and must be played within two (2) weeks of the originally scheduled match.
- d) Players that represent SHHI in as a Player or Official at State Championships will automatically be given a Player statistic for any competition rounds missed while in attendance at these events. The Player will only receive the credit for playing in a round under this clause against their designated team nominated under Clause 4 d)

17. ELIGIBILITY FOR SEMI-FINALS, FINALS & GRAND FINALS

- a) In the Senior and Junior competitions a player must play in a minimum of 50% of the available rounds throughout the season in their designated team to qualify to play in any Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals. The number of rounds representing 50% for each grade in the Senior Competition or age division in the Junior Competition is determined by dividing the number of matches played by each team (available rounds) in the season by two (2) (rounding down to a whole number).

The calculation of available rounds for a team in either the Junior or Senior competitions will be the games scheduled to be played over the season in that competition less forfeits and byes e.g. 20 games scheduled less 4 byes less 2 forfeits would calculate to 14 games of which a Player in a team would need to have played 7 games to qualify.

- b) For a non-graded Player to qualify to play Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals for a team in a grade below their designated team, they must also have played 50% of the available rounds in that team to be eligible i.e. 50% of available rounds in their designated team and 50% of available rounds in the lower grade team.
- c) For a Player given late registration approval under Clause 1 c) calculation of the available rounds will be 50% of the matches played by their team from the date of the

Player's registration date. Players approved for late registration under Clause 1c) will only be eligible to play in Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals in their designated team. For a Junior Player to qualify to play Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals for a team in the Senior competition they must have played 50% of the available rounds in their Junior designated team and 50% of the available rounds for the team in the Senior competition.

- d) If a player through documented injury/illness or representative duties for SHHI or one of its parent bodies cannot meet this requirement, written application may be made to the Executive to reduce, for that player, the available rounds used in the calculation, by the number of weeks an exemption is granted for.
- e) In addition to the qualification under Clause 17 a) all players must play in a minimum of five (5) games in separate rounds in a particular team, to qualify for that team or a grade above, in the Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals.

This condition applies for qualification in both the Senior and Junior competitions.

- f) Where Clubs are fielding more than one team in a grade or age group, or have non-graded Players in a team in a higher grade who have qualified to play in a team in a lower grade under Clause 17 a), they can only bring across or play down a maximum total of two (2) non-graded players from any team/s to another in any Semi-Final, Final or Grand Final, regardless of the number of players eligible under Clauses 17 a), b) & c).
- g) Junior players are subject to the same qualification process as all Senior Players with respect to qualifying for Finals in the Senior grades.

18. CONDUCT OF FINAL SERIES

- a) The four Semi-Finalists will be determined from the final competition point score. In the event of equal points, positions will be determined by goal averages, i.e. dividing goals for, by goals against. Teams with the higher goal averages will be deemed to have finished ahead of teams with lower goal averages.
- b) The Final series of matches will be conducted as follows:

MAJOR SEMI FINALS: TEAM 1 vs TEAM 2 (A)

MINOR SEMI FINALS: TEAM 3 vs TEAM 4 (B)

FINAL: LOSER GAME (A) vs WINNER GAME (B)

GRAND FINAL: WINNER GAME (A) vs WINNER OF FINAL

- c) In the event of a draw in a **Junior U11s Semi-Final or Final** there will be a five (5) minute break then extra time of five (5) minutes each way with the golden goal process applying in this extra time. In the event the match remains drawn after the completion of extra time the team that was the highest on the points table at the end of the season as per Clause 18 a) will be awarded the win.
- d) In the event of a draw in a **Junior U11's Grand Final** there will be a five (5) minute break then extra time of five (5) minutes each way with the golden goal process applying in this extra time. In the event the match remains drawn after the completion of extra time a joint premiership will be awarded to the drawn teams.
- e) In the event of a draw in a **Junior U13s or U15s or Senior Semi-Final, Final, Grand Final or Play Offs** there will be a five (5) minute break then extra time of ten (10) minutes played five (5) minutes each way with the golden goal process applying in this extra time. Teams will toss for ends and will change ends immediately on completion of the first five (5) minutes with no break.

In the event the match remains drawn after the completion of extra time the match will be decided by penalty strokes with five (5) Players selected to start. Should the result remain drawn after the first round of penalty strokes, then a different five (5) Players will continue the contest until a goal is scored.

19. UMPIRES & TECH OFFICIALS

The Executive from time to time over the years has conducted paid Umpire programs and these arrangements will be administered by the Executive through an appointed sub-committee. This sub-committee will follow the Umpiring Guidelines which have been approved by the Executive and SHHI Clubs and appear on the Association website.

When a paid Umpire program is not operating in a season Umpires will be appointed by the Executive or their nominee and the following will apply-

- a) It is the sole responsibility of the person appointed to Umpire a match by the Executive to carry out their umpiring duties. If the person appointed to Umpire a match is unable to carry out their duties, they must arrange for a replacement Umpire who has been approved by the Executive as a competent Umpire under Clause 4 g).

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in an immediate one (1) competition round suspension for the person nominated to Umpire or Captain of their team as determined by the Executive, and a fine to their Club of \$100.

- b) Suspensions given for failing to Umpire may be appealed in writing to the Executive within forty-eight (48) hours of being notified. The Executive will determine the outcome of the appeal and the person will be advised of their decision through their Club Secretary. In the event that the Executive cannot for any reason, consider the appeal before the next competition round, the member will be clear to play until the appeal has been determined. The Executive decision will be final.

- c) Teams will be nominated on the draw to act as Technical Officials for all Senior matches and for the Under 13's and 15's competitions. These duties will be published on the website with the umpires.

Should a Team not carry out their rostered duty their Club will incur a fine of \$100 for the first failure to provide someone to be the Tech Official. That Club will then be fined \$100 and the Team responsible for the duty will lose 2 (two) competition points for each failure to complete their Tech Official duty after the first.

20. PLAYER PENALTIES

- a) An Umpire either temporarily suspending (Green Card or Yellow Card) or permanently suspending (Red Card) a Player during a match will record the Player's name and type of suspension on the Match Card. Each penalty card issued will have a level of points which will accrue against the Player during the season. A Green Card accrues one (1) point, a Yellow Card three (3) points and a Red Card nine (9) points.

A Player accumulating a total of nine (9) points by receiving nine (9) Green Cards or three (3) Yellow Cards within one playing season including Finals, will automatically incur a one (1) round suspension.

A Red Card is a permanent suspension from a match and the Player will accrue nine (9) points if a charge is proven by the Judiciary Committee. The Players penalty under a Red Card will be determined by a Judiciary Committee hearing.

Each additional six (6) points i.e. six (6) Green Cards or two (2) Yellow Cards received by a Player during a season including Finals after they have accumulated nine (9) points, will incur a further one (1) round suspension.

All suspensions will be effective upon notification to the relevant Club Secretary by the Executive.

- b) Points accumulated by a Player will not carry over from one season to the next season.
- c) Players temporarily suspended from a match under a Green or Yellow Card must retire to the Officials dugout and be seated in that area until they have served their time of suspension. The Umpire or Technical Official will maintain the time of suspension and indicate to the Player when they are clear to resume play. The Player's time of suspension will not start until they are seated in the Officials dugout.
- d) On receiving a permanent suspension, Red Card, the Player will leave the Hockey Centre immediately.

A player suspended under a Red Card will not be eligible to play or officiate in any Match until they have appeared before the Judiciary Committee.

- e) An Umpire permanently suspending a Player under a Red Card from the match will record the reason for the suspension on the Match Card and then provide a full report in writing to the SHHI Secretary within seventy-two (72) hours after the match.
- f) The Umpire and Executive will follow the procedures outlined under Section 4 of the Judiciary Committee Guidelines for dealing with players permanently suspended under a Red Card. Equally the Executive will deal with off-field incidents reported to them under Section 4 of the Judiciary Committee Guidelines.

Template forms for Umpire and witness reports, forms to cite players under Red Cards, forms to cite people for off-field incidents and templates for the conduct of the Judiciary Hearing are found in the Judiciary Committee Guidelines. These guidelines are published on the Association website or can be requested from the Executive.

21. SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT COMPETITION DATES

- **By 15TH February- Executive issues competition schedule and advises Clubs of closing date for Team nominations which will be five (5) weeks before competition start date. Draw will have minimum of 20 rounds for Seniors and 16 rounds for Juniors excluding Finals series. Clauses 3 a) 3 b) 9 a) & 9 b)**
- **Up to five (5) weeks before the competition start date Clubs will advise the Executive of un-financial Players. Clause 2 c)**
- **Three (3) weeks prior to season start date Clubs will submit their Team Lists for the teams previously nominated Clause 3 c)**
- **Two (2) weeks prior to season start a Grading Panel meeting will be held to review all Senior Team Lists Clause 3 d)**
- **One (1) week prior to competition start the Executive will publish the grading list on the Association website**
- **By competition start date all players nominated in Team Lists must be registered Clause 1 a)**
- **Draw issued on a week to week basis to Clubs up to round six (6) when full draw is published Clause 9 e)**
- **By Round four (4) the Grading Panel will meet again to review grading's. By this round all Players must be in full uniform Clause 7 e) & 6 a)**

22. SCHEDULE OF CHANGES TO THESE RULES

24/8/2022 Clause 3 c) was changed by vote of Clubs to include a penalty for Senior teams not being awarded points if their Clubs do not submit Team Lists as required under the rule.

24/8/2022 Clause 16 a) was changed by vote of Clubs to include parents of players attending State Championships being included in the calculation of player numbers to request a deferred match.

24/8/2022 Clause 19 c) was added by vote of Clubs to add a penalty for Teams not carrying out their Tech Official duties. The Section was changed from Umpires to Umpire & Tech Officials to incorporate the new 19 c)

8/2/2023 Clause 4 b) was changed by vote of Clubs reducing the maximum number of players in a Team List for an eleven player competition from eighteen (18) players down to sixteen (16) players.