

Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Incorporated

Competition Regulations

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Field Hockey

These Regulations should be read in conjunction with the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association (“the Association”) Rules (“the Constitution”) and where there is a conflict between these Regulations and the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.

The attachments to these Regulations are documents (“Schedules”) containing information supplemental to these Regulations and where there is a conflict between the Regulations and the Schedules, the Regulations shall prevail.

Terms contained in the Regulations and Schedules shall have the same meaning as the definitions contained in the Constitution.

1 Start of the season

1.1 Fees and charges

- 1.1.1 Prior to the start of the season the Treasurer shall present to the Association a budget setting out the likely costs and expenses to conduct the season and the likely income from the season (excluding fundraising and canteen profits).
- 1.1.2 Based on the likely costs and expenses the Treasurer shall determine the amount that must be paid by each Affiliate to participate in the season. The Association shall determine the regularity of payments and the penalty for non payment.

1.2 Fixture

- 1.2.1 At a date to be determined by the Association it shall notify its Affiliates details of the competitions it intends to conduct together with a competition specification ("Competition Specification") that shall contain the detailed specifications of each competition that shall form part of the Schedule.
- 1.2.2 After receipt of valid team entries the Association shall construct a draft match schedule ("draft fixture") detailing the time and place it intends to conduct the competition.
- 1.2.3 The draft fixture shall then be issued to Affiliates for comment and after receiving such comment the Association shall determine the final match schedule ("the Fixture"). The Association shall provide all competing Affiliates with reasonable notice of the commencement of the Fixture.
- 1.2.4 Except as provided in these Regulations all matches are to be conducted in accordance with the Fixture.
- 1.2.5 Reference to a "competition" means a Fixture with defined teams, scores, ladder and finals.

2 Conduct of Matches

2.1 Playing Rules

All matches shall be conducted in accordance with the International Hockey Federation Rules of Hockey "FIH Rules" subject to:

- (a) "Directions to Umpires", and/or "Interpretations" as issued by Hockey Australia Umpiring Sub Committee, and adopted by the Association;
- (b) "Experimental rule(s)" declared by International Hockey Federation (FIH) to be mandatory; and

- (c) “Experimental rule(s)” sanctioned by Hockey Australia, and adopted by the Association; and
- (d) any rules specifically adopted by the Association and declared to be local rules. Local Rules are contained in the Schedule 1.

All matches will be played on fields and with such equipment as shall be permitted by the FIH Rules as may be reasonably varied by the Association from time to time to suit local conditions. Where the Association deems that a variation of the FIH Rules is necessary, details of such variations shall be recorded in a Schedule.

2.2 Ball

- 2.2.1 The provision of a ball shall be the responsibility of the first named team for regular season matches and by the highest ranked team for finals matches.
- 2.2.2 White match balls shall be used for the duration of the match.

2.3 Competition Sections

- 2.3.1 Teams may be divided into competition sections such as Juniors; Seniors; Masters; Mixed.
- 2.3.2 Junior Teams will be divided into competition sections such as:
 - (a) Under 18
 - (b) Under 12
 - (c) Under 8
- 2.3.3 The Association shall have the discretion to review the specifications of the Competition Sections and all associated regulations prior to the commencement of the Fixture and again at any point after the commencement of the Fixture at its discretion.

2.4 Team Composition

2.4.1 Number of players

- 2.4.1.1 Teams playing on a full-size field will consist of not more than sixteen (16) eligible players and not less than seven (7) eligible players, of which a maximum of eleven (11) players can take the field at any one time.
- 2.4.1.2 Teams playing on a half-sized field will consist of not more than ten (10) eligible players and not less than four (4) eligible players, of which a maximum of seven (7) players can take the field at any one time.

2.4.1.3 Teams playing on a hockey 5s field will consist of not more than ten (10) eligible players and not less than three (3) eligible players, of which a maximum of five (5) players can take the field at any one time.

2.4.1.4 Senior Men's hockey 5's teams are permitted to play females, as long as no more than 2 females are on the field for a team at any time.

2.4.2 Player eligibility

2.4.2.1 Age Eligibility

For the purpose of determining age-based eligibility the age of a player shall be determined by their age in whole years as at 1st of January in each year.

2.4.2.2 Senior Women

- (a) Junior male and female players under the age of 16 and males over the age of 16 are eligible to participate in the Senior Women's competition if an exemption request has been received and approved by the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Executive Committee.

An exemption request for this provision shall be submitted by the players Affiliate to the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Committee for individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Evaluation of the player's maturity level to ascertain their capability to competently engage in the competition.
- Assessment of potential impacts on the competitive balance within the women's league.
- Consideration of potential benefits for the player, including progression towards representative team selection.
- Evaluation of the player's skill level to determine suitability for participation at this senior level.
- Ensuring parental awareness and understanding of the associated risks involved in their child's participation at an elevated competitive level.
- Consideration of all available competitions and identification of competition level that suits the individual players needs.

Exemption requests must be submitted in writing to the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Executive Committee 5 days prior to taking the field and will be reviewed with recommendations sought from both current coach/es of the applicant, as well as the relevant senior women's coach, in accordance with the outlined criteria.

- (b) Females aged 16 and above are eligible to play in the Senior Women's competition.
- (c) The Association may impose playing conditions for any player that has been granted an

exemption to play in the senior women's competition.

- (d) The composition of Women's Senior teams must be no more than three (3) boys on the match card during the match but always a majority of females on the field.
- (e) These exemption rules apply to all Latrobe Valley Hockey Association representative teams, including but not limited to Vic League, Country Week etc

PENALTY

Incorrectly playing players – Forfeit of match if won or drawn.

2.4.2.3 Senior Men

- (a) Junior male and female players under the age of 16 and female players over the age of 16 are eligible to participate in the Senior Men's competition if an exemption request has been received and approved by the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Executive Committee.

An exemption request for this provision shall be submitted by the players Affiliate to the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Committee for individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Evaluation of the player's maturity level to ascertain their capability to competently engage in the competition.
- Assessment of potential impacts on the competitive balance within the men's league.
- Consideration of potential benefits for the player, including progression towards representative team selection.
- Evaluation of the player's skill level to determine suitability for participation at this senior level.
- Ensuring parental awareness and understanding of the associated risks involved in their child's participation at an elevated competitive level.
- Consideration of all available competitions and identification of competition level that suits the individual player's needs.

Exemption requests must be submitted in writing to the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Executive Committee 5 days prior to taking the field and will be reviewed with recommendations sought from both current coach/es of the applicant, as well as the relevant senior men's coach, in accordance with the outlined criteria.

- (b) Males aged 16 and above are eligible to play in the Senior Men's competition.
- (c) The Association may impose playing conditions for any player that has been granted an exemption to play in the senior men's competition.

2.4.2.4 Junior Teams

- (a) Junior Teams shall be age based at the discretion of the Association at the commencement of the playing season.
- (b) Junior Teams shall be split into gender at the discretion of the Association at the commencement of the playing season. The Association may determine a Mixed Gender competition. For full field competitions no more than 6 boys per team may be on the field at any one time.
- (c) Junior competition players are permitted to play in any junior section of competition that they meet the eligibility criteria for. There is no limit on the number of games that a Junior player can participate in for a regular round of a regular season.
- (d) Junior competition players are permitted to play in any senior section of competition that they meet the eligibility criteria for (for example. the age restrictions in Senior Women).
- (e) An exemption request for a Junior to play down an aged group shall be submitted by the players Affiliate to the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Committee for individuals who meet the following criteria:
 - Evaluation of the player's maturity level to ascertain their capability to competently engage in the competition.
 - Assessment of potential impacts on the competitive balance within the junior's league.
 - Consideration of potential benefits for the player, including progression towards representative team selection.
 - Evaluation of the player's skill level to determine suitability for participation at this junior level.
 - Ensuring parental awareness and understanding of the associated risks involved in their child's participation at an elevated competitive level.
 - Consideration of all available competitions and identification of competition level that suits the individual player's needs.

Exemption requests must be submitted in writing to the Latrobe Valley Hockey Association Executive Committee 5 days prior to taking the field and will be reviewed with recommendations sought from both current coach/es of the applicant, as well as the relevant junior coach and Junior Co-Ordinator, in accordance with the outlined criteria.

2.4.3 Goalkeeper

2.4.3.1 All senior goalkeeper rules are as per FIH Rules.

2.4.3.2 Junior Teams playing on a full field competition must have a fully kitted goalkeeper on the field for the duration of the match.

2.5 Interchange

Interchange of players is only permitted from an area on the field designated by the intersection of the half line with the sideline on the side of the field nearest the area allocated for the team bench. If the position of the interchange area is unclear then the interchange area shall be that area determined by the umpires.

2.6 Team Officials

- 2.6.1 Teams are permitted to have up to five (5) non-playing team officials, including coaches, team managers, physiotherapists, first aid officers, statisticians etc.
- 2.6.2 No official is permitted on the field of play during the period of match play (except as detailed below) unless there is a stoppage in play and then only with the permission of the umpires.
- 2.6.3 At all other times, team officials are to confine themselves to the area allocated for their respective team benches and shall, at all times, obey the instructions of either the umpires or the technical officials.
- 2.6.4 Team Coaches are permitted to walk their half of the field but must maintain a one metre distance from the side line.
- 2.6.5 Provided that the team official does not interfere with play and otherwise abides by the provisions of the Guidelines, officials are permitted on the field of play in the following circumstances:
 - (a) One (1) coach per team in any part of the field except the goal circles for games where players are under the age of twelve (12); and
 - (b) On the occurrence of what reasonably appears to be an injury in a Junior match one (1) designated team official is entitled to enter the field of play without the permission of the umpires to attend the injured player.

2.7 Match Commencement

- 2.7.1 At the commencement of the match:
 - (a) umpires shall call both teams to the centre of the ground for a greeting for the opposing side, and
 - (b) opposing captains shall toss for choice of attacking goal direction for the first period of play or first possession of the ball, and
 - (c) umpires sound the whistle to signal the start of the match.
- 2.7.2 Except as provided in 2.8 hereof, all matches shall commence at the times scheduled in the fixture.

- 2.7.3 After the half time break the next period of play shall be to the opposite goal of the first period and the team that did not have first possession of the ball at the commencement of the first period shall have possession of the ball.
- 2.7.4 All matches shall conclude not less than five minutes before the scheduled commencement of the next match scheduled to take place on the same field.

2.8 Delays to Match Commencement

All matches shall commence at the times scheduled in the fixture unless:

- (a) either or both teams cannot comply with clause 2.4.1 hereof. As soon as the minimum number of required players are ready to take the field, the match shall commence without undue delay.
- (b) if after ten (10) minutes from the scheduled starting time only one team is able to comply with clause 2.4.1 hereof, the team that is able to comply with clause 2.4.1 may claim a walkover in terms of clause 3.1 hereof.
- (c) neither team is able to comply with clause 2.4.1, then the match shall be declared a no match and no points awarded to either team. .
- (d) the Rostered Umpires have not arrived by the scheduled starting time, in which case both captains, or in the case of an Under-Age match, the team managers, must appoint a replacement umpire or umpires(s). The match shall commence as soon as practicable after the scheduled time.

If the Rostered Umpire(s) arrive after the commencement of the match, they may take the place of the replacement umpire(s), upon the agreement of both captains or in the case of an Under-Age match, both team managers.

2.9 Match Duration

2.9.1 General Principles

- (a) The umpires shall have sole responsibility for determining compliance with scheduled match duration and for determining the elapsed time of any match. However, the umpires may delegate responsibility for time keeping to a Technical Official.
- (a) Only in exceptional circumstances shall a delay in a preceding match be permitted to delay the commencement of a succeeding match scheduled for play on the same day on the same field.
- (b) If compliance with this clause requires the match duration to be shortened, then where possible, equal time shall be deducted from all periods of play.

- (c) The Association may, in determining Competition Specifications, specify other periods of play but the duration of matches shall unless otherwise specified comply with this clause.

2.9.2 Senior Matches

2.9.2.1 Full Field

A match shall consist of four (4) periods of play of seventeen (17) minutes, a quarter-time and three - quarter time interval of two (2) minutes and a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

A maximum period of ten (10) minutes may be added for delays or interruptions but the match shall conclude at a time which is the earlier of:

- (a) not less than five (5) minutes before the scheduled commencement of the next match scheduled to take place on the same field; or
- (b) eighty-five (85) minutes after the commencement of play.

2.9.2.2 Hockey 5s

A match shall consist of four (4) quarters of ten (10) minutes, with an interval of two (2) minutes quarter 1 and quarter 3, and an interval of five (5) minutes at halftime (between quarter 2 and quarter 3). The clock shall run continuously during each quarter.

2.9.3 Masters Matches

Duration of matches shall be determined by the Association at a time that a Masters competition comes into existence.

2.9.4 Junior Matches

2.9.4.1 Full Field

A match shall consist of four (4) periods of play of a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes a quarter- time and three - quarter time interval of two (2) minutes and a half-time interval of five (5) minutes (to be determined at the discretion of the Association at the commencement of the playing season).

No time off is allowed during the match and the match shall conclude at a time which is the earlier of:

- (a) not less than five (5) minutes before the scheduled commencement of the next match scheduled to take place on the same field, or
- (b) up to sixty-five (65) minutes after the commencement of play.

2.9.4.2 Half Field

A match shall consist of two (2) periods of twenty (20) minutes and a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

No time off is allowed during the match and the match shall conclude at a time which is the earlier of:

- (a) not less than five (5) minutes before the scheduled commencement of the next match scheduled to take place on the same field, or
- (b) up to forty-five (45) minutes after the commencement of play.

2.9.4.3 Quarter Field

A match shall consist of three (3) periods of ten (10) minutes and an interval of five (5) minutes between each third.

Teams will defend the same goal after each interval when returning to the field.

No time off is allowed during the match and the match shall conclude at a time which is the earlier of:

- (a) not less than five (5) minutes before the scheduled commencement of the next match scheduled to take place on the same field, or
- (b) up to forty (40) minutes after the commencement of play.

2.9.4.4 Hockey 5s

- (a) Under 8s match will consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes and an interval of five (5) minutes between the halves.
- (b) Under 12s match will consist of two (2) periods of twenty (20) minutes and in interval of five (5) minutes between the halves.

2.9.5 **Hockey5s**

For any competition utilising the Hockey5s format, rules will be as per the FIH Rules of Hockey, unless specified below.

- Each team is permitted to have five (5) players on the field at any given time, including a goalkeeper. Goalkeepers are not mandatory but highly encouraged. If a team does not have a goal keeper, field players are not permitted to simply stand on the goal line.
- Fill ins are allowed. Teams must have a minimum of 3 registered players, with fills in up to 1 substitute (if the opposition also has a substitute).

- Teams are permitted to have a maximum of four (4) substitute players and one (1) substitute Goalkeeper on the interchange bench. Substitutions may occur at any time (including during a challenge) and are to take place near the half way line.

2.9.5.1 Under 8s Hockey 5s

Under 8 special rules

- No swapping sides at half time
- No challenges
- No tomahawks
- No raise ball (above knee height)
- No hitting
- Slap shots allowed

2.10 Code of Conduct

- 2.10.1 The Codes of Behaviour developed by the Australian Sports Commission and the Victorian Government in conjunction with Hockey Victoria (“the Codes”) are adopted by the Association and will provide the guiding principles for the conduct of all aspects of competition.
- 2.10.2 The Association shall oversee the operation of 2.10 to the point of ensuring all Affiliates and designated groups/individuals noted in the Codes meet their obligations under these sections.
- 2.10.3 Affiliates are responsible for enforcing the Codes and for informing members of their obligations to abide by the Codes.

2.11 Social Media

- 2.11.1 Affiliates and individuals are advised that it is inappropriate, and unacceptable to make insulting, intimidating or otherwise offensive remarks about another individual, Affiliate, or member of the Association, or about any aspect of the Association’s operations (including but not limited to playing, umpiring, the Fixture and the Constitution) via face to face conversations, telephone, SMS messaging, and social networking sites, including but not limited to, blogs, chat rooms, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and similar, or in any other forum or medium, electronic or otherwise in any form.

- 2.11.2 Affiliates, individuals or members of the Association in breach of clause 2.11 will be subject to disciplinary action and depending on the severity may be subject to suspension at the discretion of the Association's Executive.
- 2.11.3 Written consent of a child's parent or guardian is required before an image of the child is used in social media or other publication.
- 2.11.4 Affiliates are responsible for informing members of their obligations under clause 2.11.

2.12 Player Penalties

- 2.12.1 Any individual disobeying the FIH Rules or committing an offense whilst competing in any match that brings the game into disrepute may be carded by the match's presiding umpires or Tech Bench.
- 2.12.2 Any individual disobeying the FIH Rules or committing an offence whilst competing in any match, that brings the game into disrepute may be fined and/or suspended and/or penalised at the discretion of the Association's Executive or Tribunal.
- 2.12.3 At the discretion of the Association at the start of each season individual players will commence the regular rounds of the regular season with a total of twelve (12) points against their name (to be recorded by the Competition Manager) and will carry their points into the finals matches.
- 2.12.4 Upon receiving a "card" from the umpire in the game of play for disobeying the FIH Rules or committing an offence the player shall incur the following penalties based on the severity of the breach and if determined by the Association at the start of the season lose the following points:
 - (i) Green card — timed out of the match for two (2) minutes. This should be recorded on the match card. There is no loss of points.
 - (ii) Yellow card for a technical infringement — where a technical infringement shall mean a breach of the FIH Rules at the discretion of the umpire(s) — timed out of the match for a minimum of five (5) minutes (or longer depending on the umpires discretion). A technical infringement shall be recorded on the match card as "Yellow (T)" with no loss of points. Swearing in general is considered to be a technical infringement, but if it is directed at another person or at an umpiring decision, this is considered to be a behavioural infringement. Any penalties for swearing are at the discretion of the match's umpires.
 - (iii) Yellow card for a behavioural infringement — a behavioural infringement means misconduct at the discretion of the presiding umpire(s) —timed out of the match for a minimum of five (5) minutes (or longer depending on the presiding umpires discretion). A behavioural infringement shall be recorded on the match card as "Yellow (B)". There is a loss of four (4) points.

(iv) Red card

- (a) First Red Card —ineligible to play in any other matches of that round and receives a one-week automatic suspension from the round directly following the round where the penalty occurred. There is a loss of six (6) points.
- (b) Upon receiving a red card the player is ineligible to receive an Association Best and Fairest Award in any competition section and at the discretion of the Association. The player may also be required to attend the Tribunal to determine a penalty which may include being terminated for the remainder of the regular season and final matches.
- (c) Second Red Card — will automatically incur attendance at a Tribunal and at the discretion of the Association, possible termination for the remainder of the regular rounds of the regular season and all finals matches. There is a loss of a further six (6) points.

- 2.12.5 The Competition Manager shall notify the Association's Executive and the Secretary of the Affiliate by the Wednesday following the match that a player has received a red card so that the Affiliate can be notified that the player is suspended for the next round.
- 2.12.6 Any combination of yellow and/or red cards that incur a loss of twelve (12) points will receive a one-week automatic suspension and at the discretion of the Association possible termination for the remainder of the regular rounds of the regular season and all finals matches. The Competition Manager shall notify the Association's Executive that a player has reached the maximum loss of points. The Association's Executive will notify the Secretary of the Affiliate.
- 2.12.7 Players can accrue cards and consequently loss of points in a single game. If a player receives a yellow card that is immediately upgraded to a red card without the player serving match time suspension, they will only incur the six (6) points for the red card, not ten (10) points for both the yellow card and the red card. If a player receives a yellow card in a match and serves the match time suspension and then receives a red card later in the same match, they shall accrue the full number of points for all cards served on them during that match.
- 2.12.8 Any player who is under suspension is ineligible to play, coach, manage, umpire or attend any Latrobe Valley Hockey Association venue or activities for the period of the suspension.
- 2.12.9 Cards apply to the Association finals matches and shall incur the same points as with the regular rounds of the regular season. A red card will incur a one week suspension that carries forward to the next eligible final or round which may be in the next season.
- 2.12.10 A system of appeal is in place for any player who wishes to dispute a suspension. The Appeal Committee shall consist of three people with a hockey background but may not

necessarily be current members of an Affiliate. The Association President will chair the Appeals Committee but will not have a vote or influence the decision.

- 2.12.11 A player wishing to lodge an appeal must pay a non-refundable fee of \$50 and lodge their appeal with the fee no later than 4.00 pm on the day that is 48 hours after notification of the decision. Disputes must be lodged in writing to the Association President, via email outlining the facts of the dispute and the evidence available to support the dispute.

3 Match Exceptions

3.1 Reschedule

If a Senior team of an Affiliate provides the Association with not less than seven (7) days' notice (prior to the scheduled commencement of a match according to the Fixture) that its team that will not be able to comply with clause 2.4 the Association and the opposing team may consent to reschedule the match provided that the new time and date for the rescheduled match is fixed and notified to the Competition Manager before the scheduled commencement of the original match.

3.2. Forfeits notified by a team

3.2.1 Circumstances

A forfeit shall be declared in the following circumstances:

- (a) a Senior team of an Affiliate provides the Association with not less than three (3) days' notice prior to the scheduled commencement of a match according to the Fixture that it has a team that will not be able to comply with clause 2.4 ("Early Notice Forfeit");
- (b) a Senior team of an Affiliate provides the Association with notice by 5.00 pm the day before the scheduled commencement of a match according to the Fixture but less than three (3) days' prior to the scheduled commencement of a match according to the Fixture that it will not be able to comply with clause 2.4 ("Late Notice Forfeit");
- (c) a Senior team of an Affiliate has not provided notice by 5.00 pm the day before the scheduled commencement of a match according to the and fails to comply with clause 2.4 within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled commencement of a scheduled match ("No Notice Forfeit").

An Affiliate giving a forfeit in terms of sub-clauses (a), (b), (c) shall be responsible for notifying the opposition team, the rostered umpires and the Competition Manager by email or direct telephone contact. Social media is not considered formal notice.

3.2.2 Consequences

A forfeit by a team shall have the effect of a 5-0 loss to the team responsible for the forfeit and a 5-0 win to the opposing team.

The team receiving the benefit of the forfeit may lodge a team sheet via the electronic match record by 11am the Monday following the scheduled game and all players named on the team sheet shall be deemed to have played in that match. Team sheets that have not been received by the Monday following the scheduled game according to the Fixture, shall not be accepted.

3.2.3 Penalty

Early Notice Forfeit – No financial penalty

Late Notice Forfeit — \$20.00

No Notice Forfeit — \$50.00

3.2.4 Junior Teams

All Junior teams are exempt from financial penalties as a result of a forfeit by a team of any kind.

3.2 **Postponements and Cancellations**

Every reasonable effort shall be made to ensure that all matches are played in accordance with the Fixture.

Only the Association may, at its sole discretion, postpone and/or cancel all or any part of a round of matches if it deems that circumstances surrounding the playing of that round or part of a round is not in the best interests of the competition or its Affiliates.

3.2.1 Consequences

- (a) The Association shall make reasonable endeavours to reschedule postponed matches but if the Association, in its sole discretion, deems it impractical to reschedule a postponed match or matches it shall cancel such match or matches. However, the Association shall, as far as is possible and having regard to the circumstances and in the best interests of the competition, apply such measures as it shall deem reasonable to provide equitable treatment to those teams affected by the cancellation.
- (b) Finals matches that are postponed should be completed not less than seventy two (72) hours before the next scheduled final in which either of the teams shall be required to compete. If either team participating in the postponed match is unable to meet the requirement of the match schedule then that team shall be deemed to have failed to meet the requirements of clause 2.4 and the terms of sub-clause 3.1.1 shall be apply.

3.3 Abandonment

3.3.1 Circumstances

A match may be abandoned in the following circumstances:

- (a) prior to the commencement of play or at any time during play of a Senior match that is in the control of a Rostered Umpire(s) and such Rostered Umpire(s) consider that the conditions are unfit for play; and agreed to by the two opposing captains; or,
- (b) prior to the commencement of play or at any time during play of a Junior match, the opposing team managers in consultation with the Rostered Umpire(s) (if any) consider that the conditions are unfit for play; or
- (c) less than fifty percent of the available time of the match (as may have been shortened due to delays) has been played, and an event has occurred that prevents the completion of the match within five (5) minutes before the scheduled commencement of the next match.

When the match has been abandoned the match card shall be endorsed with the reason for the abandonment.

3.3.2 Consequences

Where the abandonment occurred:

- (a) prior to the commencement of play or where less than fifty percent of the available time of the match (as may have been shortened due to delays) has been played then the two captains of Senior teams or the two team managers of Junior teams may either:
 - (i) agree to record a nil all draw; or
- (b) after the commencement of play and where fifty percent or greater than fifty percent of the available playing time of the match (as may have been shortened due to delays) has been played, the result at the time of the abandonment shall stand and the match shall be deemed to have been completed.

3.4. Forfeit by circumstances

3.4.1 Circumstances

A team shall be deemed to have forfeited a match where:

- (a) that team has played a player who is not an eligible player;

- (b) the Team Management and/or the supporters of that team have been determined by the Association, after an investigation, to have committed a serious act or acts of misconduct in accordance with clause 2.10;
- (c) the Affiliate for which the team competes has been declared by the Association to be in Financial Default and the Association has exercised its discretion in terms of clause 10.2 hereof.

3.4.2 Consequences

Forfeited matches as set out in 3.4.1 above shall be treated as a five (5) nil (0) win to the opposing team unless the actual score in the match is more advantageous to the opposing team and then the actual score shall stand.

The offending team shall be deemed to have recorded a five (5) nil (0) loss and if both teams have committed breaches under this clause the result will be determined by a Tribunal.

The Tribunal may impose additional penalties at its discretion.

3.5 Team Withdrawal and Late Team Entry

3.5.1 Withdrawal of Team

3.5.1.1 Circumstances

Any Affiliate may, by notice in writing via email to the Association, withdraw a team from a competition at any time after the commencement of that competition. The team to be withdrawn will be the Affiliate's lowest ranked team in the same competition/age group, unless otherwise determined by the Association.

In determining the lowest ranked team in equally ranked grades, any ranking nominated by the Affiliate in terms of Reg 8.2 will be applied.

3.5.1.2 Consequences

Any Affiliate withdrawing a team in terms 3.5.1.1 hereof shall forfeit an affiliation and competition charge at the discretion of the Association but not more than the pro rata amount based on the rounds played. In determining such amount, the Association shall consider the financial impact of the withdrawal on the Affiliate and other affected parties.

In all instances of team withdrawal, for purposes of result recording, the following shall apply:

- (a) The point in the season where all teams have played each other an equal number of times will be known as the mid-way mark.
- (b) Where a team withdraws prior to the mid-way mark, the result of all completed matches played against the withdrawn team shall be removed and recorded as a bye.
- (c) Where a team withdraws after the mid-way mark, the result of all completed matches played against the withdrawn team up to the mid-way mark shall remain, and all

completed matches played against the withdrawn team after the mid-way mark shall be removed and recorded as a bye.

3.5.2 Late Team Entry

To fill a bye or vacancy created by the withdrawal of a team, the Association may at its sole discretion, permit the late entry of a team to the competition up to and including either:

- (a) any time prior to the completion of not more than twenty five (25) percent of the matches that comprise the Regular Rounds of the Regular Season with all unplayed matches treated as byes; or
- (b) at the commencement of the Regular Round that represents the commencement of the second fifty (50) percent of the Regular Rounds of the Regular Season. The team shall only be required to play the matches of the second fifty (50) percent of the Regular Rounds of the Regular Season and only matches played shall count for points.

Provided however, that the Association reserves the right to make such other arrangements as it believes represents a reasonably equitable resolution of the issues surrounding the late entry of a team and having regard to the impact on the original teams in the grade.

4 Player Requirements

Players must be registered with Hockey Victoria and the Affiliate of the team they intend to participate in before taking the field unless a “come and try” option is available and this is being utilized. Any person taking the field without being registered does so at their own risk.

4.1 Playing Equipment

All equipment used by players shall conform to the most current version of the FIH Rules.

Any queries in regard to equipment should, in the first instance, be directed to the Association.

4.2 Uniform

- 4.2.1 Each Affiliate shall wear distinguishing coloured and numbered uniforms approved by the Association comprising of a playing shirt, a skirt / skort / shorts and socks.
- 4.2.2 No Affiliate shall change its approved uniform colour without prior approval by the Association.
- 4.2.3 Goalkeepers are required to wear a shirt colour that is different to their own team and also to that of the opposing team.

4.3 Shirt Numbers

4.3.1 Players in the Senior grades are required to wear a number unique to them for the game on the back of the upper body of their uniforms. It is desirable, but not mandatory for Junior players to wear a number on their uniforms. Numbers shall be:

- (a) legible and in a colour that contrasts with the colour of the surface of the uniform to which they are affixed
- (b) at least 160mm in height

4.3.2 It is not necessary for goalkeepers to display a number on their uniform.

4.4 Footwear, Socks and leg pads (goalkeeper)

All footwear worn must be suitable for the playing surface on which it is to be used and must not be predominantly white.

The wearing of white below the knee is not permitted and no uniform with predominantly white socks and no white goalkeeper leg pads or kickers shall be permitted.

PENALTY

Any player out of uniform after the completion of the third round of the Regular Rounds of the Regular Season shall incur a \$10.00 fine per player per instance unless granted an exemption by the Association. The Association at its discretion may grant an exemption to individual players, teams or Affiliates.

4.5 Protective Equipment

The Association strongly recommends that Affiliates encourage all Senior field players to wear both mouthguards and shin pads, notwithstanding the minimum required by the FIH Rules.

It is mandatory that all Junior players wear mouthguards and shin pads for the duration of the match. Junior players are not permitted to take the field without the mandatory safety equipment. The Association, at its discretion, may approve exemptions to this rule in limited circumstances such as medical reasons.

4.6 Other Items

Apart from the registered uniform the only other permissible items that can be worn outside the uniform are:

- (a) watches, fitness trackers, jewellery and medical bracelets if taped in a manner unlikely to cause any injury to another player;
- (b) earrings if small stud-type earrings;

- (c) headwear with a soft edge and unlikely to cause any injury to another player. Headwear with hard edges or a hard peak is strictly forbidden, such as baseball caps;
- (d) gloves and other protective padding or support made from a soft material unlikely to cause injury to another player;
- (e) sunglasses/spectacles supplied by prescription and have no metal adornments that may cause injury;
- (f) long sleeved tops in black, skin colour or the same colour as the playing shirt and skins/bike shorts/pants in black, skin colour or the same or similar colours as the uniform bottom. Playing socks must be worn over the top of long skins or long pants.

A Rostered Umpire, or an Association appointed Technical Official has the power to require the removal of any item worn by a player not covered by this clause, if in the sole opinion of that Rostered Umpire or Technical Official they consider such item potentially injurious to other players.

5 Match Results

5.1 Match Points

For the purposes of determining a competition ranking the following points shall be awarded for each:

Win Four points

Draw Two points

Loss one point

Forfeit zero points

All goals scored by a team shall be recorded and tallied ("Goals For") and all goals conceded by a team shall be recorded and tallied ("Goals Against"). The difference either positive or negative is obtained by deducting "Goals Against" from "Goals For" ("Goal Difference").

Any Affiliate that has been declared in Financial Default as defined in clause 10.2, may, at the discretion of the Association, be ineligible to score points in matches during the period of that Financial Default.

5.2 Competition Rankings

5.2.1 Equalisation

Where teams in a grade at the end of the season have played an unequal number of games the final total points for each team shall be adjusted as follows:

- (a) the points gained by each team shall be divided by the number of games played by each team
- (b) the resulting number of points shall be calculated to two (2) decimal places to determine the ranking of each team in the grade.
- (c) team points = Points earned / number of games played

5.2.2 Standard Rankings

After the application, where necessary, of equalisation in terms of 5.2.1 hereof, the Association shall rank the teams in order of the number of points each team has accumulated during the regular rounds of the regular season. The four highest ranked teams shall contest the final series.

Where two or more teams have accumulated an equal number of points, the following measures shall be applied in descending order of priority until there is a separate ranking for each team:

- (a) the team with the highest Goal Difference shall be deemed to be the higher ranked team;
- (b) where teams have equal Goal Difference, the team with the higher number of “Goals For” shall be deemed the higher ranked team;
- (c) where teams have an equal number of “Goals For”, the team with the highest number of wins for the season shall be the higher ranked team;
- (d) where teams are equal on the number of wins for the season then sub clauses (a), (b) and (c) shall be applied again but restricted to those games played during the season between the teams being ranked under this procedure;
- (e) if sub clause (d) fails to separate the teams a Penalty Shoot Out Competition will be required.

5.2.3 Promotion and Relegation

In circumstances where there are distinct Grades the following will apply at the discretion of the Association.

- 5.2.3.1 In the instance that a team is both the minor and major premier as defined in clause 6.1, that team shall be required to be promoted to the next higher grade (if any) for the succeeding regular season of competition.
- 5.2.3.2 In the instance that 5.2.3.1 does not eventuate, then a promotion position will be offered to the minor premier first, followed by the major premier should the minor premier decline the offer. If the major premier declines the offer then the minor premier must be promoted to the higher grade.

5.2.3.3 The lowest ranked team in a grade at the completion of the Regular Rounds of a competition will be relegated to the next lower grade (if any) for the succeeding Regular Season competition.

Otherwise the Association shall, before the start of the season determine the competition and finals structure for the season.

6 Finals

6.1 Ranking

6.1.1 Minor Premiership

The highest ranked team at the completion of the Regular Rounds of the Regular Season shall be declared the Minor Premier.

6.1.2 Major Premiership

The four highest ranked teams, or, where there are less than four, all teams in each grade shall play off for the Major Premiership.

6.2 Eligibility

6.2.1 Financial Default

Only those teams of Affiliates who are not in Financial Default as per clause 10.3 are eligible to be declared the winner of the minor premierships, or to compete for the major premierships.

Where any teams are ineligible to compete in finals matches as a result of Financial Default, they shall be removed from the rankings and the grade shall be re-ranked for the purposes of determining eligibility to compete in the finals.

6.2.2 Forfeits

If any team of Affiliates forfeit any finals match in any age group in the final's series, then that team may be fined a penalty of \$200 at the discretion of the Association Executive Committee.

6.3 Finals Match Structure

6.3.1 Seniors

The method of determining the result of a drawn final match in a senior competition shall be determined by Penalty Shoot-Out Competition (6.4).

Semi-finals (First round)

(a) Qualifying Final

First ranked team v Second ranked team

Winner advances to the Grand Final and the loser to the Preliminary Final.

(b) Elimination Final

Third ranked team v Fourth ranked team

Winner advances to the Preliminary Final and the loser is eliminated.

Preliminary Final (Second Round)

Loser of the Qualifying Final v Winner of the Elimination Final

Winner advances to the Grand Final and the loser is eliminated.

Grand Final

Winner of the Qualifying Final v Winner of the Preliminary Final

Winner is awarded the Premiership and the loser is declared the Runner Up.

6.3.2 Juniors

The Association shall have the discretion to review the specifications of the Junior Final Series and all associated regulations prior to the commencement of the Final Series for that season.

Outlined below is the default specifications for Junior Finals should no adjustments be made by the Association prior to the commencement of the final series.

(a) First Semi Final

First Ranked Team v Fourth Ranked Team

Winner advances to the Grand Final and the loser is eliminated

In the event that scores are equal at full time the first ranked team shall advance to the grand final and the fourth ranked team shall be eliminated.

(b) Second Semi Final

Second Ranked Team v Third Ranked Team

Winner advances to the Grand Final and the loser is eliminated

In the event that scores are equal at full time the second ranked team shall advance to the grand final and the third ranked team shall be eliminated.

(c) Grand Final

Winner of the First Semi Final v Winner of Second Semi Final

Winner is awarded the Major Premiership and the loser is declared the Runner Up

In the event that scores are equal at full time the Extra Time Rule (6.4.1) shall apply. If there is no score during extra time the Penalty Shoot-out Competition shall apply (see 6.3).

6.4 Penalty Shoot- out Competition Rules

- 6.4.1 In the event that scores are equal at full time in the Grand Final of a Junior or Senior competition, a Penalty Shoot-out Competition shall be played as per the Hockey Victoria Penalty Shootout Competition Rules, see appendix 1

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/vichockey/files/onxsahp5oxhbd1vz.pdf>

7 Result Recording and Notification

7.1 Team Lists

- 7.1.1 Each team shall provide a match card including player full registered name and number in a neat and legible manner as so deemed by the Association. Furthermore, each team shall be responsible for ensuring that it is completed accurately and contains all required information. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that the following procedure has been completed:

- (i) each of its players is eligible to play in a match; and
- (ii) they are in compliance with the provisions of clause 8 hereof; and,
- (iii) their team list is accurate and, as far as is possible to discern, that the opposing team's list is also accurate; and
- (iv) only players who take the field shall be recorded on the match card. Interchange players who do not take the field are not deemed to have played and shall not be recorded on the team list.

- 7.1.2 Each playing team is responsible for ensuring that:

- (a) teams adhere to 7.1.1 as far as they can discern and that any discrepancies are reported to the umpires.
- (b) match cards are completed accurately and contain all required information. This includes, signatures, all major injuries, details of out of uniform, green cards, yellow cards and red cards.
- (c) the results of the match (including forfeits and cancellations), the goal scorers, and Club Best and Fairest votes are to be recorded on the Electronic Results System (ERS). Both teams shall enter the results by 11am on Monday following the match (as per the hockey vic match book)
- (d) the match results (goal scorers and best and fairest votes for the team) forwarded to the media secretary by each Affiliate before 5.00pm Sunday.

- 7.1.3 No match card may be altered once the match has been completed, except by the presiding umpires. Alterations may be made if approved by the presiding umpires and both captains have been notified.
- 7.1.4 Unapproved alterations of match card, late entry on the ERS, and/or inaccurate entries on the match card shall be considered serious breaches of the competition rules and regulations and may result in penalties such as match forfeitures, loss of premiership points and/or a monetary fine of \$50.00 for each breach, as to be decided by the Association depending on the severity of the breach.
- 7.1.5 An Affiliate shall have the right to dispute the information contained in an opposing team's match result or team list in accordance with the conditions contained in clause 7.4 hereof.
- 7.1.6 The match card shall be considered the primary document until the Team List Final Deadline specified in clause 7.3, at which time, the player list entered in Electronic Results System (ERS) shall be deemed the document of record save that in dealing with a dispute under the terms of clause 7.4. The Association may rely on the match card in making a determination in relation to the dispute.

7.2 Player Votes

7.2.1 Club Votes

At the completion of a match in the regular rounds of a regular season, the presiding umpires are required to select and record the players that in their opinion were the best and fairest for that match for each team. Those names (as recorded on the match card) shall be recorded on the match card and voted as 3, 2 and 1 for each team. The player with number 3 votes is considered to be the highest ranked and therefore the best and fairest for that team.

A player identified on the match card as a Designated Substitute or Fill in (FI) is not entitled to any votes.

7.2.2 Association Votes

At the completion of a match in the regular rounds of a regular season, the presiding umpires are required to select and record the players that in their opinion were the best and fairest for the match overall, regardless of their team of origin. Those names (as recorded on the match card) shall then be recorded via scanning the QR code on the back of the match book and entering the votes on the form. Players shall be voted as 3, 2 and 1, where the player with 3 votes is considered to be the highest ranked and therefore the best and fairest for that match.

A player identified on the match card as a Designated Substitute (DS) or Fill In (FI) is not entitled to any votes.

An unregistered player is not entitled to any votes.

7.2.3 Junior Votes

Club Votes and Association Votes apply to Junior matches.

In circumstances where the Junior players do not play for a consistent team the vote is identified by the player only not also the team.

Junior players identified on the match card as a Designated Substitute (DS) or Fill In (FI) are not entitled to any votes.

7.2.3 Counting of the Votes

At the completion of all the matches of the regular rounds of the regular season the Competition Manager shall count the Association votes to determine the best and fairest player and the runner up best and fairest player for each section of the competition. The player(s) who polls the most votes in each section of the competition shall be named the best and fairest player unless that player is ineligible to receive the best and fairest award due to receiving a loss of twelve (12) points or as a result of a tribunal hearing that determines that they are no longer eligible as per clause 2.1.2.

On the occasion that more than one player polls the most votes in a particular section of the competition, then those players, taking into account clause 2.1.2 shall all be named best and fairest and there shall be no runner up.

If clause 8.3.1(d) applies the player is entitled to carry their votes.

7.3 Competition Manager

The Competition Manager shall check that all information required from all matches is entered into the Electronic Result System (ERS) and that the following requirements are met (where applicable):

- (a) That each team has completed a team sheet in a neat and legible manner and that it is completed accurately and contains all required information and that any discrepancies are reported to the Association before the commencement of the next round.
- (b) The result of the match (including forfeits and cancellations), the team sheet, the goal scores, the club votes and the Association votes have been lodged as soon as possible after the conclusion of the match but no later than the times provided in section 7.1.2 and that any discrepancies are reported to the Association before the commencement of the next round.
- (c) All players must be registered with Hockey Victoria and registered with the Affiliate of the team that they are participating with. The minimum information required by the Association to consider the registration of any player shall be as determined by Hockey Victoria:

PENALTY

An unregistered player will not begin to accrue qualifying games towards finals eligibility (as per clause 8.6) until the player is registered with Hockey Victoria and registered with the Affiliate of the team that they are participating with. An unregistered player will not begin to accrue Association best and fairest points (as per clause 7.2.2) until the player is registered with Hockey Victoria and registered with the Affiliate of the team that they are participating with.

7.4 Match Result Disputes

In respect of a match in which the team of an Affiliate was a participant, an Affiliate may dispute a match result or team list submitted by the opposing team. Any dispute must be based on fact, able to be proven and shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Disputes by an Affiliate must be lodged no later than 4.00 pm on the Monday following the match.
- (b) Disputes must be lodged in writing to the Association via email to the Secretary and Competition Manager outlining the facts of the dispute and the evidence available to support the dispute.
- (c) No party other than the Association Executive, the Competition Manager or the two Affiliates involved in the match shall have the right to dispute a match result and or team list.
- (d) As soon as practicable the Association shall provide written notice of a dispute to the two Affiliates through their respective contact email addresses (as provided to the Association).
- (e) As soon as practicable, the Association shall provide all other Affiliates with teams in that section of competition in which the two teams are participating notice of a “result in dispute” through their respective contact email addresses (as provided to the Association) and by annotation of the premiership ladder of that section of competition.

7.5 General Reports

Except as provided in Clause 7.4 any Affiliate wishing to make a report of any matter or any issue arising from a match shall do so in writing to the Secretary of the Association. A report may include but not be limited to:

- (a) general comments;
- (b) a reportable offence that may lead to an Investigation.

If the report relates to (b) the completed form must be received by the Association by the Monday following the match in question.

All reports must be considered confidential unless the parties involved agree to the contents being distributed.

8 Match Play Eligibility

8.1 General Principles

In the Regular Rounds, Affiliates shall have the power to select in any team, any player who meets the Player Eligibility Criteria for the section of competition in which the team is entered, except when the selection of player(s) after two-thirds of the Regular Rounds of a Regular Season has been completed contravenes the provisions of clause 8.4 of this clause.

8.2 Equal Ranking Grade Priority

8.2.1 Affiliates

Any Affiliate that has entered two or more teams in an equally ranked section of competition must nominate to the Association a ranking priority for each of those teams. The ranking priority nominated by the Affiliate shall then be notified by the Association to all other teams in the respective section of competition by application of a number in the ERS. This means that teams allocated a ranking priority of 1 shall be the highest ranked team for the Affiliate. This clause is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The Affiliate must provide the Association with the ranking priority nominations in a form determined by the Association no later than seven (7) Business Days prior to the commencement of the Regular Rounds of the Regular Season of the competition in which the teams are entered in the equally ranked section of competition.
- (b) Failure to rank all teams shall constitute an invalid nomination.
- (c) All priority rankings shall apply to all matches in the Regular Rounds of the Regular Season and Finals Matches of the section of competition for which the nomination applies.
- (d) A priority ranking nomination is not enduring and applies only to one Regular Season and Finals Matches of one section of competition.

8.2.2 Players

Each Affiliate shall nominate to the Association the names of the players in each of its teams. The names of the players nominated by the Affiliate shall then be notified by the Association to all other teams in the respective section of competition by making the names of players available at the technical bench. This clause is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The Affiliate must provide the Association with the names of the players in a form determined by the Association by Round 1. The list of players may be amended up to Round 3. New players after round 3 are deemed to play for the team the player for in their first game. Player Permits may be sought to change a player to another team.
- (b) The Affiliate can designate a player as the goalkeeper (“Designated Goalkeeper”).

8.3 Substitute Players

8.3.1 Designated Substitutes ()

- (a) Each Affiliate may select up to two Designated Substitutes per team from a lower ranked team, to play in a higher ranked team as a substitute if the higher ranked team is unable to field 11 players
- (b) Designated Substitute(s) must be clearly identified on the match card of the higher ranked team with the initials “DS”.
- (c) Designated Substitute(s) must be identified to the umpires before the start of play.
- (d) Each player may only do this five (5) times in a season. Once a player has participated in more than five matches for the higher ranked team, they are then automatically considered to be a player in the higher ranked team and no longer eligible to play for the lower ranked team in the remaining regular rounds of the season and finals matches.
- (e) Designated Goalkeepers (per clause 8.2.2(b)) in a higher ranked team may play as a field player in a lower ranked team as a Designated Substitute if the lower ranked team is unable to field eleven players.
- (f) Under Age players in a higher ranked team may play as a goalkeeper in a lower ranked team as a Designated Substitute if the lower ranked team is unable to field eleven players.
- (h) Use of Designated Substitute players is not permitted in any Finals Match. The player’s playing record will be used to determine the player’s eligibility to participate in any finals match.

8.3.2 Fill-ins from different Affiliates

At the start of the season the Association shall determine whether teams will have access to players from other Affiliates. If the Association makes that determination the following rules apply:

- (a) Full Field: Provided that an Affiliate has seven of their players on a match card each Affiliate may select up to two Fill Ins from other Affiliates, to play in their team but only to ensure that their team has an equal amount of players as the opposing team but no more than eleven players.
 - Hockey 5s: Fill ins are allowed. Teams must have a minimum of 3 registered players, with fills in up to 1 substitute (if the opposition also has a substitute).
- (b) Fill-Ins must be clearly identified on the match card of the team of the other Affiliate with the initials “FI”.
- (c) Fill-Ins must be identified to the umpires before the start of play.

- (d) Each player may only do this two (2) times in a season for each other team.
- (e) Use of Fill Ins players is not permitted in any Finals Match.

8.3.3 Consequences

- (a) Generally, any contravention of this rule shall result in the Designated Substitute(s) or Fill Ins being an ineligible player in the subsequent match in the players teams next scheduled match round regardless of the section of competition in which the player participates.
- (b) The penalty for playing an ineligible player shall be per clause 7.1.4.
- (c) The Association shall also have the discretion to declare a match forfeit against whichever team of an Affiliate it deems fielded players under this clause in a manner designed to gain an unfair advantage or to distort the rankings in a particular section of competition. The onus will be on the Affiliate to satisfy the Association that its use of this clause was not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage or to distort the rankings in a particular section of competition.

8.4 Anti-Stacking Provision

- 8.4.1 For an Affiliate with ranked teams as per clause 8.2, no more than two (2) players from the higher ranked team shall be relegated to play in a lower ranked team in a regular round of a regular season, provided that the relegated player does not take part in the higher ranked team's match for that round of competition. Such players may only be relegated to the Affiliate's next lowest ranked grade.
- 8.4.2 With five (5) matches of the Regular Rounds of a Regular Season of Senior competition still to be played, no more than two (2) players shall be selected in a lower ranked team who would not be able to complete the minimum required games as required for finals eligibility [as per clause 8.6(a)], on the assumption that those players were selected and able to play the uncompleted matches in the regular rounds of the regular season of that lower ranked team. Such players may only be relegated to the Affiliate's next lowest ranked grade.
- 8.4.3 The Association shall nevertheless have the discretion to declare a match forfeit against the team of an Affiliate where the Association deems that the Affiliate, without an explanation satisfactory to the Association, is deemed to have played a disproportionate number of regular players from a higher ranked team in a lower ranked team in a manner likely to gain an unfair advantage or to distort the rankings of the lower ranked grade.
- 8.4.4 In the event that the Association enters a "Development Team" into the competition to eliminate a bye in the fixture, then interim rules shall apply as developed by the Association prior to or as soon as practicable to the commencement of the regular rounds of the regular season.

8.5 Finals Eligibility

- 8.5.1 No player shall be eligible to play in any Finals Match with a team of an Affiliate unless they have played a minimum of five (5) matches (excluding all Designated Substitute or Fill Ins matches unless clause 8.3.1(d) applies) with such team in the Regular Rounds of a Regular Season in that Section of Competition for that Affiliate.
- 8.5.2 If a team is genuinely short of players as per clause 2.4.1 then permission may be sought from the Association Executive for an additional player(s) to make up the minimum of seven (7) required in order to take the field and up to but not exceeding eleven (11). Player(s) may be either:
- (a) a registered member of an eliminated team of that club where the club has more than one team in an equal grade;
 - (b) a registered member of a lower grade of that club not in finals;
 - (c) a registered member of a lower grade team of that club already in a final;
 - (d) a lower grade goalkeeper of that club already in a final where a higher grade goalkeeper is unavailable due to injury or illness; or
 - (e) a junior of that club who has qualified in a junior team.
 - (f) a player of that club who has qualified in another division of the association.
- 8.5.3 Where permission is sought in 8.5.2 the application must be in writing to the Association Secretary and include the name(s) of unavailable player(s) and their reason for absence as well as name(s) of replacement player(s).
- 8.5.4 Junior players are permitted to play Senior finals and Junior finals for which they have qualified as per 8.5.1.

8.6 Playing Permits

Any Affiliate that wishes to play a player who would otherwise be ineligible to play in any match may only field that player in that match if it has received a Playing Permit in respect of that player.

8.6.1 Application

Application for a permit must be received by the Association Secretary no later than three (3) days prior to the match for which the permit is sought.

The permit application shall be on the form provided by the Association from time to time and shall include:

- (i) name of the Affiliate seeking the permit
- (ii) full name and date of birth of the applicant player

- (iii) the recent playing record of the player where the player has not been playing in a competition that requires entries into the ERS
- (iv) the circumstances that require the permit
- (v) reasons why the Association should consider the granting of the permit.

The Association at its sole discretion may require a statutory declaration in regard to statements being made in support of a permit application.

8.6.2 Criteria

The Association considers that the Constitution and Regulations allow Affiliates considerable scope to select and manage their playing lists and therefore Playing Permits shall only be issued in exceptional circumstances.

Furthermore the disadvantage to opposing teams in the granting of such a permit shall be a major consideration particularly in respect to Finals Matches.

8.6.3 Approval

The Association's approval or denial of a Playing Permit with reasons for the decision shall be advised to the Affiliate via email. Each Playing Permit shall have a unique identifier that must be quoted if the eligibility of the player is challenged by the opposing team.

Playing Permits that would otherwise allow an ineligible player to take part in a match shall be automatically cancelled if the player receiving the permit plays in an equal or higher graded match before the expiry of the Playing Permit.

All matches played with a playing Permit will be included as part of the Permit player's playing record for that season. The player's playing record will be used to determine the player's eligibility to participate in any match for that season.

8.6.4 Notification

Any team playing a player under this clause is required to clearly indicate on the team sheet and the ERS that the player is eligible to play in terms of a Playing Permit and to clearly identify that permit.

All affiliates will be notified of any approved player permits via email.

8.7 Not used

8.8 Clearances

8.8.1 No player wishing to transfer within the Association from one Affiliate to another shall play in a match for the new Affiliate until they have obtained a written clearance from their former Affiliate, to be provided with the score card of their first match with their new Affiliate.

8.8.2 Any player transferring in accordance with clause 8.8.1 may be granted a permit to

play by the Association Executive pending receipt of the official clearance. Such permits shall expire after 28 days. Under special circumstances an extension of time may be granted by the Association Executive.

8.83 Clearances shall be subject to ratification by Association at the next meeting.

PENALTY

Failure to adhere to Clearance Regulations — Forfeit the match if won or drawn.

9 Officiating

9.1 Umpires

9.1.1 Rules of Hockey

Umpires shall officiate matches in accordance with the Playing Rules defined in clause 2.1 hereof.

9.1.2 Local Rules

Umpires shall ensure that the FIH Rules and Regulations of the Association regarding uniform, match play, equipment, team sheets and substitution and interchange are carried out correctly.

9.1.3 Match Conduct

During the match, an umpire may request that players, team management and spectators modify their behaviour, or that spectators and/or team management to change their position on or around the field to enable the match to be played safely and fairly.

Such requests may be made directly to the person(s) involved or through the team captain(s).

If such requests are not met, the umpire may:

- (a) take action in accordance with the FIH Rules,
- (b) stop the game until such time as the request(s) is complied with, or
- (c) terminate the game, and in that event shall submit a written report to the Association, who shall act at their discretion.

Such action should be reported to the Association and may be followed by an Investigation.

9.1.4 Umpire Precedence

Umpiring rostering will be determined by the Association at the start of each season.

Rostered Umpires shall have precedence. If no umpires are rostered or the Rostered Umpires fail to appear in time to start the match the two competing teams shall be responsible for the provision of umpires.

9.1.5 Rostered Umpires Fail to Arrive

Where the Rostered Umpire(s) fail to attend a match by the scheduled starting time clause 2.7 (d) shall apply.

9.1.6 Replacement Umpires

Umpires who commence the match shall not be replaced except:

- (a) upon agreement between the captains or in the respect of Under-Age teams the team managers, where a Rostered umpire(s) arrives after commencement of the match.
- (b) if an umpire becomes incapacitated, the captains shall agree on a replacement umpire.
- (c) in exceptional circumstances and in the interests of proper control of an Under-Age match, an Accredited Umpire who has been rostered as a tester or tutor may take control of the match.

9.1.7 Requirement For Umpires

Each person reporting for umpiring duties shall comply with the requirements detailed in the FIH Rules of Hockey.

9.1.8 Payment of Umpires

The total payment for each Umpire shall be in accordance with the amounts determined by the Association prior to the commencement of the regular rounds of the regular season each year.

9.1.9 Penalties

Failure of an Affiliate to provide its rostered umpire may result in the following penalties

- a) First instance \$50 penalty and no loss of match points
- b) Second instance \$100 penalty and no loss of match points
- c) Third instance loss of 4 match points

10 General

10.1 Club Delegates

a) As per clause 23.1 of the Constitution, an Affiliate is required to nominate 2 (two) club delegates. Where an Affiliate is not represented at an Association Meeting, the penalty will be the deduction of 4 (four) premiership points per senior team per occurrence at the discretion of the Association Executive. The penalty carries forward to the following year where there are no rounds left in the current year.

b) Affiliates will supply the names and contact details of two (2) representatives for any Tribunal Proceedings. Preference will be given for the delegates to be the President and Secretary of said Affiliate, however the representative does not have to be limited to either of these people.

10.2 Additional Office Holders

- 10.2.1 In addition to the officers noted in rule 22 of the Constitution, the Association may at its discretion elect additional positions
- 10.2.2 The provision of rule 24 of the Constitution, so far as they are applicable and with the necessary modifications, apply to and in relation to the election of persons to any of the offices referred to in clause 10.2.1
- 10.2.3 Persons elected to the positions in clause 10.2.1 shall be an officer of the Association as referred to in the Constitution.
- 10.2.4 Persons elected to the positions in clause 10.2.1 shall have the right to attend, and debate but not vote at committee meetings and special general meetings.
- 10.2.5 Affiliates may attend meetings electronically.

10.3 Association Teams

- 10.3.1 The Association may form teams to be entered into a Hockey Victoria competition.
- 10.3.2 The teams will be named at the discretion of the Association.
- 10.3.3 The Association Executives will have oversight of all Association representative teams, players and officers.
- 10.3.4 The teams may not be incorporated but will have the following officers, which may be one person:
 - (a) Team Manager – responsible for the administrative functions;
 - (b) Team Coach – responsible for the performance of the team;
 - (c) Team Treasurer – responsible for all of the financial aspects of the team in conjunction with the Association Treasurer.

APPENDIX 1 PENALTY SHOOTOUT COMPETITION

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/vichockey/files/onxsahp5oxhbd1vz.pdf>

APPENDIX 2 HOCKEY VICTORIA INCIDENT REPORT FORM

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/vichockey/files/qwitffhsg8wpy0lk.docx>