



2018 DARWIN HOCKEY LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES

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PART 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. POWER TO MAKE COMPETITION RULES

- 1.1 These Competition Rules are made by the Board of Hockey NT pursuant to the Constitution.
- 1.2 In the event of a conflict between these Competition Rules and the Constitution, the Constitution will prevail.

2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 All definitions in the Constitution and By Laws apply to these Competition Rules unless otherwise defined in these Competition Rules.
- 2.2 In addition, the following definitions apply unless the context otherwise requires:

Business Day means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia as declared pursuant to the *Public Holidays Act*.

Championship Trophy means the Club Championship trophy.

Code of Conduct means the code of conduct as made, from time to time, by the Board.

Competition means the Darwin Hockey League [Note: as at the date of these Competition Rules the Competition is generally held from March to September.]

Core Player means a Player who has been nominated by their Affiliated Club to only play in the designated Grade (or a higher Grade) in accordance with these Competition Rules.

Club Secretary means the Secretary of an Affiliated Club.

Field means the Field nominated by the Board, from time to time, for a Match to be played during the Minor Rounds and Finals.

Fixture means the complete set of matches for the Competition including dates, times and venues.

Grade means the Junior Grades and Senior Grades (noting that A Grade is a 'higher' grade than C Grade and similarly under 17's is a 'higher' grade than under 11's).

GST means any tax calculated by reference to the value of goods or a service provided, calculated and levied at the point of sale or supply of the goods or services and includes GST within the meaning of that abbreviation in the GST Act and any penalties imposed.

GST Act means *A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Tax Act 1999* (Cth) and includes other GST related legislation and regulations under that legislation.

Hockey Rules means the rules of outdoor hockey as made, from time to time, by the Federation International Hockey (as the international governing body of hockey) unless otherwise modified by these Competition Rules.

Junior Grade means those designated in Competition Rule 4.1(b).

Major Rounds (Finals) means the matches for each Grade (including semi-finals, preliminary final and the grand final) in the Competition.

Match means a game, played between two opposing teams in the same Grade, during the Competition.

Match Officials means the Umpires and Technical Bench Officials for the particular Match.

Minor Rounds means a set of matches for each Grade leading to qualification for participation in the Major Rounds of the Competition.

Non-Compliant Player means

- (a) a Player who is not registered pursuant to Competition Rule 12; and
- (b) a Transferring Player who has not received:
 - (i) a Clearance Notice; or
 - (ii) a determination from the Executive Officer pursuant to Competition Rule 13.

Penalty Mechanism means the mechanism prescribed by the Board for the determination of a Match in accordance with these Competition Rules. [Note: this could be penalty strokes, 'one on one' or some other mechanism.]

Player means an individual registered to play for a Team in accordance with these Competition Rules.

Premiership Ladder means the ladder maintained by the Association in accordance with Competition Rule 22.

Records Database means the electronic database endorsed by Hockey Australia from time to time and which stores the details of:

- (a) Players;
- (b) Teams,
- (c) Affiliated Clubs; and
- (d) the results of each Match. [Note: as at the date of these Competition Rules the relevant Records Database was SportsTG located at <https://sportsdesq.onesporttechnology.com/841>.]

Round means either, or both, Minor Rounds and Major Rounds

Senior Grade means those designated in Competition Rule 4.1(a).

Team:

- (a) consists of Players of the same Affiliated Club; and
- (b) is registered in a particular Grade pursuant to these Competition Rules.

Team Card means the form prescribed by the Board identified in Competition Rule 17

Technical Bench Official means a person who acts in the capacity of a technical bench official during any Match.

Match Tribunal means a tribunal appointed by the Executive Officer and formed, from time-to-time, to investigate offences and complaints under these Competition Rules.

Uniform includes the playing and alternate strips and socks meeting the requirements in Competition Rule 8 and approved by the Board as the Affiliated Club's uniform in accordance with Competition Rule 8.

Umpire means a person who acts in the capacity of an umpire during any Match.

2.3 In these Competition Rules:

- (a) headings and bold type are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of these Competition Rules;
- (b) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular;
- (c) words of any gender include all genders;

- (d) where a word or expression is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or expression have a corresponding meaning;
- (e) a reference to a document includes all amendments or supplements to, or replacements or novations of that document;
- (f) no provision of these Competition Rules will be construed adversely to a party because that party was responsible for the preparation of these Competition Rules or that provision;
- (g) a reference to a body, whether statutory or not:
- (h) which ceases to exist; or
- (i) whose powers or functions are transferred to another body
- (j) is a reference to the body which replaces it or which substantially succeeds to its powers or functions;
- (k) a reference to a time is a reference to the time in Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia;
- (l) specifying anything in these Competition Rules after the words 'include' or 'for example' or similar expressions does not limit what else is included;
- (m) all monetary amounts are in Australian dollars, unless otherwise stated;
- (n) a reference to any legislation includes all delegated legislation made under it and amendments, consolidations, replacements or re-enactments of any of them;
- (o) unless otherwise defined the term "prescribed" means prescribed by the Board from time to time;
- (p) an amount payable by a party under these Competition Rules in respect of a supply by the other party which is a taxable supply under the GST Act, unless expressly provided otherwise, represents the GST exclusive value and price of the supply and the recipient must pay to the supplier the GST Amount at the time that it pays the supplier the consideration for the Taxable Supply if a GST Invoice has been issued.
- (q) an example or note in the text of these Competition Rules is not part of these Competition Rules but are for provided guidance only; and
- (r) if an act must be done, or the last day upon which it may be done, falls on a specified day which is not a Business Day must be done on the next Business Day.

3. OVERARCHING DUTIES

The:

- (a) Affiliated Clubs (including their representatives);
- (b) Darwin Hockey League Advisory Panel; and
- (c) members of the Board,

must act in good faith in all their dealings pursuant to the Constitution, By Laws and these Competition Rules.

4. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 4.1 The Association has determined that at the date of these Competition Rules there will be the following categories of competitions for both male and female genders:-
- (a) Senior Grades encompassing A Grade, B Grade and C Grade
 - (b) Junior Grades encompassing Under 17, Under 14 and Under 11.

5. CLUB REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Each Affiliated Club must ensure that they Field:
- (a) a women's; and
 - (b) a men's,
- A-Grade team for each Match in that Grade during the Playing Season.

6. COMMUNICATION AND NOTICES

- 6.1 All applications, notices or other communication under these Competition Rules, unless otherwise determined by the Board from time to time, must be:
- (a) in Writing (which for the avoidance of doubt includes via electronic transmission); and
- 6.2 The Association, the Board and the Affiliated Clubs will endeavour to comply with the prescribed communications protocol (determined by the Board from time to time).

7. GENERAL PROVISIONS

7.1 Entire understanding

Subject to the Constitution these Competition Rules:

- (a) are the entire agreement and understanding regarding the conduct of the Playing Season; and
- (b) supersedes any prior agreement or understanding on anything connected with that subject matter.

7.2 Variation

An amendment or variation to these Competition Rules is not effective unless it is made in accordance with the Constitution. The Board may vary the Competition Rules at any time but also advise Affiliated Clubs of such variance within 24 hours of doing so.

PART 2: TEAM PROVISIONS

8. UNIFORMS

- 8.1 Each Affiliated Club must supply the Executive Officer with details of its current Uniform for approval. Any Affiliated Club can apply to amend its Uniform prior to the commencement of the Playing Season by making an application to the Board in accordance with the Boards' requirements (determined from time to time).
- 8.2 Each Affiliated Club must ensure (individually):
- (a) that each shirt worn by a Player participating in a Senior Grade has a unique number within the relevant Team for the relevant Grade);

- (b) following the first three (3) Minor Rounds, each Player is wearing the Uniform (subject to any dispensation issued by the Executive Officer).

[Note: refer to Competition Rule 31.3 in relation to fines and fees imposed for a breach of this Competition Rule]

| Uniform: | Requirement: |
|---------------------|--|
| Skirt/shorts/skorts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bicycle pants must be the same (or very similar) colour to the Uniform skirt/shorts; - slight differences from the approved Uniform will be permitted if due to: age, fading or manufacturers variations. |
| Socks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - slight differences from the approved Uniform will be permitted if due to: age, fading or manufacturers variations; - shin pads must be worn on the inside of the Uniform socks. |
| Shirts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - slight differences from the approved Uniform will be permitted if due to: age, fading or manufacturers variations; - numbers must be clearly displayed/visible on back of the shirt in a contrasting colour for all Senior Grades |

9. FEES

9.1 In accordance with the Constitution the Board shall determine:

- (a) the nomination fees for each Team;
- (b) (if applicable) any other fees for the Affiliated Clubs; and
- (c) the manner of payment and receipt of all fees,

due and payable to the Association from time to time prior to the commencement of the Playing Season.

9.2 For the avoidance of doubt:

- (a) the Board may, at its absolute discretion, accept the part payment of fees or vary the manner and method of payment; and
- (b) notwithstanding any withdrawal or forfeiture of a Team or Affiliated Club any incurred fees remain due and payable to the Association.

10. TEAM NOMINATIONS AND TEAM WITHDRAWALS

10.1 Any Affiliated Club may enter Teams for a Grade for the Competition by:

- (a) completing and lodging the prescribed entry form by the required deadline (as prescribed by the Board from time to time); and
 - (b) paying the prescribed team nomination fee,
- to the Association as specified by the Board from time to time.

10.2 For the avoidance of doubt the failure to comply with Competition Rule 10.1 renders a Team of an Affiliated Club ineligible to take part in the Playing Season.

10.3 If an Affiliated Club notifies the Executive Officer that a Team is being withdrawn (**Withdrawn Team**) after the commencement of the Playing Season then:

- (a) all Matches played, or to be played, by the Withdrawn Team shall be deemed forfeits and scored appropriately; and
- (b) any team replacing the Withdrawn Team (**Replacement Team**) is able to score points for all Matches actually won or tied (as the Replacement Team), but shall not be credited with any points scored by the Withdrawn Team.

10.4 For the avoidance of doubt any Withdrawn Team after the first Match shall be:

- (a) fined the prescribed amount; and
- (b) liable for all nomination fees that remain unpaid and outstanding.

[Note: refer to Competition Rule 31.3 in relation to fines and fees imposed for a breach of this Competition Rule]

11. FIXTURES

- 11.1 The Board, in conjunction with the Darwin Hockey League Advisory Panel, will determine the Fixtures for the Playing Season at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the Competition (subject to Team nominations being received in accordance with Competition Rule 10).
- 11.2 Prior to the Fixtures being determined in accordance with Competition Rule 11.1 each Affiliated Club is entitled, in extenuating circumstances, to make a submission to the Darwin Hockey League Advisory Panel on matters affecting the Fixtures but the determination is at the absolute discretion of the Board.

PART 3: PLAYER PROVISIONS

12. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 12.1 Each person who intends to play hockey during a Competition must, before, participating in a Match as a Player, submit a duly completed and executed prescribed online registration form (in whatever form is acceptable to the Board) to their nominated Affiliated Club.
 - (a) Each Affiliated Club must complete any other details on the Records Database as required by the Board from time to time.
- 12.2 For the avoidance of doubt a person is not registered as a Player in the following circumstances:
 - (a) the Records Database does not show such a Player to be active; and
- 12.3 The Association shall on each Wednesday during the Playing Season provide, individually, to each Club Secretary a list of potential Non-Compliant Players. If an Affiliated Club cannot reasonably demonstrate the relevant individual's registration in accordance with Competition Rule 12.2 then the individual shall be deemed to be a Non-Compliant Player.

[Note: refer to Competition Rule 31.3 in relation to the associated penalties].

13. PLAYER TRANSFERS

[Note: the process below applies for the Affiliated Clubs in the Darwin Hockey League and is not relevant for individuals moving from interstate or Alice Springs].

13.1 If a person is or was a member of one Affiliated Club and registered pursuant to Competition Rule 12 and wishes to become a member of a different Affiliated Club (**Transferring Player**) that process is a player transfer (**Player Transfer**).

13.2 The Player Transfer must occur in the following manner:

- (a) subject to Competition Rule 13.1, a Player Transfer may take place prior to the commencement of the seventh Fixture;
- (b) the parties to a Player Transfer must duly complete and sign the prescribed form;
- (c) a Player Transfer cannot occur if the Transferring Player has not received written notification that all monies due and payable to their Affiliated Club has been paid and no monies are owed (**Clearance Notice**);
- (d) all documentation must be lodged with the Association at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start to relevant match in which the Transferring Player participates for the new Affiliated Club; and
- (e) the new Affiliated Club of the Transferring Player must ensure that the Records Database is updated as necessary and the Affiliated Club must provide all necessary assistance in relation to this matter.
- (f) A player transferring from an Affiliated Club in Darwin to another Affiliated Club in Darwin will take across with them their core player status and penalty cards from the transferring Club

(NOTE: If a player was a core player at the initial Club they will automatically be a core player at the new Club in the same Grade – this will prevent an A grade players transferring to bolster a lower grade team in another Club)

13.3 Notwithstanding Competition Rule 13.2 a Transferring Player will have been deemed to have received the Clearance Notice from their Affiliated Club if:

- (a) the debt is incurred and unpaid by the Transferring Player for a period commencing three (3) years prior to the date of Transferring Player's application;
- (b) the Board determines, upon application of the Transferring Player, that no monies are owing to the current Affiliated Club; or
- (c) the Board determines, upon application of the Transferring Player, that:
 - (i) the current Affiliated Club has been dissolved or wound up pursuant to the Act; and
 - (ii) the Transferring Player has paid to the Association a nominated amount of the outstanding fees due to the Association from the current Affiliated Club.

13.4 In this clause the parties to a Player Transfer are:

- (a) the Transferring Player;
- (b) the current Affiliated Club; and
- (c) the new Affiliated Club.

[Note: the process below applies for the other people who are not members of an Affiliated Clubs and are moving from interstate or Alice Springs].

- 13.5 Permanent transfer: if a person, who relocates Darwin permanently, wishes to participate in a Match as a Player for an Affiliated Club then the Affiliated Club must:
- (a) Ensure the player is registered online;
 - (b) confirmation from the individual's ordinary club that they are financial and compliant with the requirements of that association; and
 - (c) confirmation that the Records Database is updated as necessary including registration of the Player in accordance with Competition Rule 12,
- prior to participating in any Match.
- 13.6 Temporary transfer: if a person, who returns to/visits Darwin temporarily, wishes to participate in a Match as a Player for an Affiliated Club then the Affiliated Club must apply to the Executive Officer including:
- (a) details of the individual;
 - (b) confirmation from the individual's ordinary club that they are financial and compliant with the requirements of that association and available to participate in a Match;
 - (c) confirmation that the Records Database is updated as necessary including registration of the Player in accordance with Competition Rule 12, and
 - (d) confirmation that the individual is otherwise eligible to participate in the relevant Match,
- prior to participating in any Match.

14. GRADING

- 14.1 A player cannot participate in both an A Grade and a C Grade match during the same round.
- 14.2 If a Player wishes to participate in both an A Grade and C Grade match during the same round they can only do so with the consent of the Executive Officer
- 14.3 If an Affiliated Club has more than one (1) Team nominated for a particular Grade then after the first three (3) Minor Rounds of the Competition a Player must only play for the Team they last played for in that Grade.
- [Note: An Affiliated Club, in extenuating circumstances, can apply to the Executive Officer for a dispensation in accordance with Competition Rule 13.]*
- 14.4 A player once having played in an A Grade match cannot play in any C Grade match at any time during the season unless consent of the Executive Officer to do so has been provided.

15. CORE PLAYERS

- 15.1 The Affiliated Clubs have determined that, in order to ensure fairness and in the spirit of sportsmanship, to institute a core player list in the following manner:
- (a) each Affiliated Club must, on the prescribed date and in the prescribed manner:
 - (i) prior to the commencement of the third Minor Round, nominate to the Executive Officer four (4) Core Players for each Team nominated for A Grade and B Grade by the Affiliated Club; *[Note: 4 Core Players in total for each Team.]*

- (ii) prior to the commencement of the fifth Minor Round, nominate to the Executive Officer another three (3) Core Players for each Team nominated for A Grade and B Grade by the Affiliated Club; and *[Note: 7 Core Players in total for each Team.]*
 - (b) If a Core Player does not participate as a Player in three (3) consecutive Matches, other than because of Representative Duty, then the Affiliated Club must nominate a substitute Core Player in accordance with the Competition Rule 15.1. except that if the Core Player to be replaced is actually returning to the team for the fourth match then they can remain on the Core Player list
- 15.2 In nominating Core Players and generally each Affiliated Club must ensure that:
- (a) any of their Players who during:
 - (i) the current; or
 - (ii) the immediately preceding two (2) Playing Season,
 is on Representative Duty for the under 18's teams, does not participate in the lowest Senior Grade (if there is more than one (1) Senior Grade); and
 - (b) any of their Players who during:
 - (i) the current; or
 - (ii) the immediately preceding two (2) Playing Season,
 is on Representative Duty for the under 21's and above teams are nominated as a Core Player for an A Grade Team.
 - (c) An Affiliated Club may apply to the Board to remove an individual from being a Core Player by:
 - (i) submitting the relevant information to the Executive Officer; and
 - (ii) proposing a replacement Core Player.
- 15.3 To ensure the Core Player process is being adhered to by all Affiliated Clubs the A Grade Core Player listings will be monitored by the Pathways Advisory Panel to ensure that the best players from the Affiliated Clubs are identified and placed on the Core Player list.

PART 4: MATCH PROVISIONS

16. RULES

- 16.1 The Association is bound by the Hockey Rules except where the Constitution, By Laws or these Competition Rules specifically modify the operation of those Hockey Rules.
- 16.2 C Grades and the Under 17 Junior Grade will play the accepted Hockey Rules with the following option:
 - (a) Any match that is scheduled to commence between 11:00am and 4:00pm shall be played in quarters if one team wishes to do so.
 - (b) If a C Grade, or under 17 junior, match is to be played under Competition Rule 16.2(a) it will consist of four (4) seventeen (17) minute quarters with a five (5)

minute half time break and two (2) minute breaks between the first and second and the third and fourth quarters.

16.3 Specific Rules for the Under 14 Junior Grade:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Shin pads | - all Players must wear shin pads |
| Mouthguards | - all Players are strongly encouraged to wear a mouthguard |
| Match duration | The duration of a Match for under 14's is four (4) @ twelve (12) minute quarters with a five (5) minute half time break and two (2) minute breaks between the first and second and the third and fourth quarters. |
| Player eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A person is eligible if they are the grade age or younger. [<i>Note: a person is the grade age is they reach that age on or before 1 January of the relevant year</i>] - Any Player may play in their age Grade and in any older age Grade. |
| Interchange | - Unlimited interchange players are permitted in the under 14's Grades. |
| Injury time | - For under 14's, in the event of injury, the clock is stopped to allow time for the injured Player to be treated or leave the Field [<i>Note: the Umpire can stop the Match at any time</i>]. |
| Goal keeping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a Team does not field a goalkeeper the coach must nominate and identify a "kicking back" who must wear a different coloured shirt. - The nominated "kicking back" must not take part in the match outside the half of the pitch they are defending when wearing the protective headgear but may remove the headgear and take part in the match anywhere on the pitch. - Protective headgear must be worn by the "kicking back" when defending a penalty corner. - The "kicking back" in an Under 14 match cannot be a player who is eligible to play in the Under 11 competition. |
| Coaches | - In the under 14 Grades one coach from each team is permitted to walk along the sidelines between the 23m lines. |

16.4 Specific Rules for the Under 11 Junior Grade

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Shin pads | - all Players must wear shin pads |
| Mouthguards | - all Players are strongly encouraged to wear a mouthguard |
| Match duration | The duration of a Match for under 11's is 2 @ 20 minute halves |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Player eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A person is eligible if they are the grade age or younger. [<i>Note: a person is the grade age is they reach that age on or before 1 January of the relevant year</i>] - Any Player may play in their age Grade and in any older age Grade. |
| Interchange | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlimited interchange Players are permitted in the under 11 Grades. |
| Shots | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The “tomahawk” shot is not permitted in the under 11 Grade |
| Injury time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The clock does not stop in the event of injury. |
| Goal keeping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a Team does not field a goalkeeper the coach must nominate and identify a “kicking back” who must wear a different coloured shirt. - The nominated “kicking back” must not take part in the match outside the half of the pitch they are defending when wearing the protective headgear but may remove the headgear and take part in the match anywhere on the pitch. - Protective headgear must be worn by the “kicking back” when defending a penalty corner. |
| Players on the Field | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There can be no more than seven (7) Players on the Field at any one (1) time. - A Player may be interchanged at any time. |
| High ball | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The hockey ball must not be lifted under any circumstances. |
| Penalty corners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the under 11’s Grade inside the circle the ball must be stopped before a shot at goal along the ground. |
| Penalty strokes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Penalty strokes may not be awarded. |
| Coaching | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One coach from each Team may be on the Field during the Match but must remain outside play. |
| Advantage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Umpires are to use their discretion when applying the Hockey Rules and seek to allow the Match to flow as much as possible |
| Sticks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Player must not raise the stick in dangerous manner. |
| Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the under 11’s Grade the Team with the most Competition Points is the winner of the competition either individually, jointly or severally. |

17. TEAM CARDS

- 17.1 Prior to each Match commencing each Team shall provide a duly completed Team Card to the Technical Bench Officials including:
- (a) the full name of:
 - (i) the Players participating in the Match including substitutes;
 - (ii) a maximum of four (4) Club officials participating in the Match (including the coach and team manager);
 - (b) the Uniform number of each Player (other than for the Junior Grades);
 - (c) any other information required by the Board from time to time.
- 17.2 A Technical Bench Official may:
- (a) require any person not listed on the relevant Team Card to be removed from the Field (including the bench); and
 - (b) report any misconduct (of whatever severity) by making a note of the Team Card.
- 17.3 During the Match the Technical Bench Officials will complete the Team Card by including the following details:
- (a) the commencement time of the Match;
 - (b) the result of the Match and the score;
 - (c) the goal scorers from each Team;
 - (d) any penalty cards awarded and to which Players;
 - (e) details of any incorrect Uniforms worn by which Players; and
 - (f) any other information required by the Association from time to time.
- 17.4 Following completion of the Match the Umpires will, not necessarily in this order:
- (a) ensure that the Technical Bench Officials have completed the Team Card in accordance with Competition Rule 17.3;
 - (b) complete the Team Card by including the following details:
 - (i) the best and fairest Players;
 - (ii) Play the Whistle points in accordance with Competition Rule 24;
 - (iii) any other information the Umpires need to provide to the Association such as whether a further investigation into a Player's behaviour should be undertaken;
 - (iv) any other information required by the Board from time to time,
 - (c) ensure both captains sign the Team Card;
 - (d) record protests from the captains on the Team Card, and provide the completed Team Card to the Association.

18. FORFEITS

- 18.1 A Club Secretary must notify the Executive Officer if their Team is unable to participate in a Match.

- 18.2 A Team is deemed to have forfeited if a Senior Team or nominated Junior Grades (being under 17's and under 14's) is unable to take to the Field with at least seven (7) Players within ten (10) minutes of the Umpire having signalled the commencement of the Match.
- 18.3 A team in the Under 11 Junior Grade is deemed to have forfeited if they are unable to take the field with at least six (6) players within ten (10) minutes of the Umpire having signalled the commencement of the Match
- 18.4 The Board will impose the following penalties against the relevant Affiliated Club and Team for the breaches of Competition Rule 18.1:
- (a) a fine in accordance with Competition Rule 31.3;
 - (b) the result of the relevant Match will be a score line of 3-0 against the forfeiting Team, and
 - (c) the Affiliated Club is liable for all costs associated with the Match (including the hire of the turf and the provision of Umpires) unless a "scratch match" is played.

[Note: Technical Bench to note whether "scratch match" occurs after forfeit].

19. TECHNICAL BENCH DUTY

- 19.1 The Board will determine, prior to the commencement of each Competition, the manner in which Technical Bench Officials will be organised and provided for the Matches.
- 19.2 Notwithstanding the above:
- (a) the Affiliated Clubs acknowledge that the provision of Technical Bench Officials is primarily a responsibility for each Affiliated Club;
 - (b) all Technical Bench Officials shall, following appointment or acting in the capacity of:
 - (i) are subject to control and authority of the Association;
 - (ii) will undertake their duties to the best of their ability and in good faith; and
 - (c) it is recognised that Technical Bench Officials provide a valuable service to the Association and are integral to the conduct of the Competition.

20. UMPIRING

- 20.1 The Board will determine, prior to the commencement of each Competition, the manner in which Umpires will be organised and provided for the Matches.
- 20.2 Notwithstanding the above if the two (2) appointed Umpires are not present on the Field five (5) minutes after the appointed commencement time of the Match then:
- (a) unless agreed by the respective Teams' captains a Match cannot commence with only one (1) Umpire (although the clock will commence); and
 - (b) the respective Teams' captains shall appoint and agree upon an Umpire or Umpires or, in the event of a dispute, as appointed by an independent third party (not being a member of the Affiliated Clubs playing).
- 20.3 Notwithstanding the above:
- (a) all Umpires shall, following appointment are:
 - (i) subject to control and authority of the Association; and
 - (ii) will undertake their duties to the best of their ability and in good faith; and

- (b) it is recognised that Umpires provide a valuable service to the Association and are integral to the conduct of the Competition; and
- (c) it is the guiding principle that:
 - (i) junior umpires should not umpire Matches in their own junior Grades unless accredited as a level 1 or level 2 umpire; and
 - (ii) persons should not act as umpires in Matches in which their Affiliated Clubs are participating.

21. MISCELLANEOUS

- 21.1 The Association will provide a hockey ball that is compliant with the Hockey Rules for all matches

PART 5: POINTS PROVISIONS

22. THE PREMIERSHIP LADDER

- 22.1 The Association will ensure that accurate statistics are maintained:
- (a) of the results of the Matches in the Minor Rounds;
 - (b) of the results of the Matches in the Major Rounds;
 - (c) of the goals scored by particular Players,
 - (d) penalty cards issued to particular Players:
- in accordance with good practice and these Competition Rules.
- 22.2 The Association will publish the Premiership Ladder publically from time to time in the manner it deems appropriate (in good faith and as soon as possible).
- 22.3 During the Minor Rounds the Association shall award competition points in the following manner (**Competition Points**):
- (a) in the event of a win: three (3) points to winning Team;
 - (b) in the event of a draw: one (1) point to each Team; and
 - (c) in the event of a loss: zero (0) points to losing Team.
- 22.4 The relative positions of each Team in each Grade on the Premiership Ladder shall be determined in the Minor Rounds as follows:
- (a) number of Competition Points;
 - (b) number of Matches won; and
 - (c) if still level: goal difference; and
 - (d) if still level: goals for.

23. BEST AND FAIREST

- 23.1 At the completion of each Match during the Minor Rounds (other than Matches for under 11's) the Umpires shall award best and fairest points in the following manner:
- (a) 3 points;
 - (b) 2 points; and
 - (c) 1 point

on the Team Cards.

- 23.2 Subject to Competition Rule 23.3, at completion of the Minor Rounds the Player in each Grade with the highest number of points shall be declared the best and fairest Player for that Grade for the Playing Season.
- 23.3 If the best and fairest is unable to be awarded pursuant to Competition Rule 23.2 because Players are tied on the same number of best and fairest points then:
- (a) in Senior Grade: the award will be determined in the following sequence:
 - (i) the Player who was awarded the most "3" points shall win; and
 - (ii) if still tied: the Player who was awarded the most "2" points shall win; and
 - (iii) if still tied: the Player with the most "1" points shall win; and
 - (iv) if still tied: the awarded shall be jointly or severally presented and held.
 - (b) in the Junior Grades: the award shall be jointly or severally presented and held.

24. PLAY THE WHISTLE

At the completion of each Match during the Minor Rounds (other than Matches for under 11's) the Match Officials shall jointly award 1 "play the whistle" point between the Teams in whatever manner they see fit (including not awarding the point).

25. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

- 25.1 The Association shall award the Championship Trophy to the Affiliated Club that, during the Minor Rounds (not including the Finals), displays the following attributes:
- (a) of sportsmanship; and
 - (b) achievement.
- 25.2 Affiliated Clubs accumulate points for the Championship Trophy in the following manner:
- (a) the awarding of points:
 - (i) one (1) point awarded for a Team in the Senior Grade that wins a Match; and
 - (ii) one (1) point awarded for a Team in a Junior Grade that wins a Match.
 - (b) the deduction of points:
 - (i) (if applicable) one (1) point deducted if the Affiliated Club fails to supply an Umpire for Senior Grade Matches;
 - (ii) one (1) point for each Player receiving either a yellow or red personal penalty suspension during a match as a result of Competition Rule 29; and
- 25.3 In the event that an Affiliated Club has more than one (1) team in any Grade then only the highest ranked team from that Affiliated Club in that Grade will be eligible to be considered in the Club Championship points.
- 25.4 In the event there is more than one Affiliated Club with the same number of club championship points then the Affiliated Club who will be awarded the Championship Trophy will be determined in the following sequence:
- (c) the Affiliated Club with the least number of points deducted in accordance with Competition Rule 25.2(b).

- (d) if still tied: the Affiliated Club with the most Matches won during the Competition (for both Senior Grades and Junior Grades);
- (e) if still tied: the Affiliated Club with the most Matches won for the Junior Grades during a Playing Season;
- (f) if still tied: the Affiliated Club with the most Matches won for the Senior Grades during a Playing Season; and
- (g) if still tied: the Affiliated Club with the most “play the whistle” points.

26. TROPHIES

- 26.1 The Board will determine in writing, from time to time, the manner in which it deals with its property. However, in the absence of such a determination, if a shield or trophy is temporarily loaned to an Affiliated Club then:
- (a) the Affiliated Club will pay a fully refundable deposit (prescribed in the budget) to the Association prior to taking possession;
 - (b) the Association will repay the deposit to the Affiliated Club upon the return of the object in the same condition (fair wear and tear excepted); and
 - (c) the Affiliated Club will be charged the replacement value if it fails to return the object within 30 days of being requested by the Association..
- 26.2 For the avoidance of doubt, any chattel (including any shield or trophy):
- (a) purchased for; or
 - (b) donated to,
- the Association remains the property of the Association.

PART 6: PENALTY PROVISIONS

27. BEHAVIOUR

- 27.1 To ensure that the integrity of hockey is upheld:
- (a) members of all Affiliated Clubs must comply with the Code of Conduct;
 - (b) members of all Affiliated Clubs must not to make derogatory comments in the public arena (including on any social media platform) regarding:
 - (i) the performance of Match Officials;
 - (ii) other Affiliated Clubs;
 - (iii) Players; or
 - (iv) any member of any Affiliated Club,
- 27.2 It is an offence to:
- (a) use bad, obscene, abusive, intimidating, insulting or offensive language towards;
 - (b) threaten;
 - (c) assault
- any person during or in connection with any Match.
- 27.3 A breach of this Competition Rule 27 is an offence and will be dealt with in accordance with Competition Rule 29.

28. PENALTIES

- 28.1 The following are breaches of these Competition Rules and will result, automatically, with a penalty being imposed by the Board:
- (a) a Non-Compliant Player participating in a Match;
 - (b) a Player who is suspended pursuant to Competition Rule 29 participating in a Match;
 - (c) a Team having additional Players on the Field (in excess of the prescribed number) during a Match; and
 - (d) a Team providing an incorrect or incomplete Team Card (including tampering with a Team Card).
- 28.2 The Board will impose the following penalties against the relevant Affiliated Club and Team for each breach of Competition Rule 28.1:
- (a) a fine in accordance with Competition Rule 31.3; and
 - (b) the result of the relevant Match will be the greater of:
 - (i) the game score; or
 - (ii) a score line of 3-0 against the breaching Team.
- 28.3 If an Affiliated Club breaches Competition Rule 15 then:
- (a) in the first instance: three (3) club championship points will be deducted for every week or part thereof that the Core Player nominations are not received;
 - (b) in any subsequent instance:
 - (i) three (3) Competition Points will be deducted for every week or part thereof that the Core Player nominations are not received; and
 - (ii) a fine in accordance with Competition Rule 31.3 for the breaching Team.
- 28.4 Irrespective of any penalties imposed on an Affiliated Club or Team in accordance with Rule 28 any individual best and fairest votes, and / or penalty cards will be retained by any individual player from the match.

29. PERSONAL PENALTIES

- 29.1 Umpires will, subject to their own discretion, endeavour to issue a verbal warning in relation to any breach of the Hockey Rules (or these Competition Rules) prior to issuing a Personal Penalty.
- 29.2 Pursuant to the Hockey Rules any Umpire may award a personal penalty to a Player or Team official during a Match and, in the event such a penalty is awarded each Umpire must ensure details are recorded on the Team Card including:
- (a) the individual the subject of the penalty;
 - (b) the colour of the card awarded; and
 - (c) the reason for issue.
- 29.3 In the event that a Personal Penalty is awarded by an Umpire then the Hockey Rules determine the period of suspension during the Match.
- 29.4 The Board has determined, to ensure fairness and sportsmanship to impose a suspension system during the Competition.

29.5 If any Player:

- (a) accumulates three (3) yellow cards during Competition then that Player is automatically suspended from participating as a Player in any Match (for any Grade) for the following Round; and
- (b) then accumulates two (2) additional yellow cards during the Competition then that Player is automatically suspended from participating as a Player in any Match (for any Grade) for the following two (2) Rounds (*noting that every accumulation of two (2) additional yellow cards results in a suspension*); and
- (c) accumulates a red card during the Competition then that Player is automatically suspended from participating as a Player in any Match (for any Grade) from the moment they receive the red card until at least 11:59pm on the Monday night next following the full Round of matches in the grade in which they received the red card. for the following Round (and the suspension may be increased by the Tribunal); and

if the Player's Teams are not scheduled to play, for whatever reason, that does not constitute as a Match for the purpose of a suspension pursuant to this Competition Rule.

29.6 The Executive Officer will notify the relevant Player and Affiliated Club in writing of any suspension as soon as possible.

29.7 Each Umpire may:

- (a) request, prior to the next Round commencing, that the Board investigate further the conduct of a Player who has been awarded a personal penalty;
- (b) elect that the captain of the Team to serve the penalty of the Team official or, if this is not the case, the Team official must vacate the Field;

30. PROTESTS/COMPLAINTS

30.1 Any matter of protest, allegation, charge or any infringement of these Competition Rules reported to the Board:

- (a) via the Team Cards; or
- (b) directly,

may be considered by the Board.

30.2 The Board is to determine the matter in the manner it sees fits but in accordance with:

- (a) procedures of and principles of:
 - (i) good administration;
 - (ii) due process; and
 - (iii) natural justice, and
- (b) the matter must be determined within seven (7) business days of it being reported to the Board;

30.3 For the avoidance of doubt the Board may, on its own initiative, refer matters to the Tribunal including breaches of these Competition Rules by an Affiliated Club.

30.4 The Board has the following specific powers:

- (a) if a matter is in relation to the result of a Match then the Board may:
 - (i) uphold the result of the Match;
 - (ii) alter the result of the Match; or

- (iii) order the Match to be replayed,
- (b) if a matter is in relation to an alleged breach of these Competition Rules then the Board may:
 - (i) dismiss the alleged breach; or
 - (ii) determine the alleged breach occurred and:
 - (A) impose a fine; and/or
 - (B) impose a suspension;
- (c) any ancillary powers in relation to the above.

31. FINES

- 31.1 The Executive Officer is empowered to collect any monies payable under these Competition Rules.
- 31.2 If a fine is imposed pursuant to these Competition Rules then:
- (a) individuals must pay within seven (7) days of the date of the issue of the fine (and individuals are unable to participate in any Match until the fine is paid in full); and
 - (b) an Affiliated Club must pay the fine within fourteen (14) days of the date of issue of the fine (and Affiliated Clubs are ineligible to participate in Finals if the fine is overdue until the fine is paid in full).
- 31.3 The schedule of fines which are to be determined and imposed by the Board for strict liability matters are as follows:-

| Description | Competition Rule reference | Amount: |
|--|------------------------------|----------|
| Fines | | |
| Failure to nominate Core Players | Competition Rule 15.1(a) | \$100.00 |
| Playing a Non-Compliant Player | Competition Rule 12.4 | \$25.00 |
| Failure to submit a Team Card | Competition Rule 17.1 | \$25.00 |
| Forfeiting without prescribed notice | Competition Rule 18.1 | \$50:00 |
| Failure of a Team to take to the Field within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled commencement | Competition Rule 18.2 & 18.3 | \$30.00 |
| Team Withdrawal | Competition Rule 10.4 | \$25.00 |
| Failure to comply with Uniform requirements | Competition Rule 8.2 | \$10.00 |
| Failure to supply an umpire, if applicable | Competition Rule 20.1 | \$50:00 |

PART 7: DARWIN SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

32. C GRADE (OR THE LOWEST SENIOR GRADE)

32.1 A maximum of eighteen (18) Players are permitted in the lowest Senior Grade.

[Note: as at the date of these Competition Rules the lowest Senior Grade is C Grade].

33. ON THE FIELD/OFF THE FIELD

33.1 The only persons permitted on the Field are the Umpires, the Players or persons specifically invited by the Umpires.

33.2 Subject to these Competition Rules, there shall be no coaching (including guidance) of any Team from the outside the designated dugout.

[Note: See Competition Rules 16.3 and 16.4 regarding coaches being permitted on the Field during the Match for some Junior Grades].

34. INTERRUPTION AND POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES –

34.1 If the Fields are:

- (a) unfit; or
- (b) unavailable,

in accordance with the approved Fixtures then the Association must reschedule the relevant Matches.

34.2 If a Match is interrupted by the Match Officials, including for:

- (a) bad weather including thunderstorms and lightning;
- (b) heavy rain;
- (c) lack of lighting; or
- (d) safety,

the Match should be resumed within thirty (30) minutes of the cessation of play if the reason for the interruption is no longer relevant.

34.3 If the Match cannot be resumed then the Match shall be suspended and:

- (a) if:
 - (i) the Match has commenced; and
 - (ii) fifty (50) minutes have been completed in all Senior and Under 17 matches and forty (40) minutes in Under 14 matches;

the score as at the time of the cessation of play will be deemed to be the final score for that Match.

- (b) otherwise if the Match is rescheduled then:
 - (i) the time and date must be approved by the Executive Officer;
 - (ii) the Match will resume with the time remaining and score as at the time of the cessation of play with as many of the same participants from the original match as possible: replacements are not permitted
 - (iii) for Matches during the Major Rounds the Match shall resume from the point of play on the Field as at the time of the cessation of play.

PART 8: FINALS PROVISIONS

35. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- 35.1 To participate in any Finals:
- (a) an Affiliated Club must have no monies unpaid or outstanding to the Association; and
 - (b) a Player must have no monies unpaid or outstanding to:
 - (i) the Association.

36. MAKE-UP OF THE FINALS

- 36.1 At completion of the Minor Rounds the first four (4) Teams on the Premiership Ladder in each Grade compete in the Major Rounds.
- 36.2 If the Teams are equal number of Competition Points then the position and eligibility is determine by the following sequence:
- (a) number of Matches won, and
 - (b) if still level: goal difference, and
 - (c) if still level: goals for, and
 - (d) if still level: result of the Matches between the tied Teams, and

37. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 37.1 Any Player who has participated as a Player:
- (a) with their Affiliated Club for less than five (5) Minor Rounds will be ineligible to participate as a Player in any Major Round.
- 37.2 Subject to these Competition Rules, a Player cannot participate in the Major Rounds for a lower Grade than their eligibility allows
- 37.3 The requirement for eligibility to participate as a Player in the Major Rounds are as follows:

| Category: | Requirement: | Examples: |
|-----------|--|--|
| Juniors | Played 5 Minor Rounds for their registered Club in the age division applicable based on date of birth. | <p>An Under 11 player who has played five (5) minor rounds may play in the Under 14 or Under 17 Grade finals matches</p> <p>An Under 14 player who has played five (5) minor rounds is eligible for both Under 14 and Under 17 Grade finals matches</p> <p>An Under 17 player who has played five (5) minor rounds is eligible to play in Under 17 and senior grade finals matches.</p> <p>Any junior player who is a regular senior grade player will also be bound by Competition Rules 14 & 15.</p> |

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| Seniors | Played 5 Minor Rounds for their registered Club and must comply with Competition Rules 14 & 15 | <p>Competition Rule 14 restricts any player who has played A Grade from playing C Grade at any time during the season without the consent of the Executive Officer.</p> <p>Competition Rule 15 caters for Core players who cannot play in a grade below their core player status.</p> <p>There is no restriction on any player playing up a grade in the finals series provided they have played the minimum five (5) minor rounds for their registered Club.</p> |
|---------|--|---|

38. MAJOR ROUNDS

- 38.1 The Major Rounds for each Grade will be organised and played in the following manner:
- (a) the first semi-final will be played between the first and second Teams on the Premiership Ladder and the winner of that Match will advance to the grand-final;
 - (b) the second semi-final will be played between the third and fourth Teams on the Premiership Ladder;
 - (c) the preliminary final will be played between the loser of the first semi-final and the winner of the second semi-final; and
 - (d) the grand final will be played between the winner of the first semi-final and the winner of the preliminary final.

39. RULES FOR MAJOR ROUNDS

- 39.1 If, during the Senior Grade and Under 17 Junior Major Rounds, the score is equal at the completion of regulation playing time (according to the Hockey Rules) then:
- (a) an additional fourteen (14) minutes will be played, following a five (5) minute break, in two (2) seven (7) minute periods in which the first goal scored wins the Match; and
 - (b) if the score is equal then the Penalty Mechanism in accordance with the Hockey Rules shall be played.
- 39.2 If, during the Under 14 Junior Grade Major Rounds, the score is equal at the completion of regulation playing time (according to the Hockey Rules) then;
- (a) an additional ten (10) minutes will be played, following a five (5) minute break, in two (2) five (5) minute periods in which the first goal wins the match; and
 - (b) if the score is still equal then the team that finished higher on the Premiership Ladder at the end of the Minor Round is the winner.

PART 9: SUBCOMMITTEE PROVISIONS

40. MATCH TRIBUNAL

40.1 The Match Tribunal:

- (a) Will consist of three (3) individuals who may have expertise in a particular area (such as umpiring, player, legal profession) and be of good standing in the community; and
- (b) will be appointed for:
 - (i) a particular incident.
- (c) shall investigate and determine matters referred to it by the Board pursuant to Competition Rule 29.

[Note: The Board will in accordance with Competition Rule 29, upon receipt of a protest or complaint, will determine whether the matter should be referred to Tribunal.]

40.2 The Executive Officer may appoint the Tribunal members ensuring:

- (a) a Tribunal member is not a member of the Affiliated Club the subject of the determination; and
- (b) the Tribunal member has the necessary skills in relation to the matter the subject of the referral.

40.3 The Tribunal is to determine the procedures to be followed in connection with any matters referred to it however:

- (a) such procedures must be in accordance with:
 - (i) good administration;
 - (ii) principles of due process; and
 - (iii) principles of natural justice,
- (b) a matter must be determined within seven (7) business days of being referred to the Tribunal or as otherwise determined by the Tribunal;
- (c) in considering a penalty/sanction may consider:
 - (i) any extenuating circumstances;
 - (ii) the severity of the incident;
 - (iii) previous incidents involving the person; and
 - (iv) any other matter which the Tribunal considers relevant.
- (d) the Tribunal must report its findings in writing to:
 - (i) the parties involved; and
 - (ii) the Board,
 as soon as possible.

40.5 The Tribunal may utilise the following chart as a guide to the level of penalty imposed on an individual or Affiliated Club if found guilty of an offence:

- (a) For individuals –

| Offence | Suspension Guideline |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Umpire dissent: | |
| – disputing an Umpire's decision | 1 Round |
| Umpire abuse (verbal or physical whether on or off the Field) | |
| – use of lewd gestures | 1 Round |
| – striking an Umpire | Life |
| Misconduct (whether on or off the Field) | |
| – breach of the Code of Conduct | 1 Round |
| – breach of these Competition Rules | 1 Round |
| – persistent and deliberate breach of the Hockey Rules | 1 Round |
| – persistent and deliberate breach of the Code of Conduct | 1 Round |
| – abuse of equipment, either personal or Association | 2 Rounds |
| – abusive conduct | 4 Rounds |
| – threatening a Player, official, or Umpire | 4 Rounds |
| Striking (on the Field) | |
| – punching or deliberately elbowing any other Player | 4 Rounds |
| – deliberately kicking any other Player | 4 Rounds |
| – deliberately striking any other Player with a stick | 8 Rounds |
| – second striking offence | 1 year |

(b) For Affiliated Clubs:

| Offence | Suspension Guideline: |
|---|------------------------------|
| – breach of the Code of Conduct | \$150.00 |
| – breach of these Competition Rules | \$150.00 |
| – persistent and deliberate breach of the Code of Conduct | \$300.00 |

PART 10: HEALTH & SAFETY PROVISIONS

41. BLOOD POLICY

- 41.1 An umpire is required to call 'time off' when a player who is bleeding is noticed or an on field player has indicated the presence of blood.
- 41.2 Normal injury time and procedures shall apply (up to a maximum of two (2) minutes), in addition:-
- (i) The wound must be adequately covered
 - (ii) Blood stained clothing shall be removed or cleaned
 - (iii) The ball and the field shall be cleaned if necessary.
- 41.3 The match is NOT to continue until all aspects of Rule 41.2 are met to the Umpires satisfaction. Player/s may be removed from the game if they fail to meet these rules.
- 41.4 Once the umpire is satisfied that all requirements have been met they will call 'time on'

42. CONCUSSION PROCESS

- 42.1 Hockey NT has a Concussion Guidelines document which should be utilised in conjunction with the below process should a participant be thought to be suffering from concussion.
- 42.2 If an Umpire is made aware of a player having suffered a knock to the head, in whatever circumstance, they are immediately to call "time off".
- 42.3 Any player suffering a head knock that displays **any** of the following clinical features either observed directly or reported by others **must** be removed from play:-
- (i) Loss of consciousness or prolonged immobility (greater than 2 seconds)
 - (ii) No protective action in fall to the ground (not bracing for impact)
 - (iii) Impact seizure (stiffening arms or legs on impact)
 - (iv) Balance disturbance (loss of control over movements)
 - (v) Dazed, blank/vacant stare or not their normal selves
 - (vi) Unusual behaviour change for the player
 - (vii) Confusion or disorientation
 - (viii) Memory impairment (eg fails Maddock's questions)
 - (ix) Player reports concussion symptoms
- 42.4 To assist in Rule 42.3 (viii) the following style of questions can be asked of the player to assist in any assessment:-
- (i) What venue are we at today?
 - (ii) Which half is it now?
 - (iii) Who scored last in this game?
 - (iv) What team did you play last week?
 - (v) Did your team win the last game?

- 42.5 Failure of a participant to answer any of these questions satisfactorily must result in them not being allowed to resume playing in the match and they must be supported to seek professional medical advice / treatment – refer to the Concussion Guidelines documentation which will be located in the Technical Bench folder during matches or can be accessed at www.hockeynt.asn.au

