



**HOCKEY GEELONG**

Geelong Hockey Association

# **HOCKEY GEELONG FEE PAYMENT POLICY**

## **POLICY**

The Geelong Hockey Association (trading as Hockey Geelong, and commonly referred to as HG) is a non-profit sporting club, which relies heavily on member fees to remain financially viable.

We aim to keep fees as low as possible. However, it's essential fees provide a reliable income stream to help ensure all operating costs are met and that we are able to provide for unexpected expenses and future planning, when required.

Membership fees are set by the Association's Management Committee and reflect the costs associated with running the Association.

These costs include, but are not limited to:

- insurance
- turf charges
- ground maintenance
- facility management - e.g. electricity, cleaning
- umpiring
- purchase and maintenance of equipment
- coaching
- first aid supplies
- Hockey Victoria affiliation fees
- other professional fees

Fees are also used to support our Junior Development Programmes and Representative Teams and affiliate clubs.

Different fees may apply to different sections of the Association (e.g. men, women, junior, concession and masters).

Every attempt is made to ensure all members are making a fair contribution to operating costs and expenses, whilst also balancing the need to accommodate current strategic goals.

Our Association cannot exist without timely fee payments. Therefore, membership fees must be paid before a player can take part in any competition (winter, summer or indoor). Alternatively, a Payment Plan must be discussed and agreed with the Treasurer in accordance with the Association's Membership Fee Schedule.

### **PAYMENT PLANS:**

Payment Plans are a way of reducing the impact of players' hockey fees by spreading smaller payments over a longer period rather than requiring a single lump sum.

Flexible arrangements may be made to fit in with pay cycles or individual circumstances.

Payment Plans must:

- be discussed and agreed with the Treasurer
- include an initial payment by round 1
- involve an automatic direct debit (no cash payments allowed).

### **OUTSTANDING FEES**

Players with a debt from a previous year will not be eligible to play until outstanding fees have been paid. Players may arrange to make part payment of fees with the Treasurer. However, players will not be able to

play if the fees they've paid are less than the cost of playing those rounds (e.g. pay for first six rounds, eligible to play up to and including round six).

#### **MID-SEASON MEMBERSHIP**

From time to time players join the Association midseason. Players commencing at the start of the season are expected to pay for the full season. Players commencing after round six are expected to pay two-thirds of the applicable fee and players commencing after round 12 are expected to pay one third of the applicable fee.

#### **FINANCIAL HARDSHIP PROVISION**

The Club may help players experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees. Players should raise the matter with the Treasurer prior to the start of the relevant season; all requests will be kept confidential .

#### **REFUNDS**

In exceptional circumstances fee refunds may be available at the discretion of the Treasurer. Each request will be considered on individual merit.

#### **TRANSFERS**

If a financial member of the Association transfers to another club mid -season, a pro-rata refund of fees for the remaining rounds of the current season can be claimed. If a player who owes money to the Association wishes to transfer to another club, the clearance may be delayed until all outstanding fees are paid.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

This policy applies from 1st September, 2016 and applies to all prior year's outstanding fees at (30th August, 2016).