

HOCKEY GEELONG

COMPETITION BY-LAWS.

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1. COMPETITION SUBCOMMITTEE.

1. COMPETITION SUBCOMMITTEE.

- 1.1 The Competition Committee shall be constituted for the purposes described in Rule 38.
- 1.2 There shall be one Association Umpires Manager, who shall be appointed by the Umpires Committee.
- 1.3 The Competition Committee shall consist of
 - 1.3.1 the Competition Committee chairperson, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting,
 - 1.3.2 members of the Match Committee, who shall be elected at the first Competition Committee meeting of the year; and
 - 1.3.3 delegates of affiliated clubs.
 - 1.3.3.1 Affiliated clubs may nominate one delegate for each competition (men, women, juniors) in which the club has teams entered.
- 1.4 The Competition Committee shall have a Match Committee, which shall consist of the Chairperson of the Competition Committee, six elected members and the Association Umpires Manager
 - 1.4.1 The Match Committee shall be responsible for overseeing registrations of players, management of results for all competitions and any other duties as directed by the Competition Committee.
 - 1.4.2 The Match Committee shall be empowered to make decisions regarding clearances, match cancellations and rescheduling, and is responsible for the preparation of the Winter fixture.
 - 1.4.3 A quorum for a meeting of the Match Committee shall be 3.
- 1.5 Affiliated clubs shall register with the Secretary on the appropriate form each year details of appointed delegates to the Committees as required from time to time.
 - 1.5.1 Only delegates who have been duly registered with the Association are entitled to vote at a meeting of the Competition Committee.
 - 1.5.2 Clubs must notify the Secretary on the appropriate form of the resignation of a delegate.
 - 1.5.3 Each affiliated club must be represented at any meeting of the Competition Committee by at least one delegate.
- 1.6 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in any position filled in accordance with this By-Law, the Competition Committee shall appoint a replacement.
- 1.7 A quorum for a meeting of the Competition Committee shall be the number of delegates equal to the number of affiliated clubs, provided that at least 50% of affiliated clubs or associations are represented.
- 1.8 If a registered delegate is unable to attend a meeting of the Committee, they may give written notification prior to the meeting of the assignment of their proxy vote to another member of their club or to a registered delegate of another club.
- 1.9 A fine shall be levied on those clubs who are unrepresented at a meeting of the Competition Committee where no apology or proxy vote is received.
- 1.10 Apologies or proxy votes will only be accepted for two meetings in succession. After this time, if not represented in person, the Club shall be fined the appropriate amount.

2. ROLE OF COMPETITION COMMITTEE AND ELECTED MEMBERS.

- 2.1 The Role of the Competition Committee will be to oversee the conduct of Men's, Women's and Junior competitions of Hockey Geelong.
 - 2.1.1 At the first Competition Committee meeting of the year, the Competition Committee will set the dates for the start and end of the home and away season, to allow fixture preparation by the Match Committee.
 - 2.1.2 The Competition Committee is empowered to make, amend or rescind bylaws to administer and control the relevant competitions under its' control.
 - 2.1.3 All decisions made by the Competition Committee shall only become effective following ratification by the Committee of Management of the Association.
- 2.2 The Competition Committee members elected to specific positions shall perform the duties as specified in the G.H.A. Procedures Manual as amended from time to time and undertake such other duties as directed by the Competition Committee.
- 2.3 The Committee shall meet at least twice during the winter season, and at such other times as are deemed necessary by the Committee.
- 2.4 At least 14 days notice of a meeting of the Competition Committee shall be given in writing to all registered delegates and appointees to the Committee, unless by special agreement to the contrary of the Committee.
- 2.5 Competition By-Laws shall be made, amended or rescinded by the Competition Committee of the Association in the following manner:
 - 2.5.1 Notice of Motion of the proposed alteration shall be given at least 14 days before a meeting of the Competition Committee and may be dealt with at the next meeting.
 - 2.5.2 No alteration shall be made unless supported by at least two thirds of those members present who are entitled to vote.
- 2.6 Any proposed alteration shall not be contrary to the Rules and Statement of Purposes of the Association.

3. ENTRY OF TEAMS.

- 3.1 Affiliated Clubs or Associations may apply to enter teams in the Competitions of the Association by forwarding a completed entry form by the given date to the Secretary, giving all information as required.
- 3.2 The acceptance of any applications made under By-Law 3.1 shall be at the discretion of the Competition Sub-Committee.
- 3.3 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Match Committee.
- 3.4 A non-refundable deposit shall accompany each senior team competition nomination before acceptance of that nomination.
 - 3.4.1 Any Club defaulting in the previous year may be required to pay twice the sum of the deposit in the next year.
 - 3.4.2 The deposit will be taken as a credit toward the yearly competition fee.
- 3.5 Any club may by notice in writing to the Secretary withdraw any of its teams. Any club doing so will forfeit their deposit, to the funds of the Association. If the team is withdrawn during the season, the Match Committee of the appropriate Competition will decide how the points, goals etc. will be allocated.

4. UNIFORMS.

- 4.1 Each club shall register in writing with the Association its playing uniform.
- 4.2 The Competition Subcommittee may grant or refuse permission for a club to wear that uniform.
- 4.3 Such playing uniforms may be altered from time to time with the approval of the Competition Subcommittee.
- 4.4 Registered uniforms of existing clubs are not subject to change except at the request or with the approval of that club.
 - 4.4.1 Women club uniforms may include shorts or skirts.
- 4.5 All players are required to play in registered club colours. The goalkeeper may wear a tracksuit or similar apparel over his/ her registered shirt, unless objected to by the opposing captain and/or umpire.
- 4.6 Each player (except the goalkeeper) shall wear a distinguishing number on the back of his/her shirt. The number shall be at least 200 mm high.
 - 4.6.1 All players in the one team shall have unique numbers which shall be recorded on the team sheet.
- 4.7 If there is a conflict in the uniforms of any teams competing against each other, the visiting team shall wear an alternative uniform.
- 4.8 The Competition Subcommittee Convenor shall keep a register of Club colours and uniforms.
- 4.9 After a team has played two fixtured matches, all players must be in the registered uniform unless approval has been given by the Match Committee. Such approval shall be recorded on the back of the scorecard.
 - 4.9.1 Only two such approvals shall be given to the same player.
- 4.10 Any infringement of this rule is to be noted on the match report by the umpire.
- 4.11 Failure to comply with By-Law 4 after two matches have been played by the team will attract a fine.

5. REGISTRATIONS.

- 5.1 A person shall become eligible to take part in matches organised by or conducted under the auspice of the Association upon registration by an affiliated club at the start of each season.
- 5.2 The player's annual registration will be considered valid when the player's registration with both Hockey Victoria and with a club affiliated with Hockey Geelong is accepted and confirmed by the electronic recording system
- 5.3 If any team plays an unregistered player or ineligible player, the match shall be awarded to the opponents as a forfeit, and a score of 0-5 shall be recorded against the team.
- 5.4 A member can only registered with one club within the Association at any one time, except that Junior players may be registered with a second club for senior competition.
 - 5.4.1 A team which is participating in a junior match may include 2 players who are registered with a different club providing that
 1. the team has 7 of its registered players available to start the match
 2. the team will have no more than 11 players including the players from a different club
 3. the agreement of the captain or coach of the opposing team has been given
 4. an individual may play with a different club from the club with which he/ she is registered for a maximum of 20% of the home and away matches for the season
- 5.5 If both teams in a match field unregistered or ineligible players, no premiership points shall be awarded for the match, and no goals shall be recorded for the match.
- 5.6 The team sheet or whatever other form is at the time in use by the Association, shall be the complete evidence as to whether or not a player competed in the match.
- 5.7 For the purposes of these By-laws a player shall cease to be a member of a Club if he/ she has not been a registered member of that Club for one complete season.
- 5.8 Players may participate without restriction in other competitions outside the auspices of the Association, subject to the rules of the Associations concerned and the State Associations.

6. CLEARANCES. (Request for Transfer)

- 6.1 Prior to registering a new player, an affiliated club should determine whether the player requires a Registration transfer from another club affiliated with the Association.
- 6.2 If the player requires a Registration Transfer, a request for transfer should be submitted to the previous club using the form available on the electronic record system.
- 6.3 If the applicant's previous club fails to reply within seven days, the Match Committee Convenor will deem the transfer request granted.
- 6.4 Unless exceptional circumstances exist, outstanding financial commitment by the individual shall be the only basis for refusal of a transfer request.
- 6.5 Clubs may lodge an appeal against the outcome of a transfer request.
 - 6.5.1 Such appeals must be lodged, in writing, within seven (7) days of notification of the outcome of the application.
 - 6.5.2 Such appeals shall be heard by the Match Committee.
 - 6.5.3 Such appeals will be held within seven (7) days from the date of receipt of the written request.
 - 6.5.4 The Secretary shall notify the clubs concerned of the date set for the hearing of the appeal, and the player in question shall not be eligible to play in any matches until the dispute is resolved.
- 6.6 Failure to comply with 6.1 will result in the forfeit of the match or matches by the team for which the player has played whilst ineligible.
- 6.7 Transfer requests under 6.1 will not be considered after June 30.
- 6.8 The Association will have the power to revoke a transfer request up to twelve (12) months after it has been issued, if the first club subsequently disbands or is disaffiliated, whilst owing monies to the Association.
- 6.9 All prior financial obligations to the Association or to its affiliated clubs must be fulfilled prior to changing clubs.
- 6.10 A transfer is required for any player who owes money to their previous club, even if they have not been a registered member of a club for one complete season as set out in By-law 5.7.

7. COMPETITION.

- 7.1 The rules of the game of hockey as adopted and issued under the authority of the F.I.H. Hockey Rules Board and the local rules of this Association shall be observed in all matches under the auspices of the Association.
 - 7.1.1 Where a competition is specified as a women's competition, only female players may participate.

'Female' means those persons who are Female within the ordinary meaning of the word and whom identify as Female but shall not include those who identify as Male.
 - 7.1.2 Where a competition is specified as a men's competition, only male players may participate.

'Male' means those persons who are Male within the ordinary meaning of the word and whom identify as Male but shall not include those who identify as Female.
 - 7.1.3 If a competition is specified as a senior competition, players must be at least the age of twelve (12) as at 1 January of that year to participate. Exemption from this By-Law may be sought from the Competition Convenor in exceptional circumstances.
- 7.2 The structure of the competition, the number of divisions and the number of teams in each division shall be determined each season by the Match Committee of each Competition Subcommittee and proposed gradings circulated for approval by clubs at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the season.
 - 7.2.1 If a team wins a grand final in a lower grade they will automatically be moved to the higher grade if the club does not currently have a team in the higher grade.
 - 7.2.2 Clubs may lodge a written appeal against the grading of their teams, and shall furnish details of the basis of their appeal.
 - 7.2.2.1 Such appeals shall be lodged within 7 days of circulation of the proposed gradings.
 - 7.2.2.2 Such appeals shall be heard by the Competition Subcommittee.
 - 7.2.3 Where a club has more than one team in a senior division, the teams shall be nominated as

- higher and lower graded.
- 7.3 The Match Committee shall prepare a fixture each season, stipulating times and locations of matches.
- 7.4 Matches shall be played as arranged in the fixtures but may by mutual agreement of the competing teams be altered as to time and place subject to approval being given by the Match Committee.
- 7.4.1 Upon granting approval for alteration to fixtured matches, the Match Committee Chairperson will notify the relevant personnel of the change (grounds manager, Association Umpires Manager, canteen manager, pavilion manager etc.)
- 7.4.2 Both clubs must fulfill responsibilities as published previously (provide umpires, canteen roster etc).
- 7.4.3 The rescheduled game should be played within four weeks of the fixtured date.
- 7.5 In the event of a team failing to play as fixtured, unless notification has been given under By-Law 8.3.3, a 5-0 forfeit shall be awarded against them and that team shall be responsible for all expenses incurred, including the entire cost of pitch hire and umpires.
- 7.5.1 Clubs who are unable to meet a rostered commitment may apply to the Association in writing, with at least 30 days notice, requesting that the roster be changed.
- 7.6 In exceptional circumstances where a club has not fulfilled its obligation but with good cause, negotiation for rematch must be commenced within a few days and the Competition Sub-Committee Convenor and Records Secretary informed.
- 7.7 All home and away matches should be completed at least 6 days prior to the commencement of the Finals series.
- 7.8 The first named team in each fixtured match as per the fixture shall be the 'Home Team'.
- 7.9 The home team shall provide an approved hockey ball for the duration of the match.
- 7.10 Each team shall:
- 7.10.1 complete a team sheet as required for each game,
- 7.10.2 ensure that the match report is completed correctly after each game
- 7.10.3 ensure that both umpires sign the team sheet at the conclusion of the match.
- 7.10.4 The home team shall be responsible for forwarding Match Reports and team sheets as directed from time to time.
- 7.11 **Best and Fairest**
- 7.11.1 At the conclusion of each senior match the umpires shall award votes to the three players they judge to be best and fairest in that game.
- 7.11.2 Three (3) votes shall be awarded to a player from either team judged to be best and fairest for the match, two (2) votes to the second-best player in the match and one (1) vote to the third-best player for the match.
- 7.11.3 Votes awarded shall be recorded on at least one team sheet and submitted to the results secretary.
- 7.11.4 The votes for the season shall be tallied and the player with the most votes shall be declared the Best and Fairest for that grade.
- (i) Any player suspended from the Association during the season shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest award for any grade. This includes suspension under the provisions of By-Law 7.12 and By-Law 13.
- (ii) If there is a tie for Best and Fairest, both players shall be awarded the Best and Fairest award for the grade as joint winners.
- (iii) If a player has received votes in more than one team in the competition, their votes remain associated with the team in which they were awarded i.e. votes are not cumulative across teams.
- (iv) If a team is regraded during the season any votes awarded to players within that team prior to the regrading are carried across with the players into the grade in which the team has been appointed.

- 7.12 Demerit Points**
- All players begin each season on zero (0) demerit points.
- 7.12.2 Any player who receives fifteen (15) demerit points within any eight (8) week period shall be automatically suspended for the next round in which his/her club has teams competing, even if the next round is a finals round.
- (i) The Competition Convenor or Association Secretary shall notify the club of a demerit point suspension no later than close of business on the Wednesday prior to the round in which the suspension is to be served.
- 7.12.3 All players in senior competitions shall accrue demerit points according to the following schedule.
- (i) Five (5) points for each yellow card received.
- (ii) Ten (10) points for each red card received.
- 7.12.4 Demerit points shall expire eight (8) competition rounds after they were received.
- 7.12.5 Following the serving of a suspension as outlined in 7.12.2 above, that player returns to a total of zero (0) demerit points.
- 7.12.6 If a player plays in a round in which they were to be suspended under 7.12.2, the team in which that player played shall have a 5-0 loss recorded against it and the suspension shall be served in the next round in which the player's club has teams competing.
- 7.12.7 Where a player receives two yellow cards for the same offence in the same match, hence resulting in a red card, the player shall only receive a maximum of ten (10) points for that match.
- 7.12.8 A demerit point suspension shall be served separately and in addition to any suspension imposed by the Disputes Committee as described in By-Law 13.
- 7.12.9 Where a player exceeds the demerit point limit specified in 7.12.2 in their last match for the season, the suspension shall be served in the first round of the next season.
- (i) If a player transfers clubs between seasons, they shall serve the suspension as part of their new club.
- 7.12.10 **Appealing a demerit point suspension**
- (i) Players may appeal a demerit point suspension to the Competition Committee within seven (7) days of exceeding the demerit limit specified in 7.12.2 only if it can be shown that all demerit points received by that player were given by one particular umpire within the period specified in 7.12.2. Individual yellow or red card decisions may not be appealed.
- (ii) Teams shall not be punished under 7.12.6 where the demerit point suspension is under appeal.
- (iii) Should an appeal be upheld, the most recent demerit point offence shall be rescinded and those demerit points deducted from the player's demerit point total.
- (iv) Should an appeal be dismissed, the demerit point suspension shall be served in the next competition round following the appeal, in which the player's club has teams competing.

8. MATCHES.

- 8.1 **Premiership points are awarded for fixtured matches as follows**
- 8.1.1 three points for a win or a forfeit
- 8.1.2 one point for a draw
- 8.1.3 If any team plays an unregistered player or ineligible player, the match shall be awarded to the opponents as a forfeit, and a score of 0-5 shall be recorded against the team unless a better goal difference has been obtained.
- 8.2 If a team starts the match with less than eleven players, a player or players may join the game at any time as they become available, provided there are not already eleven players on the field for that team.
- 8.2.1 The name of any player not taking the field shall be struck from the team sheet by the

- Captain and initialled by an Umpire.
- 8.2.2.1 A forfeit shall be applied for any breaches of this rule.
- 8.3 No team shall be eligible to play with less than seven (7) of its registered players.
- 8.3.1 Where there is a delay of more than ten minutes in the starting time of any match because one of the teams is not ready to commence, the team unable to commence shall give a walkover.
- 8.3.2 When a walkover is declared, the opposing team shall win 5 goals to nil, and be awarded three premiership points.
- 8.3.3 Where a team has prior knowledge that a walkover will be given that team shall notify the opposing team/ club, the Association Umpires Manager and the Records Secretary of the walkover at least 24 hours prior to the fixtured time of the game.
- 8.4 Any team failing to play three consecutive matches shall be withdrawn for the remainder of the competition unless a satisfactory explanation can be furnished to the Competition subcommittee.
- 8.5 Except as otherwise provided by these By-Laws, no person other than the Umpires and the players actually taking part in the match shall be permitted to encroach upon the playing field whilst a match is in progress.
- 8.5.1 Additional persons permitted onto the field shall be:
- a. any person called onto the field by an umpire for the purpose of attending to an injured player.
- b. in under 11 matches, one coach per team shall be permitted on any area of the field except inside either of the 25 yards areas.
- 8.5.2 Any person or player who is permitted to encroach on the field during a match must comply with any direction of either of the umpires.
- 8.5.3 Players and team officials not taking part in the match may occupy the team bench and dugout allocated to them. They may also occupy the portion of the playing arena between the centre line and the back line on the side of the field where their team bench is located. Players and team officials in this area must not affect the game in progress by impeding players or umpires.
- 8.6 Under age teams may apply for permission to play players who are less than 12 months over-age and are playing hockey for their first year. Date of birth shall be required by the Records Secretary.

9. DOUBLE UP RULE

- 9.1 A player may play twice in the one round (double up) for their club, within the senior competition or within the same junior age competition, on 5 occasions during the season.
- 9.1.1 No more than 4 players can double up in each game.
- 9.1.1.1 Where a player usually plays is determined by the player's majority of games at that point in the season.
- 9.1.2 A maximum of two players who usually play in a higher division are permitted to double up in any round in a lower grade senior competition, to make a maximum of 12 players for the lower grade team.
- 9.1.2.1 Where a player usually plays is determined by the player's majority of games at that point in the season.
- 9.1.3 A player may play in two matches in one fixture in any higher graded team, subject to other provisions of Rule 9.2.
- 9.1.4 No player may play twice in any fixtured round during the finals.
- 9.1.5 Where a player plays twice in each round in a lower grade, he/ she may play only in the next lowest grade in which the club has teams
- 9.1.6 When a player plays twice in a fixtured round, the double up match shall be the match played in the team which was not their usual team.

- 9.1.7 Where a team has a bye in any division only two players who were named in that team the previous round shall be eligible to play in a lower graded team
- 9.2 Players in underage competitions may play twice in each fixture in different age competitions without limit.
- 9.2.1 Players may not play twice in each fixture in the same age division on more than 25% of home and away games.
- 9.3 In default of By-Law 9 the opposing team will be awarded the match as a forfeit with a score of 5-0.
- 9.4 In justifiable circumstances, permission may be sought from the Match Committee to waive the conditions set out in 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3.

10. CANCELLATION OF MATCHES.

10. 1 The Match Committee shall have the authority to cancel matches in the case of inclement weather or if the grounds are unfit for play.
10. 1. 1 In the event of cancellation of matches, the Match Committee should immediately notify the Umpires' Convenor, clubs and local radio.
10. 1. 2 If matches are cancelled under 10.1, the Match Committee shall decide whether matches shall be refixedured.
- 10.2 If prior to a match commencing, it is mutually agreed by the umpires and the team captains or coaches that the ground is unfit for play, the umpires may cancel the match and record their decision on the back of the scorecard.
- 10.2.1 The teams involved may agree to reschedule the fixture to a date and time satisfactory to both and shall notify the Records Secretary.
- 10.3 If during the course of a game, the umpires and team captains or coaches consider that the ground or other playing conditions have become unfit for play, the match shall be abandoned and replayed at a mutually agreed time to both teams.

11. FINALS.

- 11.1 At the conclusion of the scheduled matches of the competition, the teams who are in the first four places of their competition shall be entitled to compete in the final series matches in their competition, except Junior competitions for Under 11 and lower age groups.
- 11.1.1 Where, because of late entries or withdrawals, or subject to By-Laws, teams have had results removed from the record of scores, or there not being a "complete" home and away fixture, the Match Committee may permit an equalisation to be applied to the record of scores for the purpose of determining the positions in the grade.
- The procedure for Equalisation to be as follows: -
- (i) The number of byes for each team shall be determined.
 - (ii) The points gained by each team shall be divided by the number of games played by each team multiplied by the number of games that should have been played added to the number of byes.
 - (iii) The resulting number of points shall be calculated to three decimal places to determine the final positions of each team in the grade.
 - (iv) The adjusted points should be rounded to the nearest integer, and rounded up when remainder equals 0.5 and shown on the ladder.
- 11.2 If teams are equal on "Premiership points", the following procedure shall apply:
- (i) The team with the highest difference between "goals for" and "goals against" shall be the higher team.
 - (ii) Where teams are equal on goal difference, the team with higher "goals for" shall be the higher team.

- (iii) Where teams are equal on “goals for”, the team with the highest number of wins for the season shall be the higher team.
- (iv) Where teams are equal on the number of wins for the season, sub rules (i), (ii), and (iii) shall be applied to the games played during the season between the teams concerned to determine the higher team.
- (v) Should teams remain equal after following the above procedure, and a “higher team” result is required to determine final placings on the ladder for the purposes of finals four placings, placings will be determined by the toss of a coin.

11.3 Where any teams are ineligible to compete in finals matches as a result of having outstanding debts, all teams below them on the ladder shall be promoted accordingly for the purpose of competing in the finals.

11.4 The finals series shall be conducted as follows:

11.4.1 The first semi-final shall be played between the teams holding first and second place in their competition and the second semi-final shall be played between the teams holding third and fourth place in their competition.

11.4.2 The preliminary final shall be played between the winner of the second semi-final and the loser of the first semi-final.

11.4.3 A grand final match shall be played between the winner of the first semi-final and the winner of the preliminary final.

11.5 The winner of the grand final match shall be the winner of the premiership of that competition. For Under 11 and lower competitions, the premiership team shall be the team that finished in first position on the ladder after the completion of home and away matches.

11.6 In the event of a draw in a semi-final or preliminary final match an extra seven-and-a-half (7.5) minutes each way shall be played with the first team to score a goal being declared the winner (‘Golden Goal’). If a draw still results the team that held the higher position in the competition at the end of the home and away matches shall be declared the winner.

11.7 In the event of a draw in a grand final match an extra seven-and-a-half (7.5) minutes each way shall be played with the first team to score a goal being declared the winner (‘Golden Goal’). If a draw still results in an U13 grand final competition, the two teams are declared equal winners of the premiership of that competition. In other competitions the Tie-Breaker Rule as described in By-Law 11.8 shall apply and the winner of the tie-breaker shall be the winner of the premiership for that competition.

11.8 The Tie-Breaker Rule will be a penalty shootout competition conducted according to the rules currently specified by Hockey Victoria.

11.9 No player shall be eligible to play in the semi finals, preliminary final, or grand final matches with any particular team unless:

11.9.1 He/she has played with the team in at least 30% of the home and away rounds available for qualifying in the current season

11.9.2 He/she has played at least 50% of his/her games for the season in that team or a lower graded team, unless all matches played in a higher graded team were played in the first half of the season.

11.9.3 He/she shall not have played in more than 50% of rostered higher division games to be eligible to play in a lower division final.

11.9.4 Players who have qualified to play in a team in a lower division may play in a higher division team subject to the provisions of 11.9.2, 11.9.3 and 9 (Double Up).

11.10 In justifiable circumstances, permission may be sought from the Match Committee for the conditions in By law 11.9 to be waived.

11.10.1 Dispensation may be sought under By-Law 11.10 if

- (i) the player concerned has played at least one-third of the matches available for the team in that

- division or a lower division AND
- (ii) they missed no fewer than three matches due to injury, representative appointment or unavoidable employment commitments where the club seeking dispensation shows that such injury, appointment or commitments prevented the player from participating in fixtured matches AND
 - (iii) the player has made reasonable effort to fulfill the requirements for eligibility
- 11.10.2 The Match Committee may impose additional conditions on dispensation requests should it see fit to maintain fairness in the competition.
- 11.10.3 Requests for dispensation must be made in writing to the Match Committee and include the name of the player, the reason(s) for dispensation, supporting evidence for the dispensation, and the number of matches the player is expected to have competed in by the end of the season. The Match Committee has the right to modify these conditions from time to time as it sees fit.
- 11.11 Clubs must submit to the Competition Committee chairperson, a list of intending players for the finals, 5 days prior to any final, in order to determine the player's eligibility to play.
- 11.12 Each team participating in a final match shall provide one ball to be used during the match.

12. UMPIRES.

- 12.1 The umpiring of all Association matches shall be controlled by the Association Umpires Manager, and the regulations in force from time to time.
- 12.2 The Association Umpires Manager shall have power to co-opt members to assist him/ her in carrying out the necessary duties.
- 12.3 Clubs /teams shall provide umpires for scheduled matches as directed from time to time by the Association Umpires Manager.
- 12.4. If the appointed umpire or umpires are not in attendance within ten minutes of the scheduled match starting time the coaches / captains of the teams concerned shall appoint and agree upon an umpire or umpires.
- 12.4.1 If the coaches/ captains cannot agree upon an umpire or umpires then the match shall be postponed and both teams shall supply a report to the Competition Subcommittee Convenor who shall set down a time for the replay of the game.
- 12.5 All persons rostered to umpire any scheduled match shall wear clothing which is distinct from the teams playing.
- 12.6 An officiating umpire shall not be permitted to coach any player or team whilst the match he/ she is officiating in is actually in play. This does not prohibit the umpire from coaching before the start of the match or during the halftime interval.
- 12.7 A fine shall be levied on the club of umpires who fail to fulfill a rostered umpiring commitment.
- 12.7.1 The defaulting team shall have the right of appeal to the Competition Subcommittee, provided that written notification and supporting evidence has reached the Association Umpires Manager within three days of the match.
- 12.8 Persons wishing to qualify as an umpire may attempt a written examination under the auspices of the Association Umpires Manager.
- 12.8.1 Practical testing and awarding of umpires badges shall be carried out by suitably qualified persons under the auspices of the Association Umpires Manager.
- 12.8.2 Umpires may be re-field tested at the discretion of the Association Umpires Manager upon receipt of written complaints from team captains.
- 12.9 Umpires shall be entitled to remuneration at a rate set by the Association Umpires Manager before the start of each season.
- 12.9.1 The remuneration of umpires shall be shared equally between both competing teams.

13. COMPLAINTS, CHARGES AND DISPUTES.

- 13.1 The Disputes Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and two other members, who shall be appointed from time to time to hear a dispute/ charge/ complaint.

- 13.1.1 Each club shall submit the name of two persons each year for duty on the Disputes Committee as required
- 13.1.2 No two members of the Disputes Committee shall represent the same Club.
- 13.1.3 No member may sit on a hearing concerning the Club of which he or she is a member.
- 13.1.4 In the event of there not being three available members for any hearing, including appeals, the Committee of Management may appoint further members to constitute the Disputes Committee.
- 13.2 The Chairperson will chair the meetings of the Disputes Committee convened to determine any case.
- 13.3 The Disputes Committee shall elect one of its members to take minutes of the tribunal hearing.
- 13.4 A charge includes a complaint or a dispute.
- 13.5 Any Club, member or umpire may bring a charge against any member of the Association and/ or official of the Association and/ or Committee of the Association except the Disputes Committee and/ or member of a Club and/ or official of a Club, including any person acting in the capacity of coach, and/ or umpire and/ or team and/ or Club.
- 13.6 No such charge shall be considered by the Disputes Committee unless written particulars of the charge are received by the Honorary Secretary, provided that particulars of any charge relating to a fixtured match of the Association are lodged in writing with the Honorary Secretary by the close of business within two business days of that match.
- 13.7 Written particulars of a charge shall include the names of persons, bodies or committees bringing the charge; the names of other persons, bodies or committees involved; dates of matches and other incidents to which the charge relates; the breach under Rule 39(1) to which the charge relates; and a brief summary of the incident(s) to which the charge relates.
- 13.7.1 Where the name of the person, body or Committee to be charged is not known, the Committee of Management shall have the power to make such enquiries as are necessary.
- 13.8 Where a charge(s) arises out of evidence heard by the Disputes Committee, that charge may be brought by any member of the Disputes Committee in accordance with this By-Law, except that written particulars of any such charge shall be received by the Honorary Secretary within three days of the hearing out of which such charge(s) arises.
- 13.9 Where it comes to the notice of the Committee of Management that a charge(s) ought to be brought before the Disputes Committee, that charge may be brought by a member, authorised by the Committee of Management, in accordance with this By-Law except that written particulars of any such charge shall be received by the Honorary Secretary within three days of the decision of the Committee of Management to bring such charge.
- 13.10 No charge seeking to challenge the umpire's decision shall be heard unless the particulars of the charge show that in making such a decision the umpire
- (i) contravened the Rules of Hockey or
 - (ii) had no power within the Rules of Hockey to make such a decision AND
 - (iii) the challenge is based on the interpretation of the Rules of Hockey and not on questions of fact (except insofar as the facts relate to the interpretation).
- 13.11 Within a week of receiving particulars of any charge(s) not being a charge to which By-Law 13.10 relates the Honorary Secretary shall, giving at least three days notice,
- (i) convene a meeting of the Disputes Committee and provide to each member of the Committee full written particulars of the charge(s), together with copies of any relevant material, including correspondence AND
 - (ii) notify in writing the persons or body bringing the charge(s) and also the person or body charged of the date, time and place of the hearing and particulars of the charge(s) and requiring their attendance at such hearing.
- 13.12 If the person or body so charged fails to appear, the Disputes Committee may proceed to hear and determine the charge. If the person or body bringing the charge fails to appear, the

- Disputes Committee shall dismiss the matter.
- 13.13 13.13.1 The person or body bringing the charge(s) shall be entitled to attend and speak at the hearing of the Disputes Committee at which such charge(s) is heard and to lead evidence from such persons as she or he or it requires.
- 13.13.2 The person or body charged shall be entitled to attend and speak at the hearing of the Disputes Committee at which such charge(s) is heard and to lead evidence from such persons as she or he or it requires.
- 13.13.3 The Disputes Committee may require the attendance of any person that it considers necessary for the proper hearing of the charge.
- 13.13.4 It shall be the responsibility of the person calling the witnesses to ensure their attendance and not the responsibility of the Honorary Secretary.
- 13.14 Upon the charge being proven to the satisfaction of the Disputes Committee, it may impose such penalty as it thinks fit and without limiting the general nature of the foregoing, may reprimand, fine, suspend from participation in Association fixtured matches for a certain period, or expel from membership of the Association.
- 13.14.1 Any member suspended by the Disputes Committee shall be ineligible to participate in either Association-fixtured matches or in teams where the Association is to be represented.
- 13.15 Upon a charge not being proven to the satisfaction of the Disputes Committee, it shall dismiss the matter.
- 13.16 As soon as possible after the hearing, the Honorary Secretary shall notify in writing the person or body charged and the person or body bringing the charge of the determination.
- 13.17 The Disputes Committee may adjourn a hearing at its discretion.
- 13.18 Where a member of the Association participates in a competition outside the control of the Association and is suspended from participation in that competition as the result of a charge being proven, upon receipt of written advice from the organisation responsible, the suspension shall be recorded as a suspended sentence against the member by the Association in Association-fixtured matches.
- 13.18.1 The sentence shall be served if the member is found guilty of any further offence by the Association or by the second organisation within the next twelve months.
- 13.19 Any person(s) or body charged, or any person(s) or body bringing a charge, who feels aggrieved by the determination of the Disputes Committee may, within three days of being notified in writing of such determination, lodge with the Honorary Secretary a written notice of appeal, setting out the grounds for the appeal.
- 13.20 A deposit of \$10 shall be lodged with each notice of appeal and shall be forfeited if the appeal is dismissed by the Disputes Committee.
- Within seven days of receiving a notice of appeal, the Honorary Secretary shall, giving at least three days notice,
- (i) convene a meeting of the Disputes Committee, selecting from the Disputes Panel three different members to those hearing the original charge(s), and provide to each member of the Committee full written particulars of the charge(s) together with copies of any relevant material and any minutes taken by the Disputes Committee at the hearing of the original charge(s) AND
 - (ii) notify in writing the person(s) or body appealing from the determination, and the other person(s) or body concerned with the original charge, of the date, time and place of the hearing and the grounds for the appeal, and requiring their attendance at such hearing.
- 13.21 Pending the hearing of an appeal the decision of the Disputes Committee and / or of the Association shall be stayed.
- 13.22 If the person(s) or body appealing from the determination fails to appear, the appeal shall be dismissed. If the other person(s) or body concerned with the original charge fails to appear, the Disputes Committee may proceed to hear and determine the appeal.
- 13.23 Without excluding the operation of any of the provisions of Rule 39 and By-Law 13, the



13.24

provisions of By-Laws 13.12 and 13.13 will apply to the hearing of appeals.
The determination of the Disputes Committee on hearing an appeal shall be final and binding.

Date adopted 23/3/1993
Last updated 10/6/2020