

MEETING OF: Competition Committee  
DATE: Monday February 13, 2023  
TIME: 6.30 pm  
VENUE: Stead Park, Corio



## MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 6.37 pm with A. Climpson presiding.

Minutes: C. Barnes

### 2. APOLOGIES AND ATTENDANCE

**Attendance:** Alan Climpson, Jonah McKinnon, Tom Molyneux, Georgie van Beek (Newtown), Stacey Climpson (Saints), Kelli Caldwell (Saints), Dominic Crowley (Newtown), Claire Barnes (Newtown), Andrew Crowley (Torquay), Gavin van der Meer (Golden Plains), Shannon Calder (Geelong)

**Not represented:** Kardinia

**Apologies:** None

**Proxies:** None

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

**Motion:** that the Minutes of the Committee of Management meeting held August 18, 2022 be accepted.

**Moved:** G. van Beek      **Seconded:** K. Caldwell      **CARRIED**

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

#### 4.1 HV/HA insurance for summer hockey.

Enquiries to Hockey Victoria regarding the period of insurance and lack of coverage for the latter part of the summer hockey season received the response that the insurance dates are set by Hockey Australia and will not be altered.

### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

### 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

#### 6.1 Appointment of Match Committee

The following people were appointed to the Match Committee for 2023.

- Chair person – Alan Climpson
- Junior Competition Registrar/ Results – Claire Barnes
- Senior Competition Registrar/ Results – Claire Barnes
- Umpires Committee Co-Convenors – Tom Molyneux, Jonah McKinnon
- Committee members – Gavin van der Meer, Georgie van Beek, Shannon Calder

#### 6.2 2023 Season dates.

Pre-season matches will be played for any interested teams – April 15/16, April 22/23

- Full field, could be men/ women/ mixed depending on interest
- Cost – match fees only
- Entry form will be distributed, to be returned by April 1.
- Winter season for junior and senior teams
  - Will commence April 29/30, home and away matches end August 19/20, finals August 26/27 to September 9/10
  - Bye for U14, U17 on May 20/21 due to JCC.
  - Bye for all junior teams from June 24 to July 9 due to school holidays.
    - Clubs to be surveyed regarding the possibility of playing fixtured matches on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the school holidays – June 24/25.
  - Bye for all senior teams July 1&2 (middle week of school holidays), includes Junior State Championships.

- 15 rounds senior competition, 13 rounds for U8/ U10/ U12, 12 rounds for U14/ U17

### **6.3 Training roster**

Form will be emailed to clubs, allowing requests for training times/ days and starting date. Form will be due back by February 27.

### **6.4 Team entries for 2023**

Entry form will be available soon, with team entries due by March 18.

#### **Team entry fees for 2023**

COVID levies, canteen levies and First Aid levies have been deleted as specific separate fees. Match fees remain unchanged from 2022 levels. Team entry fees for 2023 are:

- U8 - \$110, match fees \$27.50/ game
- U10 - \$145, match fees \$33/ game
- U12 - \$260, match fees \$65/ game
- U14 & U17 - \$520, match fees \$65/ game
- Senior men and women \$1500, match fees \$105/ game

### **6.5 Competitions for 2023**

- U8 Mixed – Lloyd Reserve
- U10 Mixed – Lloyd Reserve
- U12 Mixed – Stead Park
- U14 Mixed – Stead Park
- U17 Mixed – Stead Park
- Division 1 Men and Women – Stead Park
- Division 2 Men and Women – Stead Park

#### **6.5.1 Possible team entries**

- U8 – Kardinia?, Newtown x 3, Geelong?, Torquay, Saints, Golden Plains? – 8 teams
- U10 – Kardinia?, Newtown x 2, Geelong?, Torquay – 5 teams
- U12 – Kardinia?, Newtown x 3, Geelong, Torquay – 6 teams
- U14 – Kardinia?, Geelong, Newtown x 2, Torquay – 5 teams
- U17 – Kardinia?, Torquay, Newtown x 2 (or 3) – 4 or 5 teams
- D1 Men – Saints, Geelong, Torquay, Newtown – 4 teams
- D1 Women - Saints, Geelong, Torquay, Newtown – 4 teams
- D2 Men - Saints, Geelong, Torquay, Newtown, Golden Plains – 5 teams
- D2 Women - Saints, Geelong, Torquay, Newtown, Golden Plains – 5 teams

#### **6.5.2 Structure of the senior competitions**

- Teams to be considered for promotion to D1
  - D1 Men – Newtown Falcons promoted from D2
- If less than 4 teams in a division – revert to combined competition as in 2022

### **6.6 Competition format**

- Continue quarters format for senior teams
- Continue halves format for U8, U10, U12 and U14 teams
- Introduce quarters format for U17 teams
- 5 minutes extra to be added between junior matches to allow more warmup/ pre-match preparation time
  - Junior matches will begin at 8.00 am, 9.05, 10.10, 11.15

- There is no stoppage time in junior games
- All matches MUST finish at the specified end time for the match
- 2 minutes only should be allowed for quarter time breaks, with the clock restarting regardless of whether teams are ready. However, play will begin when teams are ready.
- **ACTION:** Survey clubs to ascertain the preferred match time for U17 teams

6.7 **GHA Umpires Committee Report** was presented by Jonah McKinnon and Tom Molyneux.

#### **Proposed Umpires Committee Structure**

The Umpires Committee in 2023 would comprise four members committed to the development of umpires in Geelong. There would be two Umpires Coordinators (UCs) jointly responsible for weekly rostering of matches, advising the Competitions Committee on the impact of proposed rule changes, grading and assessing of umpires, and umpire coaching.

The Umpires Committee would additionally encompass two further designated umpire coaches in addition to the UCs, to assist in the development and mentorship of umpires within Geelong. It is proposed that designated umpire coaches should have a Level 1 Accreditation under the Hockey Australia Umpire Accreditation Framework before the commencement of umpire coaching. GHA assistance to help coaches further their own accreditation is recommended.

#### *Umpires Co-Coordinator (UCs)*

- Tom Molyneux
- Jonah McKinnon

#### *Designated Umpire Coaches*

- Tom Molyneux
- Jonah McKinnon
- Pearce Frost
- Dominic Crowley

#### **Grading and Assessment of Umpires**

With a significant increase in junior umpires over the 2022/2023 summer competition, there is an increased capacity to allocate umpires to junior competitions. The proposed process for the grading of umpires would be that the UCs would use the first four rounds of the 2023 winter season to grade umpires based on their current abilities, and allocate them to appropriate matches. Umpires, as they improve, would be able to umpire higher levels based on the feedback from the UCs and umpire coaches, to ensure that the most appropriate umpires are allocated, and if there are significant areas for improvement, umpires may be allocated to lower levels whilst they develop their skills. We propose that umpires wishing to umpire GHA Division 1 competitions as well as Division 2 men, must have, or be working towards, their Community Level Accreditation under the Hockey Australia Umpires Accreditation Framework. This is both to incentivise participation in the formal accreditation pathways, as well as provide structure around improving the overall standard of umpiring in Geelong.

Requests for exemption from this standard may be considered by the Umpires Committee on a case-by-case basis.

During the course of 2023, the UCs will have the capacity to assess umpires and accredit Community Level and Level 1 umpire accreditations as needed.

#### **Pre-season Umpires Briefing**

The proposed format for the 2023 Pre-season umpires briefing is a two-part format:

- Session 1 - Umpiring 101
- Session 2 - Rules Briefing

Session 1 would encompass learning the important skills required to umpire, particularly for younger umpires just starting to umpire. This briefing would include skills such as positioning, whistling and whistle variation, player management, the use of cards, reporting and disciplinary processes, etc.

Session 2 would specifically encompass the Rules of Hockey, and how to apply the rules with the correct interpretation. This would include particularly contentious rules such as aerial balls, dangerous play, obstruction, etc.

We would like to additionally propose a *mid-season umpires briefing*, to check in with umpires as a collective on common issues that have arisen during the season, rules clarifications, areas for collective improvement, and to collect feedback on the effectiveness of this new approach.

These sessions will be used to entrench the idea that Geelong umpires are a **team**, a mentality which will hopefully increase umpire retention.

### **Proposed Competition Rule Changes**

#### *U17s*

1. The Umpires Committee proposes that the rule from 2022 prohibiting tomahawk shots where the stick is raised above the shoulder be removed.

Rationale: Rule 9 of the Rules of Hockey aptly covers this issue; Rule 9.8 stipulates that players must not play the ball dangerously or in a way which leads to dangerous play. In general play, tomahawk shots are prohibited where the ball is intentionally raised in any case, as players must not intentionally raise the ball with a hit except for a shot at goal (see Rule 9.9). With regard to tomahawk shots at goal from inside the circle, the danger rule additionally applies, if there is legitimate evasive action by the defender (standing outside the mouth of the goal), this action must be penalised.

If a tomahawk skill is perfectly executed by a player, and causes no danger to any other player (either with the ball in flight, or the stick during the action of playing the ball) then we see no rationale to penalise the player simply because the stick may be judged to have (even marginally) been raised above their shoulder during the action. The rules of hockey already adequately cover other scenarios.

2. The Umpires Committee proposes that the rule requiring a female to take the first shot at a penalty corner be removed.

Rationale: There are several considerations with this competition rule that must be addressed, particularly the impact on both umpires, players, and other participants. Firstly, it places extra burdens on umpires to keep track of who is receiving the ball and having the first shot, and what qualifies as the first shot in the scenario where there is a layoff or deflection. In a split-second decision this can be an increasingly difficult feat for umpires to undertake where they are concentrating on applying the correct rule and interpretation of that rule. Guidance issued by GHA to request that coaches/teams not attempt to deliberately take advantage of injecting the ball past the dotted line on a penalty corner to allow a shot by a male player does not count as a 'rule', and therefore enforcement by umpires during gameplay is a significant grey area open to dispute.

Allowing male players to take the first shot at goal on a penalty corner with a push (when no female players are on the pitch) also opens this rule up to abuse, where coaches may be tempted to 'bench' female players in the dying stages of a close contest if they would prefer a male striker to take the first shot on a penalty corner set play.

A further social consideration in that the rule implicitly asks umpires to assume the gender of the player who is taking the shot, which can be quite an uncomfortable position for an umpire to be placed in, and could potentially cause undue offense. For example, how should players that identify as non-binary be adjudicated? What if a female player is not wearing a uniform/haircut etc. that 'codes' them as female to an umpire and an incorrect decision is accidentally made?

Any 'hits' at goal by a male player on a penalty corner with the first shot at goal are already required by the rules of hockey to be kept at a height no higher than the backboard, and should this height be exceeded (by either a male or female taking the shot) a penalty is awarded to the defence.

Further, the GHA rule makes no mention of second or subsequent 'hits' at goal, which may therefore be raised at any height. So a rule which only limits the first shot at goal has limited utility.

We do not believe there is sufficient justification for this rule in terms of 'player safety' to counteract the increased complexity of adjudicating these several layered and confusing interpretations.

For both proposals 1 and 2, an additional rationale is that increasingly U17 players are facing the complexity of playing two sets of rules, one in the morning in the junior competition and then for the (several) players that compete in senior competitions in the afternoon another set of rules. The U17 competition should, in our view, be facilitated to allow junior players to develop all the skills of hockey to be successful in senior competitions, and given they are permitted to play to the full extent of the rules of hockey in the afternoon despite their age, the differentiation in rules is confusing.

*For this reason, we also suggest that it would be worthwhile considering whether junior matches are also played in quarters, rather than halves.*

#### *Finals Formats*

3. The Umpires Committee proposes that the 7.5 minute 'Golden Goal' procedure be removed for all finals, and instead, be replaced with penalty shootouts.

Rationale: Penalty shootouts are one of the most exciting aspects of hockey, and are one of the best parts about finals as they are skilful and quickly break a tied game. It is now competition rules for all Hockey Victoria competitions that any final must go straight to penalty shootouts if by end of regulation time there is a draw. As well as bringing excitement to the game and allows players to show their individual skills, it allows a better flow of scheduled games, and reduces unnecessary delays, particularly on Grand Final Day where medal presentations must be accounted for. Golden Goal adds little excitement, and is potentially 15 minutes of further deadlock. This was particularly noticeable on the 2022 Grand Final Day, where golden goal + shootouts to decide a tied game heavily impacted the schedule, which had not accounted for this possibility occurring in several matches. Scheduling will be much easier and more compact.

#### *Future Changes*

We would like to respectfully request that future proposed rule changes are first submitted to the Umpires Committee for an assessment of their impact before being voted on by the Association. We believe this will assist all Committee participants to make the best possible decisions and understand any unintended consequences before introducing competition rules.

#### **Umpire Dissent and Tribunals**

If GHA and the Umpires Committee are to be successful in increasing the number and standard of local umpires, we consider it imperative that the Association provide clear directives that umpire dissent will not be tolerated, and that we are able to provide clear messaging to umpires about the accepted and consistent manner in which this should be penalised with the use of personal penalties (cards). Our recommendation is that general dissent should be penalised with a five minute yellow card in the first instance, with subsequent offences in the same match attracting a red card. Repeated offences across different matches should be tracked by the Association and referred to a tribunal for suspension of repeat offenders.

Where abuse (either to umpires or other players) could reasonably be considered to be homophobic, sexist, racist, accusations of cheating or similarly egregious, this should be penalised with a straight red card, and directed to a tribunal for further suspension.

Further, it should be clear to umpires when matters should be escalated to a tribunal (which should be held in **all** circumstances without delay) and that individual umpires must receive the support of an Umpire Coordinator if they are required to participate in this process.

Spectator abuse must also be subject to strong action by GHA, where permitted to the fullest possible extent under the Association's rules.

It has unfortunately been the case in the past in Geelong that several young and/or promising umpires have ceased umpiring altogether due to the personal abuse received for performing an essential function in hockey. A clear line in the sand for all hockey participants, and the perception of strong and swift support for umpires is our recommended approach for improving this narrative, and thereby creating a safe environment for up-and-coming umpires to hone their craft.

### **Umpire Uniforms**

We request that the GHA use its best efforts to either make available funds for GHA Umpire shirts, or secure sponsorship to support this aim. The previous purple shirts have now run out, and unfortunately clash substantially with Newtown City Hockey Club's home playing strip. We would be then able to secure new, non-clashing and consistent shirts to embellish the new 'Umpire's Team' mentality we would like to foster. Complimentary shirts for umpires that commit to participating in the formal accreditation pathways is also a good incentive.

The Umpires Committee Report was adopted by the meeting.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Circulate notice of motion to change By-law 11.7 (delete 'Golden Goal' and replace with a Penalty Shootout for a draw in a Grand Final), with voting conducted by email.
- GHA Management Committee to consider providing funds for umpires shirts, enabling shirts to be distributed free of charge to umpires.
- Emphasise that club captains are responsible for the behaviour of their teams and may be issued disciplinary cards if necessary

6.7.1 There are no rule changes for 2023 known at this point.

6.7.2 Umpires Fees for 2023 are:

- Division 1 - \$45
- Division 2 - \$40
- U10 - \$15
- U12 - \$15
- U14 - \$20
- U17 - \$25

## **6.8 Notice of motion** (G. van Beek, G. van der Meer)

That the GHA Competition By-laws be altered as follows, with each by-law to be dealt with individually:

- 6.9 All prior financial obligations must be fulfilled prior to changing clubs.

**Motion:** that the motion be amended to (C. Barnes).

6.9 All prior financial obligations to the Association or to its affiliated clubs must be fulfilled prior to changing clubs.

**CARRIED**

- 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.

**CARRIED**

- 7.4.4 In finals if a player has a conflicting match that existed prior to the draw being distributed an alternate time must be arranged to ensure fairness to both teams

**DEFEATED**

- 8.1.3 The score for a forfeited match shall be 5 – 0

**Motion:** that the motion be amended to (C. Barnes).

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.

**CARRIED**

- 9.1.1 No more than four players can double up in each game. (*For the purpose of explanation, playing more than one game for the same club in a weekend is considered a player doubling up*)
  - 9.1.1.1 A player may only do 5 double ups per season for their club

**Motion:** that the motion be amended to (C. Barnes).

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.

**CARRIED**

- 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.

**CARRIED**

- 9.1.2.1 If a player is seriously injured and cannot continue playing an additional player can be added with approval from the opposition.

**DEFEATED**

- **Motion:** that By-law 9.1.6 (When a player plays twice in a fixtured round, the double up match shall be considered to be the second match played in that fixtured round) be deleted (C. Barnes).

**CARRIED**

- **Motion:** that By-law 9.1.6.1 be renumbered to 9.1.6 and be altered to read (C. Barnes)  
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.

**CARRIED**

- 9.1.4.1 If a player has qualified for the lower division but takes part in a higher grade final they cannot move back to the lower division until the new season.

**DEFEATED**

- 9.1.4.2 Where there are two teams for the same club in one division a player can only move teams once within finals.

**DEFEATED**

- 11.2 If teams are equal on “Premiership points”, the following procedure shall apply:
  - 11.2.1 The team with the most wins shall be the higher team
  - 11.2.2 Where the teams have equal wins the team with the most draws shall be the highest team
  - 11.2.3 Where the teams have the same number of wins and draws the team with the highest difference between “goals for” and “goals against” shall be the higher team.
  - 11.2.4 Where teams are equal on goal difference, the team with higher “goals for” shall be the higher team
  - 11.2.5 Where teams are equal for “goals for” the team with the least goals against shall be the higher team
  - 11.2.7 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 or if preferred a play of game can be arranged prior to the commencement of finals.

**DEFEATED**

**ACTION:** Review this rule again if there are combined competitions for senior teams.

- 11.7.8 Refer to Hockey Vic shoot out rules  
<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/vichockey/files/b6yzz8ymbtjctwm.pdf>

**Motion:** that the motion be amended to (C. Barnes)

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

**CARRIED**



- 11.9 The Match Committee may impose additional conditions on dispensation requests should it see fit to maintain fairness in the competition.
- 11.9.1 Reasonable reasons for dispensation are
  - 11.9.1.1 Persons who qualified the previous year but were unable to compete due to injury or pregnancy shall be eligible to play in the team they qualified for in the prior year. Players shall be identified on the team sheet with an (I) for injury and (P) for pregnancy next to the players name.
  - 11.9.1.2 Persons who relocated to Geelong within the season and subsequently attended 30% of games since their relocation. Players shall be identified on the team sheet with an (R) for relocation

**DEFEATED**

- 11.9.2 All other 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.

**DEFEATED**

- 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.

**Motion:** that the motion be amended to (T. Molyneux, J. McKinnon)

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.

**CARRIED**

- That By-law 7.1.1 (Where a competition is specified as a women's competition, only female players may participate.) be deleted

**Motion:** that the motion be amended to (C. Barnes)

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.

**CARRIED**

- That By-law 7.1.2 (Where a competition is specified as a men's competition, only male players may participate.) be deleted.

**Motion:** that the motion be amended to (C. Barnes)

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.

**CARRIED**

- That By-law 8.2.2 (A player who has not taken the field prior to half time is not permitted to join the game after half time.) be deleted.

**CARRIED**

## **6.9 Local Rules for GHA Competitions for 2023**

### **6.9.1 Tomahawk shots.**

The previous rule which placed limits on the execution of tomahawk shots in junior competition will be removed. Tomahawk shots are now permitted in U12, U14, U17 competitions as long as the shot is not dangerous or does not lead to dangerous play.

### **6.9.2 Penalty corners in U17 competitions.**

The previous rule which directed that a girl must take the first shot on a penalty corner will be removed. Penalty corners in U17 competitions will be played as for the normal rules for penalty corners.

### **6.9.3 Borrowing players from other teams**

- GHA Rules allow junior teams to borrow 2 players from another club/ team as long as they have 7 of their own players to begin the match, and the loaned players will make a team of not more than 11. See By-Law 5.4.1
- If one player volunteers to play for the opposing junior team, the player is permitted to swap back to their own team at half-time.
- The rule does not apply for senior teams.

### **6.9.4 Double up rules for 2023**

- The more flexible double up rules which were in place for 2022 were not approved for 2023. Double up rules will apply as per the By-laws, including those revisions approved at this meeting.
- The meeting agreed that a player may play regularly as a goalkeeper in one division and as a field player in another division. This will not count as a double up.
- Any further requests for exemptions to the double up rules should be submitted to the Match Committee for consideration.

### **6.9.5 Forfeits and finals eligibility**

When a game has been forfeited, the team which receives the forfeit must submit a team sheet. All names listed on the sheet are then counted as games played towards eligibility for finals.

**6.9.6 Face masks and penalty corners – COVID rules for face masks no longer apply. Penalty corners will be played under the usual FIH rules of hockey.**

## **6.10 Transfers**

Transfers from one club to another should be requested within the Revolutionise Sport system. Please ensure that transferring players DO NOT register with your club prior to having a transfer application approved.

### **6.11 Hockey Victoria fees for 2023**

- Adult \$121
- Adult 5 game \$65
- Youth \$93
- Youth 5 game \$52
- Hookin2Hockey \$40

### **6.12 Hockey Geelong Member Recruitment report.**

School Roadshows funded by Hockey Victoria have begun, with week 1 of 3 completed for schools in the Torquay area. Roadshow visits are spread between 13 schools allocated to 5 clubs. These clinics will involve over 1700 students at the end of the three weeks.

Roadshow visits will be followed by 5 Hookin2Hockey programs, run by Torquay, Newtown, Geelong, Golden Plains, Saints. Geelong and Golden Plains are working jointly with their program, but participants will register separately. The various Hin2H programs will begin on February 15, 21, 22 and March 2.

P. Stuart has requested that A. Welsh, HV, contact all local schools who are not participating in this initial Roadshow program to offer the opportunity to host a Roadshow session at their school during Terms 2, 3 or 4. This was a very successful approach in 2022, and we hope for similar success in 2023.

**Next Meeting** to be advised.

**Close of meeting** The meeting closed at 9.52 pm.