



SUMMER HOCKEY RULES

The rules used for Hockey Geelong summer competitions shall be the same as those used by Hockey Geelong in the winter season, except for the variations specified below. These rules apply to all grades of competition unless specified otherwise.

1. The Game

- The game is played by two teams of up to 7 players. There may be 11 players listed on the team sheet but only 7 are allowed on the field at any time. Interchange of players may take place as usual.
- The game is played on half-field (50 x 60 yards or 45.72 x 54.86 metres) for all competitions except U8, where a quarter field (30 x 50 yards or 27.43 x 45.72 metres) is used.
- The game is played with 2 halves of 25 minutes and 5 minutes half time, except for U8, where 2 halves of 20 minutes are played.
- Games are to commence at the scheduled time, and should finish no later than five minutes prior to the next scheduled match time, irrespective of the time at which the match actually started.

2. The Teams

- Teams for junior competitions may include both male and female players with no specific ratio of either.
- Age limits for junior competitions are as at January 1 of the year in which the competition commences.
- Teams for Senior Mixed and Masters Mixed competitions may include both male and female players, with a maximum of 4 male players on the field at any one time.
 - In order to participate in the Senior Mixed competition, players must be aged at least 14 at July 1 of the year in which the competition commences.
 - Junior players who are under the age of 14 at the specified date may participate in the Senior Mixed competition if permission has been obtained from the opposing captain.
 - Where such permission is given, the player must play as a 'male'.
 - In order to compete in the Masters Mixed competition, players must be aged at least 35 at July 1 of the year in which the competition commences.
- Teams for the Friday Family competition may include both male and female, and senior and junior players.
 - In order to participate in the Friday Family competition, players must be aged at least 10 at July 1 of the year in which the competition commences.
 - Each team must have a minimum of 2 junior or beginner senior (male or female) players on the field at any time.

- A junior player is any male or female aged 10 to 15 at July 1, who has not regularly played senior hockey during previous winter season/s
- A beginner may be any male or female player who has not played before or who has not played competition hockey in the previous five years
- Each team may have a maximum of 3 experienced male players on the field at any time.

3. The Field

- All teams should assist in putting out and packing away goals, boards or nets as required at the beginning and end of the match.

4. Requirements of Teams

- All team entries must be submitted under the auspices of an affiliated club or a school. The club or school will be responsible for all financial commitments of the team, and for the behaviour of the team members.
- Each team must submit a player's list to the convenor prior to the start of the season.
- A player can only be registered with one club but may play for any team which the club has entered in the competition.
 - A player may play two matches in the one round in the same competition for their club on a maximum of 25% of matches.
 - A junior player may play without limit in two teams for their club in different age divisions.
- If a player is not listed on the initial team entry, they will be registered to a team when their name first appears on the team sheet.
- Before playing a match, all players must have purchased a Hockey Victoria membership for the current season.
- Players may play for any club of their choice without a transfer, regardless of the club with which they were affiliated during the previous winter season.
- Players may not change from one club to another during the season.
- Teams may include a maximum of 2 players per match from another club, provided that the team will not have any interchange players.

5. Conduct of the competition

- The ball may be played off the sideboards and still remain in play.
- **No hitting the ball is allowed anywhere on the field for all competitions.** Pushes only may be used.
 - Slap shots (where the stick travels along the ground) are deemed to be a hit and may not be used.
- A minimum of 5 players per team is required to commence a match.
 - A forfeit will be awarded against any team failing to take the field within 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time.
- The ball must hit the backboard in order for a goal to be scored, unless the ball is deflected into the net by a defender's stick.

- The ball must remain **below knee height at all times** for all competitions, regardless of danger. A free hit will be awarded where the ball is above knee height.
 - The ball must remain on the ground at all times for U8 competitions.
- There will be no goalkeepers or kicking full backs.
- On a penalty corner, the players of the **defending team who are behind the centre line must not cross the centre line until the ball is played by the attacking team at the top of the circle.**
 - For Senior Mixed, Masters Mixed and Friday Family competitions, the first shot at goal on a penalty corner must be taken by a female or a junior player.
 - For U17 competitions, the first shot at goal on a penalty corner must be taken by a female.
- Penalty corners will not be played out if the match time elapses before the penalty corner is taken or completed.
- If a penalty stroke is awarded in any competition, an automatic goal will be awarded.
- For all Junior and Friday Family competitions, each player may score a maximum of 3 goals in any one game.
- Any team which is unable to play as fixtured should advise the Competition Convenor as soon as possible.

6. Match Results

- Team sheets should be completed with all details required, including players' names, goal scorers and match result. Both umpires should sign the sheet at the conclusion of the game to verify the score.
- Team sheets should be handed in on the night of the game to the Competition Convenor or placed in the box or handed in at the canteen at Stead Park.
- Competition ladders will be maintained for all competitions except U8 and Friday Family.
 - 3 points will be awarded for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss.
 - A forfeit, with a score of 0-5, may be awarded against a team which has insufficient players to begin the game, or for a breach of the competition rules.

7. Umpiring Responsibilities

- Each team is responsible for supplying an umpire as per the roster.
- Junior teams must supply an umpire for their own game.
- Each team will pay one umpire at the conclusion of the match.
 - Fees paid to umpires will be as determined each year by Hockey Geelong.