

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

PLAYING RULES – GENERAL & SENIORS

Eligibility to Play

All persons registered with PMHHA or a PMHHA Member Club are eligible to play, coach, manage or umpire Hockey in a competition as determined by PMHHA. Refer PMHHA Registration Policy.

Competitions & Admission

PMHHA will oversee, run and administer a Senior Men, Senior Women and mixed grade Juniors, club-based competition annually in grades as deemed appropriate to share the skill set of the player base and anticipated registration numbers.

Member Clubs that are financial with PMHHA or have been approved by PMHHA to play, will be invited to submit teams annually into each competition. By virtue of their participation in a previous year's competition, a club will be deemed to be a Member Club in the next year's competition – refer PMHHA Constitution.

Invitations to enter teams into the competition will be sought approximately four (4) calendar weeks prior to the expected start date of each competition.

There shall be no fee attached to the initial team nomination.

Where a club enters or withdraws a team within the two (2) calendar weeks prior to the scheduled commencement, or alternative date set by PMHHA, or wishes to enter or withdraw a team after the scheduled commencement, a \$250 application fee shall apply. A written application to PMHHA Management MUST be made and approval given if a Member Club wishes to enter a team into the competition after the scheduled commencement date of the competition.

Teams & Players

Member Clubs are expected to fill their teams from "top to bottom" with their best players being listed in A Grade, second best players in B Grade and so-on. Where a member club cannot fulfill this requirement, explanation may be required to PMHHA to satisfy competition entry under this policy.

Member Clubs shall be able to draw upon their entire playing list to form teams each week. At no time shall more than 16 players comprise a team on game day as per current FIH rules.

Grading and player restrictions

Member Clubs are to restrict their playing rosters as follows;

A Grade Teams

- The clubs best six (6) field players and the clubs best goal keeper (7 players total) shall be prevented from playing in the lower grades,

B Grade Teams

- Six (6) field players and a goal keeper (7 players total) shall be prevented from playing in the lower grade,

C Grade Teams

- There shall be no restriction on these players.

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Member Clubs with a teams in only two (2) Grades, shall restrict their playing roster as follows;

Highest Grade

- The clubs best six (6) field players and the clubs best goal keeper (7 players total) shall be prevented from playing in the lower grade,

Lower Grade

- There shall be no restriction on these players

All other players shall be allowed to fill the playing slots of each team within their clubs at any time of the playing season, subject to the policies of PMHHA.

Member Clubs shall restrict their senior players to playing a maximum of two (2) competition matches in any calendar week or round of matches. If a club requires a player to play two (2) matches, these two matches must be in an adjacent grade in each calendar week or round of matches.

Member Clubs shall restrict their junior players to playing a maximum of two (2) competition matches in any calendar week or round of matches. If a member club requires a junior player to play two (2) matches, these two matches must be in an adjacent grade. For the purpose of this policy, juniors "competitive" hockey is any junior grade over the age of 11 (eg Under 13s and Over 13s).

Where a Member Club wishes to use a player that is eligible for "juniors" in the "seniors" competition, then that player shall be restricted to a maximum of three (3) competition matches, two (2) of which must be in either the juniors or in the senior's competition, in any calendar week or round of matches, and in adjacent grades. Refer also PMHHA policy on Juniors Playing Seniors.

Member Clubs are not permitted to use players from other Member Clubs unless prior written application from both Member Clubs is received and approval has been given by PMHHA Management.

Cross play

Member Clubs are not permitted to use the same player in more than one team in any given grade, except where a graded goalkeeper wishes to play on-the field in their clubs' other team in the same grade subject to them not having played on the field in their original team.

The graded goalkeeper shall be defined as;

- *The person nominated by their club when team lists are called for, or*
- *a person that has played goalkeeper in a fill-in capacity for four (4) matches in the current season shall be deemed a regular goalkeeper.*

Player Transfers

Should a player wish to transfer clubs mid-season, written permission is to be sought from PMHHA Management, and the management of the Member Clubs in question. Approval must be given prior to that player playing for their new Member Club.

Playing for Two Clubs

Should a player wish to play for two (2) clubs in any given season and at the same time, written permission is sought from PMHHA Management, and the management of the Member Clubs in question. Approval must be given prior to that player playing for their new Member Club.

The player can only play for another club when their “home” club does not support a team in the next higher grade. If the players ‘home’ club has a team in higher grades then that person is not eligible to play for two clubs.

If a player plays for another club, that player MUST be one of the graded players in their home club in their highest grade.

Adjacent Grade Rule

The adjacent grade rule for Seniors is defined as follows, where a player;

- Plays A Grade – they can also play B Grade if they are an ungraded player,
- Plays B Grade – they can only play A Grade if they are graded B Grade player,
- Plays B Grade – they can also play A Grade or C Grade if they are an ungraded player,
- Plays C Grade – they can also play B Grade.

Players that have played 4 games in A Grade, (or any other competition [MNCHL] where PMHHA have combined with another association), shall not be eligible to play in C Grade from the point of their 4th A Grade match onwards in that season.

Juniors Players cannot play seniors A Grade (inc MNCHL or other combined competitions) and C Grade in any given calendar week or round of matches during the competition and are also subjected to the rules above

Players and Finals Qualifications

To be eligible to play finals hockey, a player must;

- be correctly registered including up to date with all financial obligations,
- not serving any term of suspension,
- not be an “old boy / old girl”,
- must have played at least eight (8) games for their club, and
- be compliant with the remainder of this policy (eg no cross play, adjacent grade, last 5 rounds etc) and any other applicated policies related to PMHHA.

Exemption to this clause may be granted for the following reasons;

1. Genuine absence from local hockey for representational hockey duties,
2. Genuine absence from local hockey for injury or illness (proof may be required),

A member club may make representation to PMHHA should another reason for exemption be forthcoming.

Exemption requests should be forward to PMHHA at the first available opportunity throughout the season when a Member Club or one of it’s teams becomes aware of a possible reason to seek exemption.

No exemption requests will be considered if submitted within 72 hours of the scheduled start of any finals match.

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Modification to FIH Rules of Hockey

The length of time for a match shall be 4 periods of 17:30mins unless otherwise altered by grade specific local rules.

Time shall not be stopped for Penalty Corners, Penalty Strokes, Goals or injuries in the normal course of play during the normal season – refer policy on finals for finals formats and details, and policy on match duration.

A team must consist of at least seven (7) players on the field at anyone time. Should a team not have seven (7) players on the field at any one time during a match, or immediately prior to the commencement of a match, then that team shall forfeit the match. Teams shall be given a 'grace period' of 10 minutes to obtain seven (7) or more players.

Temporary Suspensions shall be divided into;

- five (5) minute suspensions for offences of a 'minor' nature, and
- ten (10) minute suspensions for offences of a 'major' nature

Deferments and Forfeits

PMHHA does not support deferments or forfeits.

Where a forfeit is inevitable, the lowest graded team shall be the team that forfeits. If a Member Club has two teams in the lowest grade, then the team on the highest points shall forfeit. Refer PMHHA Policy on Forfeits and Deferments.

Exemptions to this clause may be granted in exceptional circumstances upon application to PMHHA Management.

Penalties

PMHHA Management shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this Policy

Unregistered Player / Coach / Manager

Where any person participates in any regular season match, and is unregistered, that person shall be suspended from playing or participating in hockey for a minimum of four (4) weeks, their club fined \$100, and that person shall not be able to return to play / participate until correctly registered after their four (4) week suspension and the fine paid. Repeat offences of this nature will see the penalty doubled each time for every subsequent offence.

Where any person participates in a finals match that is unregistered, this will result in an immediate forfeit by that team, a carry-over 4-week suspension and a \$200 fine to the club in question. That person shall not be able to return to play / participate until correctly registered after their four (4) week suspension and the fine paid. Repeat offences of this nature will see the penalty doubled each time for every subsequent offence.

Other Penalties

Where any person participates in any regular season match and is not compliant with this policy, including incorrectly registered, the following shall apply;

- First offence by any person from a Member Club – the team in which the player played in shall lose one (1) competition point,

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- Second offence by any person from a Member Club – the team in which the player played in shall lose (3) competition points,
- Third offence by any person from a Member Club – the team in which the player played in shall lose six (6) competition points, and a \$150 fine attributed to the Member Club, payable to the Association within two (2) weeks from notification,
- For the fourth or any subsequent offences by any person from a Member Club, the matter will be deemed systemic and referred PMHHA Management for further action,
- Individual players, including captains of teams, may also be subject to disciplinary procedures at the discretion of PMHHA Management.

Where any person participates in a finals match and is not compliant with this policy, the following shall apply;

- First offence - The team in which the player played, shall have 3 goals subtracted from their match total and the player shall be ineligible to play in any other finals match,
 - Should a subsequent offence be found in the same match by the same team, a further 2 goals shall be subtracted from their match total and that player shall be ineligible to play in any other finals match, and so on,
- Second offence – The team in which the player played shall have 5 goals subtracted from their match total and the player shall be ineligible to play in any other finals match.
- PMHHA reserve the right impose further sanctions against Member Clubs, Team Captains, and individual players in the interests of fair play and consistency.

Definitions

For the purposes of clarity, the following interpretation shall apply.

- A Grade may also refer to a team entered in the Mid North Coast Hockey League / Premier League or other higher level grade that may be in existence at the time and in combination with another association. Clarity will be provided by PMHHA on an annual basis when team, grade and competition composition is known
- Round / Week – means the same thing – all hockey played within Monday – Sunday in any given calendar week,
- Game / Match – means the same thing. A game or match is played within a round / week.
- The two / three game per week rule shall not apply to any ‘double header’ rounds of matches, nor to a game that is a ‘catch-up’ game.