

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

POLICY JUNIORS PLAYING IN THE SENIOR COMPETITION

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the requirements and regulations of junior players (those players eligible to play in the local junior competition) wishing to play in the senior competition.

Background

PMHHA understands that;

- many junior players have talent that warrants selection in their clubs' senior teams. This allows talented juniors to further challenge themselves and gain a greater appreciation of the sport,
- the nature of senior hockey can be a big step in both the physical and psychological career progression of a junior player, and
- senior players may have some reservations playing against junior players for a variety of reasons.

Requirements

- Any player turning 15 or older in the current year shall be eligible for selection in any senior team within their respective clubs. This shall be part of the normal selection policies made by each individual Member Club,
- Any player turning 14 in the current season may apply to their club to be considered for selection within a senior team. If successful, the player must seek permission to do so, a minimum of 7 (seven) days prior to the first seniors match in which they wish to play, via the following channels and on the approved waiver form;
 - Acknowledgement from the players parents stating that they understand the risks,
 - Acknowledgement from the players club, stating that the player is capable, has the skill set, and has been adequately coached to play in the senior's competition, and
 - Approval from the PMHHA President, or their authorised representative, allowing the junior to play in the senior's competition.
- Any player turning 13 or younger in the current year shall not be eligible to play senior hockey.

Actions

In making any decision, PMHHA Management reserve the right to consult with the Member Club, its coaches, players and parents in question as well as seeking advice from any other source deemed necessary to make an informed decision.

PMHHA Management shall collate, compile, maintain and publish a public record of those players that have applied for exemption.

Penalties

PMHHA Management shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this Policy.

Where any person participates in any match that does not have the correct approval and waiver, 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,

- 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.

For the purposes of clarity, the application of this policy and the penalties herein shall apply as follows;

- To all persons turning 14 within the current year, and any Member Club administrators, and / or team captains,
- An “offence” is to be taken as the first time that a person is found to be playing without approval via a match card or any other means. An offence is not to be interpreted as multiple breaches but only “discovered” for the first time. Each incorrect instance shall be deemed one single breach.