

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION PREMIERSHIPS AND FINALS COMPETITIONS POLICY

Introduction

Finals are an exciting and competitive time for everyone involved in hockey. It is the culmination of a years' worth of recruiting, training, playing and dedication to our sport. Clubs and teams should feel suitably proud of their achievements in reaching a finals match.

This policy aims to encompass the underpinning principles of PMHHA to provide a platform that rewards teams that finish higher on the end of season ladders. PMHHA does this by providing both a Minor and Major Premiership across all grades and be ensuring, where practicable, all Grand Final matches are played on the same day or the Friday Night and Saturday of the same weekend. The set-out of finals matches is designed to be advantageous to those teams that finish higher on the ladder.

Minor Premiership

The team within any grade that finished the regular playing season with the most competition points shall be awarded the Minor Premiership for that grade. Each team that is awarded the annual Minor Premiership shall be presented with a perpetual shield / trophy / award and have their team's name and year engraved on it.

If two or more teams are on equal points at the end of the regular playing season, the team with the greater "for and against" shall be awarded the Minor Premiership.

For the purposes of this policy; "for and against" shall be determined by subtracting the goals scored against a team from the goals scored by a team.

If two or more teams have an equal "for and against", the team scoring the most goals throughout a season shall be awarded the Minor Premiership.

Qualification to Play in the Finals

To qualify to play in the finals, a player must meet the requirements outlined in the competition playing rules.

Major Premiership

The team with the most goals scored in the Grand Final shall be awarded the Major Premiership. The losing team shall be declared the 'Runners Up'.

Should teams finish on equal goals at the end of the regular time in the grand-final, premierships shall be decided as per the "structure of finals" clause below.

Award – Major Premiership

Team and / or individual awards shall be made to all players in a Grand Final Match;

- Major Premiers - Each team that is awarded the annual Major Premiership in their respective grade shall be presented with a shield / trophy / award and have their team's name and year engraved on it.
- Major Premiers – Individual players of the winning team shall each be awarded a trophy / medal / or another appropriate item commemorating their win, and
- Runners Up – Individual players in the losing team shall each be awarded a trophy / medal / or another appropriate item, of a lesser size / value / colour than the Major Premiers to commemorate the occasion.
- No more than 16 individual awards shall be given per team.

PMHHA POLICY_Premierships and Finals – adopted Mar 2019
Qualification to play in finals amended April 2019 via consultation with the SMC on 31 Mar 2019
Updated to reflect alterations to playing rules – adopted Mar 2021
Updated to reflect alterations to playing rules – adopted Feb 2023

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Structure of Finals

Players, teams, clubs must understand that finals are in place to reward cohesive team and club efforts throughout the season. As such, some teams will miss-out on finals hockey.

Time out shall be permitted in all finals matches.

The following structures are to be used over the finals period;

Three (3) Teams in a Grade

Game 1	Grand Final	1 st place	v.	2 nd place
		3 rd place	v.	Eliminated

Four (4) Teams in a Grade

Game 1	Elimination Final	2 nd place	v.	3 rd place
		1 st place	v.	BYE
Game 2	Grand Final	1 st place	v.	Winner Game 1

Five (5) to Eight (8) Teams in a grade

Game 1	Semi Finals	1 st place	v.	2 nd place
Game 2	Semi Finals	3 rd place	v.	4 th place
Game 3	Elimination Final	Winner Game 2	v.	Loser Game 1
Game 4	Grand Final	Winner Game 1	v.	Winner Game 3

Greater than Eight (8) Teams in a grade

Where a grade has greater than eight (8) teams in it, a six (6) team finals format shall be played. PMHHA will publish the finals format as soon as practicable after learning that a grade will have greater than 8 teams competing in that grade.

Drawn Finals Matches

All Finals Matches except Grand Finals

Drawn matches at the end of the regular playing time shall be decided in the following manner;

- All matches in all competitive grades shall have a period of 10 mins of extra time in all finals matches,
- A 5 min break between extra time and the regular playing period shall be allowed,
- This period of extra time shall be 5 mins each way with a 1 min break in between periods,
- Teams shall continue their ends of the field / hit-off rotation as per the match,
- The team that scores first in extra time shall be declared the 'winner' and progress to the next round,
- Losers shall progress as per the tables in 'Structure of Finals' listed above,
- If scores are still level at the end of extra time, the team that finished higher on the premiership ladder shall be declared the 'winner' and the team that finished lower on the premiership ladder shall be declared the 'loser'.

Grand Finals

There shall be no extra time in Grand Finals.

Drawn matches at the end of the regular playing time shall progress directly to a penalty shootout / penalty stroke competition as per the below;

- Seniors
 - The lowest local seniors' grade shall undertake a five (5) person Penalty Stroke competition.
 - All other grades shall undertake a five (5) person x 8 second Penalty Shoot-out competition as per the current FIH regulations,
- Juniors
 - Both the highest and lowest competitive levels of junior hockey (generally Under 16s and Under 13s) shall be determined by a Penalty Shootout competition.
 - Any other lower grade Juniors match will be determined by 10mins of extra time (5min each way) and then the highest placed team on the ladder shall be declared the winner if scores remain level.

If scores are level at the end of either the Penalty Stroke or Penalty Shoot-out competitions, the competition shall continue on a '1 for 1' basis until such time as a team has a clear lead after an equal number of turns.

Prior to the commencement of the Penalty Shoot-out or Penalty Stroke competition, the Captain of each team shall nominate their 5 players that will take part in the competition. They shall provide their names to the match officials. Only these 5 players may take part in the competition. The Umpires shall toss a coin with the captains. The winning captain shall elect to go first or second in the Penalty Shoot-out / Stroke competitions.