



Sydney Women's Hockey League  
Conditions of Play 2023  
(Winter Competitions)



# SYDNEY WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE

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## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF SWHL**

The competition is organised for the benefit of our players, officials, supporters and hockey community.

Decisions made are in the best interest of the competition.

There is a commitment to fair play and the preservation of the 'spirit of the game' on and off the field. Being a 'good sport' by encouraging and praising fair play over winning at all costs is respected.

Trust and integrity of players, officials and supporters is valued in all aspects of the competition on and off the field.

The current Rules of Hockey, Conditions of Play and the Codes of Conduct will be respected, promoted and applied in a consistent manner.

The competition will provide opportunities for all to participate at an appropriate standard, be safe and respectful of the effort of everyone involved.

An environment will be provided and promoted that is positive, inclusive, welcoming, supportive and enjoyable and places the health, welfare and well-being of participants above all else.

The contribution of all involved in our sport will be valued including coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers who give up their time to ensure the competition happens.

## Section 1 – COMPETITION OVERVIEW

1.1 The basic rules and interpretations for the Sydney Women's Hockey League (SWHL) competitions will be principally per the current "FIH Rules of the Game of Hockey".

SWHL may vary the competition rules and interpretations from time to time.

1.2 Various policies of Hockey Australia and Hockey NSW will apply to activities managed by SWHL. Including:

- Member Protection policy -

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/hockeyaus/files/av4rrttl8bwppopy.pdf>

- Complaints, Disputes and Discipline policy

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/hockeyaus/files/czcvu4ve3ktswjgg.pdf>

- National Integrity Framework

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/cups/hockeyaus/files/sfb5muchtvki4bef.pdf>

- SAFE policies

[Policies - Safe | Hockey NSW](#)

- Extreme Weather policy

[glchl2ajzluo3jtit.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

- Guidelines for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse People in Community Hockey

[9n8okxzoggvylxmu.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

1.3 Several documents are available on the SWHL website that Clubs/Teams should be familiar with prior to the commencement of any competition.

- Code of Conduct – Players

[nmzlvzh8tdw3zoki.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

- Code of Conduct – Officials

[hsiesddoebc4enp2.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

- Code of Conduct – Umpires

[mdzjomcwqfzri7h3.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

- Code of Conduct – Spectators

[9wpfzg9rpbqknqlb.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

- Sponsorship Guidelines

[ev4lv5kifogwnqhs.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

SWHL Shoot-Out competition

[0fjebjor0rpulpfk.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

Umpire's Guidelines

[3k2afwoktliapnvl.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

Incident report

[kaztgsoex7uimt6w.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)

1.4 Acceptance and/or maintenance of teams/clubs in the competition will be at the discretion of the SWHL Committee.

1.5 By participating in its competitions, all clubs, players and officials agree that SWHL can investigate alleged breaches of any of its Conditions of Play (2022) and act on those breaches.

- 1.6 The Judiciary as outlined in Section 15 will deal with players, officials and spectators who are reported for misconduct or behaviour detrimental to the game of Hockey and SWHL.
- 1.7 It is mandatory that all players wear appropriate protective gear such as shin guards and mouth guards, unless medical or dental exemption is approved by SWHL Committee.
- 1.8 It is recommended that players, umpires, officials and spectators use appropriate sun protection such as hats and sunscreen.
- 1.9 Recommendations for players participating when pregnant are in accordance with the document *“Participation of the Pregnant Athlete in Collision or Contact Sports”* Sports Medicine Australia, 1994 found at [Sports Medicine Australia Guidelines \(sma.org.au\)](http://SportsMedicineAustralia.org.au)  
*Further information is found at [SMA AWiS Pregnancy - Exercise.pdf](#) and from the Australian Government Department of Health March 2020 found at [Evidence-based physical activity guidelines for pregnant women \(health.gov.au\)](#)*
- 1.10 SWHL strongly recommends all participants and spectators have ‘up to date vaccination status’ as per current Australian and State Health Guidelines.
- 1.11 All teams must ensure that they have a suitably qualified First Aider in attendance and named on the match card and have access to a stocked first aid kit during warm-ups and matches.
- 1.12 Any advertising (for example sponsors names and/or logos etc) on uniforms must be approved by the SWHL Committee before it is placed on the uniform. Clubs must submit their request in writing, including a sketch or photo of the proposed design.  
See Sponsorship Guidelines [ev4lv5kjqfqnqhs.pdf \(revolutionise.com.au\)](#)
- 1.13 All players, officials, spectators, and umpires involved in any SWHL competitions must be made aware of and adhere to the Codes of Conduct for SWHL. The SWHL committee will be responsible for ensuring all Codes of Conduct are met and any breaches of these codes will be dealt with by the appropriate committee.  
**NOTE:** It is the club/association responsibility to ensure all players, officials, umpires, and spectators are aware of these Codes of Conduct for SWHL.

## **Section 2 – VENUE REQUIREMENTS AND UTILISATION**

- 2.1 SWHL competition is predominately played at the centralised venue at Sydney Olympic Hockey Centre (SOPHC).
- 2.2. Matches will be allocated to other designated venues based on turf hire cost, travel distance from SOPHC and the number of teams being accommodated in the competition provided the venue requirements are met (see 2.3)
- 2.3 Designated venues utilised by SWHL must have:

- (a) clear instructions and procedures in place to deal with all medical emergencies and accidents or injuries during any matches;
  - (b) an AED/defibrillator on the ground;
  - (c) access to a supply of ice at the ground;
  - (d) electronic scoreboard and siren;
  - (f) procedures to address any contemporary Public Health Orders and/or other issues.
- 2.4 All venue hirers must comply with any current Public Health Orders and requirements.
  - 2.5 Dogs are not permitted at SOPHC unless they are registered service dogs. Participants should check rules regarding dogs at all other venues to ensure there is no breach of the venue rules.
  - 2.6 SWHL has the right to monitor all venues for in respect of player, official and spectator safety, including but not limited to venue access, security (especially at night), lighting lux, fencing, goals, dug outs, field cleanliness and wear and tear and amenities for players, officials and spectators.
  - 2.7 SWHL reserves the right to re-schedule matches to another venue depending on venue conditions and safety. Consultation with venue hirers will be conditional to any rescheduling.

### **Section 3 – COMPETITON STRUCTURE**

- 3.1 SWHL competitions will be divided into divisions as determined from time to time that supports the competition requirements as follows:
  - Opens competition – ML 1,2,3,4,5,6
  - Masters competition – Divisions 1,2,3,4.
- 3.2 In structuring the competition
  - (a) Grading will be based on the grade nominated by the team, the position of the team in the competition points table in the preceding season and any other information deemed relevant by the SWHL Committee.
  - (b) A system of relegation and promotion operates for grading. This will follow the general principle of one team promoted and one team relegated for each grade with the discretion of the SWHL Committee with the proviso that in the Opens competition only one team per club will be permitted in each grade. Masters competition may have more than one team per Association.
  - (c) Teams will be invited to be promoted to ML1 based on performance.
- 3.3 Players are permitted to participate in more than one competition in a season.
- 3.4 Each team is permitted up to 5 substituting players per match with unlimited interchange.
- 3.5 Any team fielding less than 11 players on 3 occasions may be required to appear before the SWHL Committee. Refer to clause 14.4.

### **Section 4 – REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- 4.1 All players must be registered with Hockey NSW.

- 4.2 The minimum age of players participating in the Open competition will be 12 years of age in the year of competition. The SWHL Committee may request proof of age.
- 4.3 Masters age will be determined as at 31st December of the year of competition. This means a Masters player must reach 34 years of age during the current year. Proof of age is required for all new players and should accompany the Registration Form.

**NOTE:** Each player's date of birth must be recorded on the Team Registration Form.

- 4.4 Under special circumstances (specifically relating to goalkeepers only), Masters teams may apply for a waiver of the age rule. This application must come via the Association/Club Secretary.
- 4.5 No player may be registered with more than one team in any one competition.
- 4.6 Each team may register a MINIMUM of eleven (11) players who MUST participate in the first round.  
Single teams playing in the competition MUST have a MINIMUM of fourteen (14) players registered.  
Each team may nominate a goalkeeper. If a team does not nominate a goalkeeper, then clause 4.17 does not apply.
- 4.7 Once a player has played in a higher grade for the number of match(es) listed below, she will automatically be registered in the higher grade:
- **SWHL Opens:** 8 match(es) (i.e., 7 match(es) maximum without re-grading) – assuming the player has played all 18 rounds.
  - **SWHL Masters Divisions 1 & 2:** 5 match(es) (i.e., 4 match(es) maximum without re-grading) – assuming the player has played all 10 rounds.
  - **SWHL Masters Divisions 3 & 4:** 7 match(es) (i.e., 6 match(es) maximum without re-grading) – assuming the player has played all 15 rounds.

**NOTE:** Exemption for a player on representative duty is as defined in clause 4.13.

- 4.8 A Team Registration form is to be forwarded to the relevant Registrar seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled game of the competition via email in excel format. The form must record each player in shirt number numerical order. Players and their relevant shirt numbers listed on the Team Registration form must also be uploaded to the SWHL Revolutionise Sports Sport as per the Player Upload Instructions and Important Information Document provided.
- 4.9 Applications for registration and re-registration must be made on the bottom of match card. Applications for re-registration must also be uploaded to the SWHL Revolutionise Sports Sport as per the Player Upload Instructions and Important Information Document provided. Full details of the registration are to be provided to the Registrar.
- 4.10 For Masters Divisions, full details of late registrations must be entered on the Match card. These new Master players must provide a copy of photo identification to the Registrar within 24 hours of their first match. Any breaches deem that player ineligible and appropriate penalty will be imposed – loss of points.
- 4.11 Clubs must:

(a) ensure all players and non-playing officials are registered with HNSW. Non-playing officials include managers and coaches

(b) All Clubs are to provide a list of their Unfinancial Players each year to the SWHL Secretary (on a date to be determined by the SWHL Committee) for distribution to all Club Secretaries. This can include unfinancial players from previous years. Once a player has rectified their liability to a Club, the Club must, as soon as is practicably possible, notify the SWHL Secretary so that the name will be removed from this list.

Any breach of this rule will lead to a forfeit for every game in which an Unfinancial Player has participated.

4.12 New player registration after the completion of Round 11 of the Open competition and round 6 (Div 1 & 2) and round 9 (Div 3 & 4) in the Masters competition will not be eligible to play in the SWHL final series (semi-finals, finals and grand final).

4.13 Field players who are currently, or who have been in the past 2 years, a State, Territory or National Open or Age (Under 21 or Under 18) representative must be graded in the club's highest graded team. They will not be permitted to play down in a lower division in the Open competition.

Goalkeepers who are currently, or who have been in the past 2 years, a State, Territory or National open or Age (Under 21 or Under 18) representatives may be graded in a club's second team provided it is no lower than ML3. They will not be permitted to play down in a lower division in the Open Competition. Special Consideration may be given in exceptional circumstances.

Players who are currently, or who have been in the past 2 years, a State, Territory or National Open or Age (Under 21 or Under 18) second team representatives (e.g., U18s Blues) may be graded in a club's second team provided it is no lower than ML3. They will not be permitted to play down in a lower division in the Open Competition. Special consideration may be given in exceptional circumstances. The two years is calculated from the 31<sup>st</sup> December in the year that the player last played as a State, Territory or National Open or Age (Under 21 or Under 18) representative.

4.14 Where a player participates in more than one (1) competition match in the same round, her grading for that round will be recorded as the higher grade played.

4.15 A player may only play in TWO competition matches in any one round of the Open competition

4.16 Masters players may only play in 2 match(es) in one week (as the rounds do not coincide).

4.17 A player may play one team lower than the grade she is registered where:

- There are no more than 2 divisions difference,
- This makes a maximum of 13 players for the match. (This means only 13 players may participate in this match). An exception will be allowed with more than 13 players allowed if that player is to replace the nominated goalkeeper only. See clause 4.6.



- It does not contravene clause 4.13.
- Only one (1) player in any one game (whether goalkeeper or field player) may play in a division lower than that which they have been graded.

4.18 If a club deems it necessary to move a player down a grade on a more permanent basis, this may be permitted where:

- There is no more than 2 divisions difference.
- It does not contravene rule 4.13.
- It is one team lower than where they have played the majority of their match(es)
- A player from the lower team goes up to replace the player being moved down.
- The player who is moved down a grade cannot go back up to the higher grade until they have played 3 match(es) in the lower grade.
- No player may be moved down a grade after round the completion of round 11 in the Opens Competition, round 6 in divisions 1 and 2 of the Masters Competition and round 9 in divisions 3 and 4 of the Masters Competition.

4.19 Application for special consideration for the re-registration of players can be made to the SWHL management in writing.

4.20 In the event that the player who is being moved up a grade in accordance with clause 4.18 ceases to continue playing another player from the lower grade has to replace this player.

If a player is being moved down a grade on permanent/semi-permanent basis. The name of both players indicating which player is going up and which player is going down is to be recorded on both match cards.

4.21 There is a limit of three (3) players who can be permanently moved down a grade per season per team.

4.22 A team who in any competition contravenes the rules regarding registration of players will be penalised for each offence - See Section 14 Fees & Fines.

4.23 Registered players who have not taken the field within two (2) rounds of being registered, will be automatically de-registered. A player is not deemed registered until they actually participate in a match. Should these players take the field after two rounds, they must be re-registered.

Should a representative player be deregistered for not having played within the two (2) rounds of their registration date, any player having played up as a replacement during this time will have the match(es) recorded as playing in the higher grade.

4.24 A player can move to another club after round 1 of the competition provided a clearance certificate is obtained from the previous club.

## Section 5 – UMPIRING

- 5.1 All teams must provide nominate a suitably qualified Umpire for each team nominated in the competition. The Umpire Nomination will require - umpires name, badge, current address, contact phone numbers and history of last two years umpiring experience.  
All umpires will need to be approved by the Umpires Committee before the commencement of the season. If an umpire is unknown to anyone on the committee, this umpire may be required to umpire a pre-season game to determine that they meet the standard of the nominated grade. A fitness test may also be required to determine if the umpire is fit enough to handle the grade nominated.
- 5.2 An umpire can only nominate for a maximum of 2 x Open divisions and 1 x Masters divisions or 2 x Masters and 1 x Open division in the current season.
- 5.3 Umpires may only umpire for one team in any division.
- 5.4 Umpires should not umpire more than two match(es) in one day except when special circumstances can be demonstrated. This could be deemed a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- 5.5 Teams may change their nominated umpire during the season by resubmitting the Umpire's Nomination Form. Teams must give the Umpire's Convenor at least seven days' notice.
- 5.6 Each team MUST have an umpire of the required standard to enter the SWHL competition, as listed below.

### Umpire Badge Requirements

<b>ML 1</b> – Hockey ED Australian Umpire Level 3 or approved Level 2	<b>ML 6</b> – Community Badge
<b>ML 2</b> – Level 2	<b>Masters Div 1</b> – Level 2
<b>ML3</b> – Level 2 or approved level 1	<b>Masters Div 2</b> – Level 1
<b>ML 4</b> – Level 1	<b>Masters Div 3</b> – Level 1
<b>ML 5</b> – Level 1	<b>Masters Div 4</b> – Community Badge

- 5.7 All umpires must wear the approved uniform whilst umpiring. This includes the wearing of a designated alternate uniform when umpiring teams whose colours match closely to the umpire's uniform.  
Failure to comply will incur a fine to the club as per Section 14.
- 5.8 The club of any umpire failing to fulfil their weekly duty will be fined as per Section 14 – Fees and Fines.
- 5.9 It is recommended that all umpires attend an umpire's briefing as required.

- 5.10 SWHL Umpires Committee will not test for Community badges. This is an Association's responsibility. Level 1 and Level 2 candidates will be identified at the beginning of the season and coaching, and assessments will be organised by the Umpires Committee. Level 2 candidates will be tested for Level 2 badges only on ML1 match(es). Level 1 candidates will be tested for Level 1 badges only on ML2 match(es).
- 5.11 In the event of the scheduled umpire not arriving for the match both teams should endeavour to obtain the services of another Hockey Ed accredited umpire to umpire the match. If a qualified umpire is not available, the match will be abandoned and a two all draw will be recorded. See Section 14, clause 14.3.
- 5.12 Umpires must print their name after verifying the result on the completed match card. Any remaining empty lines on match card could have a line drawn through.
- 5.13 An umpire issuing any card to a player during a match shall note the player's name, playing number, team and brief description of misconduct on the match card. If no documentation is made, no card will be tallied. All managers are required to keep a tally of all cards given to players within their team/club. This is to ensure no illegal players take the field.
- 5.14 For all yellow and red cards issued, umpires will be required to complete an Umpire's Incident Report. On completion this should be sent to the Umpires Convenor. This report will be used in all relevant Judiciary Committee hearings. Umpires may be asked to attend Judiciary Committee hearings to clarify any aspects of the incident.
- 5.15 All umpires involved in any SWHL competition must be made aware of and adhere to the Codes of Conduct for SWHL. The SWHL Committee will be responsible for ensuring the Codes of Conduct are met and any breaches of these Codes of Conduct will be dealt with by the appropriate committee.

## **Section 6 – MATCH SCHEDULING AND ACCESS TO THE FIELD OF PLAY**

- 6.1 The Fixtures Convenor will develop a match schedule for all competitions prior to the first competition match.
- 6.2 The match schedule will attempt to distribute matches equitably (times, venues) for all teams.
- 6.3 Incorporation of Club/Derby days will be at the discretion of the Fixtures Convenor.
- 6.4 Matches played at the venues and times as set down in the competition draw of SWHL.
- 6.5 A time of 90 minutes is allocated for all round matches. The time begins at the scheduled start time and consists of:
- (a) 10 minutes warm up;
  - (b) 4x17 minute quarters with no time stopped for penalty corner setup.
  - (c) First and Third quarter time breaks are for 2 mins each, where players must stay on the field and be ready to re-commence play at the end of the quarter break.

- (d) a 5-minute half time break (subject to current Public Health orders and venue requirements); and
- (e) Time-outs for injury are not permitted, except for matches being played in the final series.
- 6.6 Teams are permitted to enter the change rooms in the timeslot prior to their match in accordance subject to current venue requirements.
- 6.7 Teams may enter the dugout at the commencement of their timeslot and after it has been vacated by teams participating in the previous match.  
There is a 3-minute change over between timeslots.
- 6.8 Teams are responsible for ensuring that no-one enters the playing area while matches in SWHL competitions are underway (including the warmup and break times) other than participants in the match.
- 6.9 In all matches including the matches in finals series, the only people permitted in the dugouts must be registered with Hockey NSW and be:
- (a) Players and reserves for that game, as listed on the Match Card;
  - (b) Team Coach and Assistant Coach
  - (c) Team Manager;
  - (d) Team Physio/first Aider or other relevant position.
- 6.10 Teams must leave the dugout as soon as their match has concluded.

## **SECTION 7 MATCH CARDS**

- 7.1 The Registrars, according to match cards received will maintain a point score of results.  
Points will be awarded as follows:
- Win 3
  - Draw 1
  - Loss 0
  - Forfeit 3 (with 3 – 0 win recorded) to the team who received the forfeit.
  - A match card must be submitted by the team receiving the forfeit.
  - A team losing or drawing a match against a team that is penalised match points (under Section 14) will be awarded the match points & results as a forfeited match (with a 5-0 win recorded).
- 7.2 Managers or the teams appointed official will be required to provide a match card each week for the match. The team is to be listed on the match card in playing number order as per the team registration form. Any new or substituted players are to be written in pen on the match card.
- 7.3 Extra player's names for that game are to be printed on the match card.  
Players absent from the game must have a line put through their name.
- 7.4 Each team is to complete match card with scores, goal scorers & Best & Fairest points of 3,2,1.

- 7.5 Managers are required to verify that the match card has been correctly completed and accurately reflects the players that participated in the match. Managers will be required to sign the match card as part of the verification process.
- 7.6 The SWHL Committee may conduct random match card checks throughout the season to make sure players listed on the match card as having played, have taken the field.
- 7.7 Managers must update the SWHL Revolutionise Sports Platform noting the players that took part in the match, the match result, goal scorers, penalty cards and best and fairest points of each of their matches by midnight of the next business day after that round of matches is completed.

Managers must also PDF scan (NOT jpg or tif formats) and upload the match card to the SWHL Revolutionise Sports Platform by midnight of the next business day after that round of matches is completed. If you are unable to load the match card PDF you must email it to the relevant registrar listed below:

**- ML 1, 2 & 3 only**

Michael Gunner

Phone: 0435476 676 Email: [mgunner1@tpg.com.au](mailto:mgunner1@tpg.com.au)

**- ML 4, 5 & 6 only**

Donna Parsons

Phone: 0404 859 680 Email: [donna.parsons@laverty.com.au](mailto:donna.parsons@laverty.com.au)

**- Masters Divisions only**

Emma Thuell

Phone: 0422 992 679 Email: [emma.thuell76@gmail.com](mailto:emma.thuell76@gmail.com)

- 7.8 Teams who do not comply with this rule will incur a fine (see clause 14.3).
- 7.9 Scoresheets loaded in the SWHL Revolutionise Sports platform or as shown on the scanned PDF, with missing or incorrect scores will be deemed NO SCORE until the score has been verified in writing by both teams who participated in the match. In the case of conflicting scores, score will be recorded as 0-0 and NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED.
- 7.10 A notation should be made on the match card when a player is playing for a player on representative commitments in addition to having played their regular grade in the same round. These players will be classed as “fill in” players. In addition to noting the “fill in” player on the match card, managers will also need to detail the “fill in” player(s) in the SWHL Revolutionise Sports Platform when loading the match card information.
- 7.11 Representative commitments are deemed as players, umpires or officials participating in Australian team commitment (including trials and training); Australian Country; Hockey One; Australian National Championships for U/15, U/18, (excluding

the schools CHS and CIS championships) U/21 and Master's; and NSW U/13, U/15, U/18, Open and Master's State Championships

**NOTE:** Trials, training (except with Australian team as stated above) or any other tournaments will not be taken into consideration when determining eligibility.

Also refer to clause 4.13 re which team such Open or Age (U21 or U18) players can subsequently play in.

## **Section 8 – UNIFORMS AND PLAYING NUMBERS**

8.1 All teams playing in SWHL must:

- (a) register their full playing uniform (shirts, skirt/skort/shorts and socks);
- (b) be prepared to provide an alternate uniform option if required when their uniform creates a possible conflict of colours with another team.  
In the event of a clash in uniform colours, the team listed second on the draw must make appropriate arrangements to change their uniform prior to the match;
- (c) ensure all their field players wear their registered uniform in all matches (subject to d below);
- (d) apply for and receive approval in advance for any change to their uniform;
- (e) Numbers are to be worn by all players, including goal keepers from the first competition match as per the team registration form and the registration details in the SWHL Revolutionise Sports Platform. Should a player need to play in a different numbered shirt to that which she is registered, the number the player is wearing for that particular round needs to be recorded on the match card as well as the registered number.  
Numbers must be fixed on the back of the player's shirt or pinnie. No tape or pins are permitted. Minimum size of numbers to be 15 cm

8.2 The colour of a goalkeeper's smock must not be similar to the colour of the opposing team's playing shirts

8.3 Bike pants or compression tights are permitted to be worn ONLY IF OF THE SAME COLOUR AS THE PLAYER'S SKIRT/SKORT OR SHORTS. Players not adhering to this rule will not be permitted to participate in their match.

If clubs are unable to source bike pants or compression tights of the same colour as the player's skirt/skort/shorts clubs can make application to SWHL Committee for different coloured bike pants or compression tights to be worn. All players must wear the clubs approved coloured bike pants or compression tights.

8.4 A uniform register will be maintained by SWHL. (*Only those components of the uniform registered will be allowed to be worn.*) Clubs are required to submit a digital photograph of their playing uniform including Shirt, Skirt, Skort, Shorts, bike pants, compression tights and socks (front and back view) to SWHL at the start of each season, or whenever their uniform changes.

## **Section 9 – INJURIES**

- 9.1 Any player who sustains an injury and bleeds is required to immediately leave the playing area. The player is not permitted to resume playing until the bleeding has stopped or a suitable occlusive dressing has been applied.
- 9.2 In the event of blood spillage onto the playing surface or in the dugout, the spillage should be cleaned up. A “blood spill” kit should be available under the bench at each venue.
- 9.3 No player should be treated for an injury on the playing surface unless there are extenuating circumstances where it is deemed unsafe to move the injured player.
- 9.4 An Incident Report Form is available following any incident/injury.

## **Section 10 – TEAM OFFICIALS**

- 10.1 Team officials must ensure their team’s match card is accessible for the officials of the opposing team to check should they ask to do so.
- 10.2 Completed match cards must be placed on the technical bench (where available) prior to the commencement of the match, and for the full duration of the match. SWHL officials may randomly check match cards.
- 10.3 Each team must provide a Timekeeper/Scorer for their match. This person may be a team official.
- 10.4 Team Officials are under the jurisdiction of SWHL while participating in any competition match. The Judiciary as outlined in Section 12 will deal with any misconduct or behaviour detrimental to the game of Hockey and SWHL.
- 10.5 All officials involved in any SWHL competition must be made aware of and adhere to the Codes of Conduct for SWHL. The SWHL Committee will be responsible for ensuring the Codes of Conduct are met and any breaches of these Codes will be dealt with by the appropriate Committee.
- 10.6 Team officials must ensure mouth guards and shin pads are worn.

## **Section 11 – FORFEITS, CANCELLATIONS AND DEFERRED MATCHES**

### **Forfeits**

- 11.1 A team failing to take the field within 10 minutes of the scheduled match time i.e., Twenty minutes after the time advertised, for play, shall forfeit the match, unless extenuating circumstances are accepted by the opposing team and umpires, or an appeal is made and allowed by a subsequent SWHL Committee meeting,
- 11.2 If a team forfeits a game the forfeiting team will be charged the TOTAL cost for the timeslot.
- 11.3 If a club forfeits a game with advance notice the forfeiting team **MUST**:
  - Notify the opposing team;
  - Inform the Umpires Convenor;

- Inform the Fixtures Convenor.

11.4 A team claiming a forfeit must do so on a match card.

Both teams need to update the SWHL Revolutionise Sports platform with the match card information showing a 0-5 loss to the team that forfeited. A claim for extenuating circumstances should be submitted to the relevant Registrar within 24 hours.

Should any team fail to comply with this condition, points for the forfeited game will not be awarded.

### **Approved deferred and/or postponed matches**

11.5 Teams affected by special circumstances may make application to the SWHL committee for a deferment. The application for deferment special consideration must be submitted to the SWHL Secretary within 14 days of the scheduled match.

When SWHL approval is provided clubs must:

- (i) organise and agree with the other club/team on the rescheduled time and venue within 2 weeks of the original scheduling of the match and before the end of round 18.
- (ii) play the rescheduled match within 4 weeks of the original scheduling of the match.
- (iii) notify the SWHL Fixtures Convenor and the relevant Registrar of the details of the rescheduled match, including umpire details.
- (iv) notify the SWHL Committee if both clubs cannot agree on the details of the rescheduling or if the match cannot be rescheduled as per 11.5 (i) or 11.5 (ii). A nil all draw will be recorded as a result.
- (v) arrange for any cost of the rescheduled match to be covered by both teams/clubs.

### **Impact of adverse weather on matches**

11.6 A match or matches may be incomplete, postponed or cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

11.7 If play commences, and the weather deteriorates to the point where it would be dangerous to continue, and it is:

- Before the completion of the second quarter - a nil all draw will be declared; or
- After the completion of the second quarter - the score at the time when the match is abandoned will be declared the final score.<sup>9.3</sup> If the match does not commence on time due to adverse or dangerous weather conditions, the match may be delayed up to 30 minutes (that means, the game must start at least 5 minutes before the scheduled half time), before it is abandoned. The time remaining should be divided equally into four quarters with limited half time. The umpires and team captains will need to agree on this prior to the commencement of play



11.8 If no play commences due to adverse weather, the match may be rescheduled to be played at a later date unless

- (i) the entire round has been abandoned or
- (ii) the entire division has been abandoned in the same round.

11.9 Where the match is not rescheduled the result will be declared as a nil all draw.

11.10 In order to reschedule a match, clubs/teams MUST:

- (a) both agree to play the rescheduled match. If one team does not want to play the rescheduled game, they will receive a forfeit result.
- (b) submit a request to reschedule the match, along with the umpire details, to the SWHL Fixtures Convenor, in conjunction with the relevant Registrar, for approval.
- (c) reschedule the time and venue themselves at the cost of both teams.
- (d) organise and agree on the rescheduled time and venue within 2 weeks of the abandoned match before the end of round 18.
- (e) play the rescheduled match within 4 weeks of the abandoned match.

11.11 Both teams MUST notify the Fixtures Convenor of the unplayable condition of the pitch and the decision to not play the match.

11.12 If a player was scheduled to miss the abandoned game due to suspension, they must still serve their suspension on the next available game.

**Extract from HA Extreme Weather policy**

“Extreme weather may be defined as weather that threatens the immediate or long-term safety of individuals, as a result of rain, hail, lightning, wind chill or heat. The risk is determined in conjunction with Sport Medicine Australia’s Guidelines as well as the Bureau of Meteorology’s forecast conditions.

Weather condition	Extreme weather determinant
Ambient temperature	>36 degrees Celsius
Wet bulb globe temperature (shade)	>30
Apparent temperature (wind chill)	<2 degrees Celsius
Wind speed	>40m per hour
Rainfall	>80 mm in 24 hours

Rain also needs to be considered in relation to its impact on the safety of the playing surface.

**(a) Hail**

All hailstorms present some risk to players in an open playing field, and the size and intensity of the storm can change dramatically in a short period of time. All play should be suspended during hailstorms so that players and officials can seek suitable shelter. It is important to also be aware of any significant temperature drop, rainfall and increased wind that may be associated with the hail conditions. Play should be restarted after the hail has stopped falling, with particular attention being given to the amount of ice on the playing surface (size and thickness of layer). In some cases, it may be unsafe to resume play immediately due to an ice-covered surface. Deferral of the restart to allow melting (or manual clearing in parts) should be considered in extreme circumstances.

**(a) Lightning**

Lightning is the visible part of an electrical discharge. Thunder is the resulting sound from the rapid expansion of the air after this electrical discharge. Sound follows light at 0.34 km/sec. Check the forecast and watch the sky. Darkening skies, flashes or lightning, or increasing wind may indicate an approaching storm.

Lightning safety tips:

(a) Use the 30/30 Lightning Rule. If the time between the lightning flash and the thunder sound is less than 30 SECONDS then play should be suspended, and not resumed until 30 MINUTES after the last thunder (30 seconds relates to 10 Kilometres away).

(b) Find safe shelter. Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be during lightning storms. Avoid sheds, picnic shelters, metal coaching boxes and goals. Staying in a car with windows closed also offers some protection.

Note: Thunder is not usually heard 24-32 kilometres from the lightning strike.

## **Section 12 – ELIGIBILITY FOR SEMI-FINALS, FINALS AND GRAND-FINALS**

- 12.1 To be eligible for the final series a player MUST have played a MINIMUM of 60% of rounds during the current season:  
SWHL Opens: 18 match comp = 11 rounds;  
Masters Divisions 1 & 2: 10 comp = 6 rounds;  
Masters Divisions 3 & 4: 15 comp = 9 rounds.  
A player is eligible to play in the SWHL Final Series in the grade in which the most rounds have been played.  
If a player has played an equal number of rounds across grades, they will be eligible to play in the higher grade.
- 12.2 In the event that a player has been moved down or up a grade during the season and they have played insufficient match(es) to be eligible for the finals (as per clause 12.1) application can be made to the SWHL committee for special consideration of those match(es) played in other grades.
- 12.3 No player may play in any semi-final, final or grand final in a division lower than the division in which she is eligible.
- 12.4 A player who is eligible to play in a lower division will be allowed to play in any semi-final, final or grand final in a higher division.
- 12.5 Where a player plays in more than one competition (i.e., Opens & Masters), her eligibility for semi-final, finals and grand finals will only be taken from those matches played in the competition for that appropriate semi-final, final or grand final.
- 12.6 In extenuating circumstances the above condition may be varied on application to SWHL Committee. This includes representative duties, pregnancy and injury.
- 12.7 It is the responsibility of managers or team officials to maintain a record of players who participate in the SWHL competition taking note of date, grade and periods of absence, etc.
- 12.8 Applications for consideration of extenuating circumstances (as per clauses 12.2 and 12.6 above) should be made in writing to the appropriate Registrar and SWHL secretary 14 days prior to the scheduled semi-final, final and grand-final. This includes players or team officials who have been on International duties. The players club may apply for special consideration which needs to include a demonstrated historical link of the player to the club.
- 12.9 The SWHL Chairperson will convene a special Committee meeting to consider the application. Teams will be notified in writing of the outcome.

## **Section 13 – SEMI FINALS, FINALS AND GRANDFINALS**

### **Determination of Finals Placings**

- 13.1 At the completion of the round matches if teams are on equal points the process to determine final placings will be:

- The team with the higher goal difference will be deemed to be higher on the table.
- If goal differences are equal, the team with the higher number of “wins” will be deemed to be higher on the table.
- If goal differences and the number of “wins” are equal, the team that has scored the most number of goals will rank higher.
- If goal differences, the number of “wins” and goals scored are equal, ranking shall be determined by the aggregate result (results of both matches added together) when the two equal teams played each other. The higher aggregate result shall be deemed to be higher on the table.
- In the event that all criteria above are equal, the final placings shall be determined by the best of three toss of a coin.

**13.2 Semi-Finals Major (1 v 2)** - If teams are equal on completion of normal playing time the team highest on the competition table will proceed to grand final as determined in 13.1.

**Semi-Finals Minor (3 v 4)** - If teams are equal on completion of normal playing time a Penalty Shoot Out Competition will determine the winners – no extra time or drop off, straight to shoot out.

**Finals and Grand Finals** - if teams are equal on completion of normal playing time a Penalty Shoot Out Competition will determine the winners – no extra time or drop off, straight to shoot out.

Shoot Out competition [fih-general-tournament-regulations-current-update.pdf](http://fih-general-tournament-regulations-current-update.pdf)

## Section 14 – FEES, FINES AND PENALTIES

14.1 Fees are payable as per schedule issued by the Treasurer.

14.2 Fines are to be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification.

14.3 Fines are as follows:

Breach	Penalty
Teams withdrawing after the completion of the draw	Forfeit team nomination deposit
Failure to complete any compulsory details on match card (Section 7)	\$20 first offence; \$40 each subsequent offence
Failure to upload the match card information/match card PDF by deadline (Section 7)	\$20 first offence; \$40 each subsequent offence.
Failure to provide an umpire	\$200 per offence: to increase by \$50 each subsequent offence (of which \$30 is to be paid to the substitute umpire). If a game does not proceed, the team/club of the rostered umpire, will be charged the full cost of the pitch hire for the time slot.
The club of any umpire failing to wear correct uniform	\$25 for each offence

14.4 Penalties are as follows:

<b>Breach</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Failure to field 11 players on three occasions	Club/team will be required to appear before the SWHL Committee.
Player wears a different shirt number to that under which she is registered	Loss of 3 match points unless both numbers are recorded on the match card
Team plays ineligible player(s)	Loss of 3 match points and the opposition is awarded a forfeit win (5-0).
Team plays unregistered players	Loss of 3 match points and the opposition is awarded a forfeit win (5-0).
A team plays more than 5 substitute players per match	Loss of 3 match points and the opposition is awarded a forfeit win (5-0).
A team fails to record the name of all players participating in the match on the match card	Loss of 3 match points
A player plays under the name of another player	Loss of all competition points gained up to and including the match in which the offence occurred.

14.5 Teams who contravene rules pertaining to the registration of players may be required to appear before the SWHL Committee and may incur penalties to be determined.

## **Section 15 – JUDICIARY AND MISCONDUCT**

15.1 The Judiciary committee shall comprise three (3) members consisting of one (1) SWHL Executive member, and two (2) SWHL Umpire Committee members.

15.2 No member of this Committee can adjudicate on any matter if they have a conflict of interest in the case before the judiciary.

15.3 Unless the convenor of umpires has such a conflict, they will be the person responsible for gathering all facts (investigating) needed for the judiciary.

15.4 One member of the Judiciary Committee will be nominated as the Chairperson of the Judiciary Committee. This person will be responsible for the procedure and the conduct of the meeting.

15.5 A quorum of not less than three (3) members will be necessary to convene the Judiciary Committee.

15.6 A suspended player, a player against whom a charge has been made, a spectator, a member or two delegates from the club concerned in regard to a dispute, protest or charge shall have the right to:

- Appear before the Judiciary Committee;
- Call others to give evidence on their behalf;
- Question any person giving evidence.

- 15.7 The judiciary committee has the right to rule that a judicial committee hearing is not necessary if:
- the suspension handed down is not contested; or
  - the judiciary committee agrees that the multiple cards have been awarded for different rule breaches.
- 15.8 The cited player, spectator or club shall abide by the findings of the committee regardless of their failure to attend, or to apply for a postponement of the judiciary hearing.
- 15.9 Any player permanently suspended will not be permitted to participate in any match in that competition until the case has been heard by the Judiciary Committee. Any team playing a suspended player shall be deemed to have forfeited any competition match in which such a player takes part.
- 15.10 Should the Judiciary committee, due to lack of a quorum, fail to convene, the suspended player shall be permitted to resume playing until the Judiciary Committee is convened.
- 15.11 The Chairperson shall read and explain to all parties to the hearing, in each other's presence, the full text of the charge(s), protest or appeal to be considered. \
- 15.12 The parties at the hearing shall be heard by the Judiciary Committee, in each other's presence, in the following order -
- Those supporting a charge or protest, to give evidence, to call witnesses, to be queried by those defending a charge or protest and to be questioned by the Judiciary Committee and followed by -
  - Those defending a charge or protest, to give evidence, to call witnesses, to be queried by those supporting, and to be questioned by the Judiciary Committee followed by-
  - Those supporting a charge or protest, to answer evidence given under and whom the Judiciary Committee may again question.
- 15.13 All parties to the hearing shall then retire while the Judiciary Committee considers its finding although the Judiciary Committee may recall any or all of them, individually or, together, to amplify or to clarify a matter of evidence.
- 15.14 The Judiciary Committee shall then -
- In the case of a charged player found guilty of a charge DETERMINE A PENALTY
  - In the case of a charged member found guilty of a charge DETERMINE A PENALTY
  - In the case of a charged spectator found guilty of a charge DETERMINE A PENALTY
  - In the case of an upheld protest DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE PENALTY
- 15.15 The Judiciary Committee shall record its finding, made by majority vote and then inform all the parties concerned of its decision.
- 15.16 Penalties by way of suspension shall be until a certain date and any suspension may extend into a subsequent season before termination if necessary

15.17 Relevant charges and the minimum penalties for persons found guilty of them shall include:

**Minimum Penalties**

Disputing an umpire's decision	One (1) week suspension
Abuse of an umpire	Two (2) weeks suspension
Persistent and deliberate breach of the rules	Two (2) weeks suspension
Acts detrimental to the SWHL	Two (2) weeks suspension
Abusive conduct while a spectator	Four (4) weeks suspension
Striking at another player with other than a hockey stick	Two (2) weeks suspension
Deliberately striking another player with other than a hockey stick	Four (4) weeks suspension
Striking at another player with a hockey stick	Four (4) weeks suspension
Deliberately striking another player with a hockey stick	Eight (8) weeks suspension
Assault of an Umpire	Two (2) years suspension

15.18 Nothing in these rules shall prevent the Judiciary Committee from deciding to suspend any penalty imposed conditionally upon the charged player/member not being found guilty again of the same or similar charges, at which time the suspended penalty and any additional penalties will be handed down.

15.19 In the event that a player is suspended by the judiciary they are ineligible to win the SWHL Best and Fairest award in any grade for that year.

**Cards**

15.20 Five (5) green cards will deem the player automatically suspended for one match. The suspension is for the entire week and covers all divisions within each competition.

15.21 Two (2) yellow cards will deem the player automatically suspended for one match. For each yellow card received after this, an automatic one match suspension will occur. Any suspension handed down is for the entire competition round and covers all competitions within the SWHL structure.

15.22 If a player receives two (2) yellow cards, the player will be required to appear before the Judiciary Committee by the Wednesday immediately following the match in which it was given. The Judiciary Committee will decide at this time on the length of suspension required

15.23 One (1) red card will require the player to appear before the Judiciary Committee by the Wednesday immediately following the match in which it was given. The Judiciary Committee will decide at this time on the length of suspension required. Any suspension handed down is for the entire competition round and covers all competitions within the SWHL structure.

15.24 SWHL Executive will notify clubs/teams of the individual players that are required to appear before the Judiciary Committee.

15.25 Registrars will provide monthly a list of players receiving cards, the type of card and the name of the umpires issuing the cards. This list will be given to the Umpires Convenor who will confirm with clubs/teams the card tally of individual players.

### **Appeals**

15.26 Any application for leave to appeal against a finding of the Judiciary Committee shall be made ONLY on the grounds of new evidence, which was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing.

15.27 Application shall be lodged with the SWHL Secretary within 14 days of the relevant meeting of the Judiciary Committee.

15.28 Leave to appeal against a decision shall be given only to the player against whom the finding has been made.