

This manual is designed to document the processes, protocols, instructions and rules for the successful operation of hockey under the control of the Townsville Hockey Association Inc. (THA)



Townsville Hockey
Association Inc. (THA)

Competitions Manual

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Authorised By Townsville Hockey Association Inc. (THA) COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

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1. Glossary

- a) THA Townsville Hockey Association Inc.
- b) BOM THA Board of Management
- c) HQ Hockey Queensland
- d) HA Hockey Australia

2. Purpose and Background

2.1 Purpose

This manual is designed to document the processes, protocols, instructions and rules for the successful operation of hockey played under the control of the Townsville Hockey Association Inc.

2.2 Management

The rules included in this Competitions Manual are managed by the Competitions Committee, and endorsed by the Board of Management.

Where a rule is silent, or ambiguity is identified, the relevant Committee will make a ruling as to the intent and then forward to the THA Board for ratification at the next Board meeting.

3. Code of Conduct

THA adopts the Hockey Qld Code of Conduct policy for all aspects of competitions. (Refer HQ Website)

Players, coaches and supporters need to be mindful of their conduct during games. This not only includes the technical aspects of the game, but includes the interaction with fellow players, team officials, match officials, spectators and Club and Association officials.

Inappropriate behaviour or abuse will not be accepted.

Technical breaches of playing behaviour will be managed via a reports system possibly leading to a judiciary hearing. (For example, players red carded will be reviewed by the judiciary and may face disciplinary action.)

Other breaches of the Codes can be notified to THA officials, or to the Judiciary Secretary, in writing, as soon as possible following the incident. All reports will be managed with due diligence.

4. Player registration

4.1 Ordinary Registration

Shall require registration with an affiliated club or team.

Completion of THA registration form (Majestri).

Payment of prescribed fees.

4.2 Dual Registration

All Inter-club dual registrations shall be assessed by the THA Competitions Committee, with regards the best interests of the game, competition and clubs involved, including to the player requesting the dual registration.

4.2.1 Inter Association

Dual Registration - between associations requires:

- a) Compliance with HQ provisions and requires an application in writing.
- b) The submission of a completed HQ Dual registration form.
- c) Advice of nominated primary and secondary centre.
- d) Submission of requests for Dual Registration and requests to “Change details of dual registration” to the Competitions Committee for approval.

Consideration shall be given to the request in terms of the best interest of the player and competitions.

Clearance rules apply as required.

4.2.2 THA Juniors

It is permitted for a player to be registered for two clubs within the THA Junior competition under the following circumstances:

- a) Does not involve teams within the same age group or division under control of the Townsville Hockey Association.
- b) The player shall indicate their primary and secondary clubs.
- c) The player nominates the age groups for which he/she intends to play and specifies the Clubs involved.
- d) A player is not permitted to play for two different clubs in the same age group unless specific approval is provided by THA competitions.
- e) A player may play in finals matches for each club provided such player meets the requirement for number of games played to qualify for finals for each team.

A player may be permitted to register with a Junior team in one club and a Senior team in a different club under the following circumstances:

- a) Such player may only play for the registered club in the respective competition.
- b) A player may play in finals matches for each club provided such player meets the requirement for number of games played to qualify for finals for each team in each competition.

4.2.3 THA Seniors and Masters

A player may be registered for a Masters’ team with one club and a Senior Division team for a different club.

- a) Such player may only play for the registered club in either competition.
- b) A player may play in finals matches for each club provided such player meets the requirement for number of games played to qualify for finals for each team in each competition.

4.2.4 Alterations to Status

Once dual registered, and having played for one club in a grade or age group, a player is only permitted to change clubs on the approval of the Competitions Committee and with consideration of the following:

- a) Such change is in the interest of the player and competitions concerned.
- b) The player shall stand down one week in the specific age group before playing for his/her “new” club.
- c) To be eligible for finals - No matches played with the first club shall count to the minimum matches required for finals for the second club.

4.3 Age Conditions

Senior Competition

- a) To be eligible to compete in a senior division an individual shall attain the age of:
 - (i) D3 or below: 13 years in the competition season,

- (ii) D2: 14 years in the competition season,
- (iii) D1: 15 years in the competition season.
- b) Exceptions to the rule will be considered by application to the Competitions Committee with an assessment by the Competitions and Development Committees. [FORM-042 Individual Player Accelerated Grading Request](#)

Umpiring

- a) To be eligible to umpire, a person shall attain the age of:
 - (i) 10 years of age in the competition season, to umpire JUNIOR competitions.
 - (ii) 14 years of age in the competition season, to umpire SENIOR competitions.

Junior Competition

- a) Juniors are players who have not attained the age of 18 years before 1st January in the current calendar year.
- b) The Age Criteria for each Junior Division shall be determined annually based on player numbers and age demographics.
- c) To be eligible for any Junior Age Group the player shall:
 - (i) Meet the age criteria as at January 1st on the year of the competition. (For example, a player who turns 12 on or before 31st December of the year prior to the season is ineligible for U12 Competition).
 - (ii) A Junior player may be approved to compete in a lower age group if granted permission by the Competitions Committee (Grading).
 - (iii) A junior player may play above their age division however parents and club officials shall ensure consideration of the players ability, physical attributes, etc. are considered to ensure safety for all.

Masters Competition

- a) To be eligible for masters' competitions a player shall:
 - (i) Attain the required age before or during the season of competition.
- b) To be considered for under age entry to Masters, a player shall meet specific requirements:
 - (i) Age requirements will be determined by the recommendation of the Masters' Committee on an annual basis.
 - (ii) Not to be an active participant in D1 or D2 Competition.
 - (iii) Must participate in the spirit of master's hockey.
 - (iv) Must be considered by the Competitions Committee as appropriate in standard and approach for the Masters' competition.

4.4 Junior and Masters Players in Senior competitions

Players competing in the Junior and Masters' competitions shall be permitted to play in the senior competition provided:

- a) The player is financial in the Junior or Masters' competitions
- b) The player pays all additional fees required by the fifth senior game. Such fees are specified in the fees schedule published by THA.
- c) Following the third (3rd) game a junior or masters' player shall be added to a senior team list and grading rules then apply. Failure to nominate the division shall result in the player be graded to the highest division in which they have participated
- d) If a junior or masters' player is one of the registered players named in the team they must pay the additional fees immediately.

4.5 Goalkeeper/Field Players

A Goalkeeper may be nominated in two teams, either in the same division, or different divisions provided.

- a) The playing ability in each role shall be considered when placement in teams is identified

- b) One is as a designated Goalkeeper only
- c) Second is as a designated field player only

The first Grading meeting of the Premiership season shall consider each request for dual nominated Goalkeepers

- a) Team lists shall clearly indicate 'Fld' or 'GK' to differentiate between roles
- b) Such arrangements shall be managed as for any other player re. rules regulating playing in Higher/Lower division in each role.

4.6 Player Clearance

Players new to a club shall seek a clearance from their former club at the time of registering for a THA affiliated club. A clearance is required where a player has played hockey in any association or club within the preceding two (2) hockey seasons.

Clubs are required to obtain a clearance from the player's former Club prior to playing their first match of the season.

- a) A player may be eligible to play if a clearance has been sought but not delivered provided the player can testify that he/she does not know of any reason why the clearance shall not be granted.
- b) Should it be determined subsequently that the player is ineligible for a clearance:
 - (i) The player shall then be ineligible to play until the clearance conditions are met.
 - (ii) The player may also be required to stand down for the same number of matches as equals those played whilst ineligible.

4.6.1 Transfer between clubs within a season

- a) A player transferring between Townsville clubs shall submit a clearance for approval by THA.
- b) If such player played the previous fixture round, they shall be required to stand down for one (1) fixture week.
- c) To be eligible for finals, no matches played with the first club shall count to the minimum matches required for finals for the second club.

5. Guest Player

5.1 Definition

Two types of Guest player are available

- a) Visiting Player (Registered player in another Competition)
- b) Trial/New player

5.2 Fees

Approved annually by the THA Finance Committee.

Collection/Payment of Fees

- a) The Club shall collect the fee and THA will invoice the Club.

5.3 Visiting Player

The maximum number of Guest players in a single team for a match shall be set at two (2).

The Competitions /Grading Committee may apply restrictions on the use of Guest players as determined by a meeting.

Clubs shall ensure for each "guest appearance" that:

- a) A guest player shall be currently registered in an HA affiliated competition.
- b) The player's name is recorded clearly on the card and notated as "Visiting Player"
- c) The opposing team manager or captain is notified prior to the match
- d) The guest shall only be permitted to play in one match/division per week.
- e) After three matches as a guest player, a clearance and/or dual registration shall be required prior to their fourth match.

5.4 Trial/New Player

Designed for a new player or a player wishing to return to play after a long absence or injury.

A TRIAL player shall be one who is genuinely undecided as to whether they wish to play

- a) returning from long break; injury or
- b) has not played before.

Trial players shall be permitted to play provided:

- a) The Guest Trial Player fee is paid to THA (Fee paid shall be deducted from the Player fee if they proceed to register)
- b) Player details are recorded clearly on the card as "Trial Player".
- c) Trial players shall only be allowed to play three weeks – (up to two matches are permissible in each week).

5.5 Club Responsibility

Clubs shall be responsible for advice and documentation to be provided to THA.

- a) The card is to be notated identifying the guest player (Trial or Visitor)
- b) The Host Club shall email THA office advising of the participation of a guest player. This should include some player history, current association and grade.

The Club is responsible to grade the Guest player at the appropriate level.

6. Timing and Game Time Management

6.1 Regular Season Rounds

A central timer and a siren shall be used to control match times.

The central timer shall commence in accordance with the advertised start times.

Changes to the timer setting shall only be made to make provision for an unexpected occurrence.

A siren shall indicate the beginning and end of each period of play - provided that the umpires whistle shall determine the commencement and the absolute end of each match.

6.2 Finals

A central timer and a siren shall be used to control match times.

A second or backup timer shall be provided, and when necessary, independent timing may apply to matches for extra time, etc.

6.3 Match Duration

The total time allocation for each match is:

Premiership Matches:	P1/P2: 30min	Half Time: 5min	Warm up: 10min	Total: 75min
Masters Matches:	P1/P2: 25min	Half Time: 5min	Warm up: 10min	Total: 55min

6.4 Injury Time Management

Premiership or preseason matches

- a) No added time for injuries

Finals Matches

- a) Grand finals D1 Only

Injury Management

- a) A player for whom the match has been halted shall be required to leave the field for a minimum of two (2) minutes. The third umpire (if in attendance) is to control this time.

Significant Injury Management

- a) In the event of a significant injury, the rules governing Section 11 below will apply.

7. Competition Guiding Principles

7.1 Junior Competition

The competitions structure shall aim to:

- a) Develop in players the skills essential to the game;
- b) Foster a spirit of healthy competition between players and teams;
- c) Provide options to encourage participation at a level appropriate to the child (skill, social etc);
- d) Ensure recruitment and retention of players is supported by the structure of competition and rules supporting it;
- e) Promote a good standard of competition between all clubs/teams.

Clubs shall:

- a) Take responsibility for the positive reinforcement of sportsmanship, equality and fair play;
- b) Undertake where they have more than one team in a Junior Division that both teams shall be selected to be equally competitive in the division where possible;
- c) Manage the impact of the wider age bands;
- d) Undertake to recommend to parents and players the most suitable Junior division to enhance the development of individual players;
- e) Undertake to manage players of higher/elite level ability, in the interest of the competition in which they are participating. (e.g. A player may be directed to play a role, or develop team-based skills such as leadership, to enhance the team and the overall competition or it may be highlighted to players, and parents, the advantages of playing in the division above.)
- f) For lesser skilled, first year players in an age group, Clubs may seek approval to play a player in a lower Division. As part of the approval process the player is eligible to play preseason matches in the lower division whilst being assessed. In the Premiership season approval must be obtained prior to participation in a lower division by an overage player.

7.2 Senior Competition

The senior competition is a graded competition.

The competition structure shall aim to:

- a) Ensure the development of the best possible playing standards whilst catering for all levels of ability – Maintenance of multiple divisions

- b) Ensure a high standard of sportsmanship and fair play

7.3 Masters Competition

The master's competition shall aim to:

- a) Actively encourage master's player participation
- b) Maintain the spirit of competition and enjoyment

8. The Competition

8.1 Structure

THA conducts the following competitions

- a) Winter
 - (i) Pre-season
 - (ii) Premiership
 - (iii) Masters Premiership
- b) Summer Social Competition
- c) Indoor Hockey/9's competition/modified versions of the game

The Senior Premiership shall be open for competition between Affiliated Clubs of the THA and such other team or teams as granted permission by the THA Board of Management (BOM) upon recommendation from the Competitions Committee.

Grading rules control entry and movement of players in all categories.

The number of teams in each competition division is determined by the Competitions Committee or delegated committee responsible for each.

8.2 Entry into a Competition

All clubs shall be entitled to nominate one team in each division of each competition run by THA.

For a club to be able to nominate a team in any grade, each of the teams in the higher divisions must meet the requirements of Section 12.3 below.

8.3 Entry of a Second Team in Senior & Junior Competition

To obtain entry of a second team from the same Club in any division of a THA competition the Club will have to obtain approval of the Competitions Committee.

- a) For a senior division competition:
 - (i) Presentation of team lists shall be required prior to the decision.
 - (ii) Consideration for accepting a second team shall include:
 - i. The make-up of the team
 - ii. The interests of the competition
 - iii. The impact on other teams and clubs
 - iv. The impact of a bye
 - v. Long term interest of club and player base development
- b) For a Junior division, a second Team shall be permitted in age divisions provided a club shall have enough players to support two teams.
 - (i) Presentation of team lists shall be required prior to the decision.

8.4 Non-affiliated Teams

Teams not affiliated to a THA club

- a) A team or teams not affiliated to an existing THA club shall be permitted to nominate for THA competitions provided:
 - (i) As a single team with no capacity to draw on other players, they shall have a minimum of 15 players registered for the competition
 - (ii) Two teams with the ability for one to support the other
 - i. Team 1 minimum 11 players
 - ii. Team 2 – minimum of 15 players
- b) Entry of non-Club affiliated teams shall be approved, where it is identified to be in the long-term interest of THA, and the development of the competitions.

A team may choose to remain independent but develop a relationship with an existing Club for a level of support.

- a) THA BOM or Competitions Committee may receive a recommendation from the teams or make a recommendation to a team regarding a support relationship with an existing club.
- b) The Relationship shall be presented to THA Competitions Committee for recommendation to the Board –Such recommendation shall include the criteria considered and how the best interests of the Association are achieved by the recommendation.

8.5 Byes Management

In the event of byes, the following options are designed to reduce the number, or impact, of byes on teams and players:

- a) Schedule a second game for a team (double header) against the team allocated the bye provided:
 - (i) Sufficient time is allowed for the team doubling up to be rested.
 - (ii) There is opportunity to call on support players from another grade.
- b) Entry of a THA representative team of suitable standard to compete in the competition.
- c) Entry of a “Barbarian team” comprised of players from the two or more of the other clubs.
- d) Inclusion of a team from another competition with byes to play.

8.6 Exclusion from a Competition

Insufficient players – The Competitions Committee may elect to exclude a nomination if the number of players suggests the team cannot be sustained for the season.

9. Conduct of Matches

9.1 FIH Rules of Hockey

Matches shall be played in accordance with the FIH Rules of Hockey unless local rules specifically provide otherwise.

9.2 Entry to Fields

Teams shall enter the Team bench areas in accordance with the Turf rules.

The entering team shall in all instances remain outside the bench area until teams completing a match have removed themselves and all equipment from the bench.

The departing team shall vacate the bench area ASAP, removing all equipment and rubbish from the bench when doing so.

9.3 Commencing a Game

Teams shall be prepared and permitted to commence a match provided:

- a) Number of players required for a team to commence their match will be no fewer than eight (8) players,
- b) A team having commenced a match with eight or more players shall continue the match to its conclusion even if the number of available players shall fall below eight.

9.4 Forfeits

9.4.1 General

Clubs agree they each have an obligation to:

- a) Participate in all THA sanctioned matches irrespective if the matches are for competition points or not.
- b) Always avoid a forfeit in D1 and D2 matches – In the event of a D1 or D2 forfeit, all lower division teams will also forfeit 3 competition points.
- c) Take all reasonable steps to contact the opposing club and team coordinators to provide advanced notice of a forfeit.

Where a forfeit occurs the club so forfeiting will:

- d) Provide in writing to the Competitions Committee the circumstances requiring said forfeit and confirm the situation for the following scheduled fixture.
- e) Ensure when a forfeit of a team is to occur, the notification shall be made by an executive member of the clubs who has confirmed all reasonable steps have been taken to prevent the forfeit

A forfeit occurs where a team has insufficient playing personnel to commence the game within 15 minutes of the Siren to commence the match, specifically

- f) Fewer than eight (8) eligible players available.
- g) Where sufficient players are present but have failed to take to the field within the 15 minutes as directed by the umpires.

9.4.2 Notified Forfeit

A notified forfeit occurs where a team has given 24 hours' notice to indicate they shall not be able to produce a team at the appointed time.

Notification shall require the advice to be conveyed to the opposing Club president and to the THA office or Chair of the Competitions Committee.

No penalty fee is charged against a club or team in this case.

9.4.3 Un-notified Forfeit

A team is deemed to forfeit (without notification) when it has insufficient players to commence playing ten (10) minutes after the advertised starting time.

To claim an un-notified forfeit, a team shall be prepared to play (that is, they will be assembled with eight or more players ready to commence playing).

A team which forfeits a match scheduled on the synthetic surface, and which fails to provide prescribed notice to the Chair of Competitions or his/her representative, may have a fine or penalty imposed.

9.4.4 Scratch Match

Teams are requested to play a scratch match if the majority so request.

Allocated umpires are required to officiate if a "scratch match" proceeds.

9.4.5 Multiple Forfeits - Removing a team from a Competition

A team having forfeited on three (3) occasions shall show cause as to why it should not be dismissed from the competition

- a) The players from a team so excluded:
 - (i) Will be allowed to move to another team within the host club.
 - (ii) Will be allowed to join another club.
 - (iii) Will not be required to fulfil the requirements for player clearance (Refer [4.6 above](#)).

9.5 Match Allocations and Club Training

Club training:

- a) Access is determined annually, and is equitable between the clubs
- b) Midweek – Tue to Thu.

Competition:

- a) Friday – Monday

Masters Competition:

- a) Tuesday, in harmony with Club training times

When required, some midweek matches may be required – the impact of such requirements shall be shared equally between the club training allocations.

THA Competitions Committee and BOM shall resolve issues relating to scheduling of matches.

10. Premiership Rounds & Finals

10.1 Definitions

A Round shall be the number of matches required to allow each team to play all other teams in the division or age group once.

The week of fixtures shall be the matches occurring between Thursday & Wednesday or matches which would normally be played in that period.

10.2 Premiership Rounds

Teams shall complete a defined number of rounds in round robin format to determine seeding for the finals.

The number of premiership rounds shall be determined by the Competitions Committee annually.

10.3 Premiership Points

Points shall be awarded as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| a) Win | 3 Points |
| b) Draw | 1 Point per team |
| c) Loss/Forfeit | 0 Points |
| d) Bye | 3 Points |

In the case of a forfeit the team gaining the forfeit shall be credited with winning the game five (5) goals to nil (0).

No goal allocation shall occur for a bye.

Where a game is awarded due to a breach of rules refer to Section 20 below for penalties.

10.4 Minor Premiers and Seedings for Finals

At the completion of the premiership matches the team finishing with the greater number of premiership points in each division shall be awarded the Minor Premiership Title.

A minor Premiership Shield shall be awarded.

Calculating Minor Premiership and/or the seedings for finals, where teams acquire equal points

- e) **SENIOR TEAMS:** Should multiple teams complete the season obtaining the same number of points, placing shall be decided as follows:
- (i) The team with the higher goal balance shall be declared the higher seed
(Goal balance = the total number of goals scored minus the total number of goals conceded by a team)
If still equal:
 - (ii) The greater number of wins in matches contested between the drawn teams.
If still equal,
 - (iii) The greater number of wins
If still equal,
 - (iv) The greater number of goals scored
If still equal,
 - (v) The highest total of goals scored when the teams played each other during the season.
If still equal,
 - (vi) If the two teams will play each other in the semi-final, the seeding shall be determined by the result of the semi-final, or if drawn at full time, by a Shootout, or
 - (vii) If the two teams will NOT play each other in the semi-final, the seeding shall be determined by a Shootout on the final day of competition.
- f) **JUNIOR TEAMS:** Should multiple teams complete the season obtaining the same number of points, placing shall be decided as follows:
- (i) The team with the greater number of wins in matches contested between the affected teams shall be declared the higher seed
If still equal:
 - (ii) Goal balance between the affected teams
(Goal balance = the total number of goals scored minus the total number of goals conceded by a team)
If still equal:
 - (iii) The highest total of goals scored when the affected teams played each other during the season
If still equal:
 - (iv) The better results against the team/s seeded higher
If still equal:
 - (v) Goal balance, followed by goals scored, against team seeded higher
 - (vi) If the two teams will play each other in the semi-final, the seeding shall be determined by the result of the semi-final, or if drawn at full time, by a Shootout, or
 - (vii) If the two teams will NOT play each other in the semi-final, the seeding shall be determined by a Shootout on the final day of competition.

10.5 Semi Finals

The top four teams qualify for the semi-finals regardless of the number of teams competing in the competition.

Major Semi Final contested between teams seeded 1st & 2nd after premiership rounds

Knock Out Semi-final contested between teams seeded 3rd & 4th after premiership rounds

10.6 Preliminary Finals

Contested between the losing team of the Major semi-final vs the winning team of the Knock out semi-final.

- a) Should the match be drawn at full time, the result will be determined as defined in Appendix B – Tie Breaker Provisions: THA Finals Matches.

10.7 Grand Finals

The Grand final shall be contested between the winner of the major semi-final and the winner of the preliminary final.

- a) Should the game be drawn at full time, the result will be determined as defined in Appendix B – Tie Breaker Provisions: THA Finals Matches.

11. Disruption, Cancellation, Stoppage & Rescheduling Matches

11.1 Action in event of Disrupted Match

Dry Pitch

- a) Time will be stopped (or added to the game time) to allow teams involved to water the playing surface to achieve a safe playing surface. Game to re-start as soon as possible.

Lights Fail

- a) Reset lights and wait for reset to occur. (Expect 15-20 min delay)

Waterlogged synthetic pitch

- a) The surface is designed to clear quickly once rain has stopped.

Significant Injury

- a) Time will be stopped to allow the player to be safely moved (if possible). Injury time shall not be added, however, rules applying to Section 11.3 below apply.

Excessive heat

- a) Increased number of breaks. Decision made by THA and match officials.

11.2 Maximum Delay to Restart a Disrupted Match

The maximum delay for matches shall be:

- a) Regular season - 30 mins allowed for the match to restart, after which time it will be abandoned.
- b) Finals - 60 mins allowed to restart the match before alternative options are discussed.

Restart of disrupted match

- a) Once restarted the match shall recommence from where the stoppage occurred.

11.3 Deemed Result

Should a disrupted match not recommence within timeframes then the following rules apply:

- a) If the match was stopped prior to half time, and cannot be restarted, it shall be deemed that NO match has been played, regardless of the score line. The match may be replayed, or result shared, as determined by the Competitions Committee.

- b) If the match has been stopped and restarted, the match must have been in progress for a total of 30 minutes for a result to be determined.
- c) If the match is stopped after resumption of play from half time (i.e. greater than 30 minutes of play), and it is unable to be restarted then the match shall be considered to have been completed and the score at the time the match was stopped shall be deemed the Final Score.

In finals situations, a decision on the status of any stopped match shall be confirmed by THA Competitions officials before umpires shall make any determination on the match in question.

- a) The club, and team officials of the teams concerned, shall be consulted prior to formal announcement of the decision.

11.4 Cancellation of Match (Facilities unplayable)

The cancellation of fixtures due to rain, or failure of equipment, shall follow the following process:

The Chair of the Competitions Committee, the Chair of the Facilities Committee, and the RCD, or their delegates, shall inspect the grounds.

Should the fields be deemed 'unplayable':

- a) the Chair of Competitions, or delegate, will inform club delegates of the exact fixtures affected/cancelled.
- b) Club officials are responsible to notify their teams/players.

Media outlets shall be advised of the cancellation of fixtures

If possible, a message will be placed on the THA website and social media sites.

11.5 Rescheduling of Matches & Finals Replays

11.5.1 Regular Season Match

Matches postponed by weather or other problems with the facilities may be rescheduled subject to available dates.

The Competitions Committee shall, at the earliest opportunity, determine alternate dates for replaying of such matches. The committee shall make this determination with consideration to:

- a) Impact on teams/clubs
- b) The dates for rescheduled matches shall be published in the season calendar. The season calendar shall identify several dates throughout the season at which time rescheduled matches may be played.

11.5.2 Last Premiership Round

Specific arrangements shall be identified for rescheduling of matches from the last premiership round, including nominated dates, days & times for matches

Where multiple matches require rescheduling, priority shall be provided to matches which affect the final team seeding for finals

Options shall be as per Section 11.5.3 below.

11.5.3 Finals Matches

Where a finals match is unable to be completed, it shall be replayed

The timing of the replay shall be determined by the Competitions Committee. Options include:

- a) Option1 Monday
- b) Option 2 Sunday

Where the alternate times are also deemed as unplayable, a decision on the match will be made by the Competitions Committee.

11.6 Rescheduling of Matches – Player Unavailability (Hockey events)

A club may seek approval for the rescheduling of a match or matches when a team/ club is significantly impacted by alternate hockey events or significant community events.

Semi-finals, preliminary finals and grand finals cannot be rescheduled.

When making the request, the club is required to submit the completed 'Match Reschedule Request' Form to the THA office at least 14 days prior to the scheduled match date (or) within 5 days of the impact on teams being announced.

Should a team/teams not be available to play in a reasonable time frame, the result shall be considered either a draw or forfeit depending upon the circumstances.

Competitions Committee will assess each request on merit.

12. Team Selections Management

12.1 General Requirements

12.1.1 Correspondence

All correspondence relating to players and team grading shall be forwarded to THA office for action and distribution to appropriate committees and personnel.

All changes shall be confirmed in email/writing to THA Office for records purposes.

12.1.2 Records

THA officials shall maintain and update records in the approved format or system.

Appropriate information and records shall be distributed regularly to clubs via web site, or email to allow clubs to effectively manage compliance.

THA shall support provision of Online access to records by clubs and teams and players

12.1.3 Review

A review will occur weekly by the Chair Competitions, Club Competition delegates, and THA Records following distribution of match records by THA office.

Identified issues will be communicated to Clubs.

Grading and team lists shall be reviewed for compliance at grading meetings held throughout the season.

Clubs shall provide up to date information regarding all teams for each review meeting.

12.2 Dates for Submission of Team Lists

Clubs are to submit Graded Team Lists, at dates set annually by the Competitions Committee as follows:

- a) Prior to Preseason
- b) Prior to Premiership commencing
- c) Prior to the final premiership round and Finals series (A minimum of one round prior to semi-finals)

Where a club fails to submit team lists by appointed times

- a) The team cards shall be used to determine team lists based upon the first 11 players listed on each team sheet.
- b) Clubs may be penalised if the data so obtained cannot be ratified to meet grading rules (e.g. 11 active players).

12.3 Team Selections (Requirements)

Seniors:

- Division 1 - Minimum of 9 active players
- Division 2, 3, 4 - Minimum of 11 active players.

Juniors:

Identify all age eligible & nominated players.

Masters men & women:

Teams shall be nominated to Masters' subcommittee with the same provisions as for Junior competition.

Should a club have fewer players than those prescribed, the club shall:

- a) Present a plan to ensure sustainability of the teams nominated.
- b) Formally request the Competitions Committee consider an exemption.

Team lists shall be in writing or electronically to the THA office indicating all players assigned to each team including the following specified data:

- a) First & surnames of registered players
- b) Indicate juniors playing in seniors
- c) Indicate Goalkeepers and/or GK playing as Field players
- d) Under age & over age players to be identified on team lists

THA office confirmation of Registration and Financial Status

- a) THA shall provide to clubs a list of those players who have paid due registration and THA fees.
- b) The advice shall be provided with enough time to allow clubs to reconcile and advise players of their status and required actions.

12.4 Maintenance/Revision of Team Selections

Updating Team lists

- a) The clubs shall be responsible to update, maintain and submit Team lists.
- b) New players shall be added and THA advised.
- c) Inactive players shall be notated on team lists.
- d) THA records secretary shall notify all clubs when Teams lists are altered.

Clubs shall have flexibility to select or move players between divisions weekly provided:

- a) The minimum number of active players remain named in each team.
- b) That, to have the change included on the card, the changes need to be communicated to THA office by 10am Friday.
- c) Should a club not activate changes, the lists as per previous fixtures will be used for the card's preparation.
- d) Should a late change be required due to injury etc., this shall be notated on the match card.
- e) the movement of players is consistent with the principles and guidelines of the grading rules.

At grading the committee may challenge the movement of players and make ruling to restrict, or otherwise limit, the movement of players which are deemed to be contrary to the grading principals and guidelines.

12.5 Adding New Players (after season commenced)

A new player may participate in fixtures provided the playing card is marked with the players name clearly printed and notated "New Player" to highlight to the THA Records.

Should a new player compete in two divisions in their first week:

- a) The club must identify the grade into which the player is to be added.
- b) No penalty shall apply if the nominated division is the lower of the two.

12.6 Active/Inactive players

For a registered and financial player to be considered active he/she must play a match in the current season.

To be added to the initial premiership team list a player shall be required to have played in the pre-season or on the first match of the premiership.

A player on a team list, who has not competed for that team within two weeks, of premiership competition commencing, or of his/her name being added, shall be listed as inactive.

For a registered and financial player to remain active he/she must play regularly.

A player who does not play in four consecutive matches shall be deemed inactive (the preseason regardless of length shall equate to one match for the purposes of this rule).

Should a player become inactive, and by so doing reduce the number of listed players below the minimum requirement in any team, a player from the lower division shall be regraded to restore the required number of active players in each team. This may create subsequent grading changes in lower divisions.

Such a regraded player is required to play in the new team, within two rounds of being regraded, to be counted as one of the active players.

12.6.1 Active Players (Temporary Leave)

Temporary Absence - A player may remain eligible for active player status, though not playing in the THA competition, if such player is absent for a defined period (i.e. Start and end dates of absentee period are defined) and, such absence is due to:

- a) Injury (Return date)
- b) Attendance at Hockey events
- c) University or work commitments out of Townsville.

Requests under this provision must be submitted to the THA Competitions /Grading Committee identifying:

- a) Player and team
- b) Date of departure & return
- c) Reason for absence

The Grading Committee may approve the suspending of the Inactive Player provisions in these cases.

Outcomes /Penalties

- a) Should a player fail to return to competition on the date indicated and subject to active player rulings, a penalty (loss of points) to the team shall be considered by the Grading Committee.

12.6.2 Inactive Players / Financial status

Clubs shall advise the THA office, in writing, of:

- a) Players to be removed from team lists (no longer playing)
- b) Players who are temporarily 'inactive'
 - (i) Inactive players shall remain on the team card but will be listed at the bottom of the card & notated as 'inactive'.

12.6.3 Reactivating an Inactive Player

Provided the player remains financial they may recommence playing and be relisted at any time provided:

- a) The club shall advise THA of reactivation by:
 - (i) Notation on the team card (should the player have participated)
 - (ii) submitting an updated team list, indicating the grade to which the player shall be relisted, if different from initial registered division or team.

12.7 Breach of Active Player List Requirements

Should a club fail to maintain the statutory minimum number of active players in a division, a penalty will apply. Refer to Section 20.4 below.

12.8 Review of Team Lists and Participation Records

12.8.1 Review dates

A thorough review of all Team Lists and participation records shall occur:

- a) Prior to competition commencing
- b) each month of competition
- c) Two rounds (6 weeks) prior to Semi Finals
- d) Prior to semi Finals Matches

The review shall include, but is not limited to:

- a) Players listed who have become 'inactive' (Refer Section 12.6 above) shall be notated as such on the match card
- b) Players who may potentially become inactive are identified
- c) The record of information from playing cards is an accurate reflection of participation

Playing /Participation record

- a) All clubs shall have access to the complete records of all teams prior to each grading meeting for review and
- b) The record of matches played by an inactive player shall be maintained on the team playing record.

12.8.2 Final Round & Finals

Due date

- a) Team Registration Lists for the finals shall be to THA office five days prior to the Grading meeting to review Team nominations for Finals (Date to be set annually)

Purpose of Finals Team lists

- a) The Team Registration Lists submitted and approved by the Competitions Committee shall form the basis of a player's eligibility to play in the final round (3 or 5) premiership games and all finals
- b) The current team lists provided to THA shall remain active if no updated lists are provided.
- c) Failure to provide an updated list may prevent regrading of players for finals.

13. Grading and Regrading of Players

13.1 Grading Committee

The Grading Committee membership shall be determined annually but shall consist of members from all clubs (equally represented), the Competitions Committee Chair, and the Regional Coaching Director.

The Grading Committee will meet once per month, or more regularly as determined by the Competitions Committee, to review match records, player activity and adjudicate any anomalies or errors identified.

Between meetings the Chair of Competitions and at least two delegates (without a vested interest in the decision) may make a ruling – All such interim decisions shall be reviewed at a full Grading / Competition meeting.

Review and assess team nominations prior to the season commencement:

- a) Ensure that team nominations, and allocations within divisions, enhance the competition for participants
- b) Assess club requests for player consideration
- c) Identify the review and monitoring required to manage player, team and competition outcomes.

13.2 Grading Process

13.2.1 Principle

Aid the development of the game of hockey in the Townsville region.

Ensure the sustainability of competitions.

Promote a good standard of competition between all clubs/teams.

Provide equity and fairness for competitors.

Make provision for player movement between teams and competitions.

Make allowances which support clubs/teams in the interest of the entire competition.

Set restrictions in support of the principles for the competition.

Records and information should be freely available from Clubs to THA and from THA to Clubs to facilitate management of competitions.

13.2.2 General Considerations

Clubs shall be permitted to move players between divisions based upon selection policy (e.g. form, ability, availability, discipline, equity, development and transition).

Players have an opportunity to play the equivalent of a full game of hockey.

Recognition that higher graded players may be transitional and/or a regular substitute, and as such will benefit from opportunity in the lower division.

Player development should be supported by the notion of players filling from the grade below.

Players should not play two divisions up, from where registered, on a consistent or regular basis.

13.2.3 Juniors

A Junior player may be approved to compete in a lower age group if granted permission by the Competitions Committee (Grading).

- a) A player is eligible to play preseason matches in the lower division whilst being assessed.
- b) In the premiership season approval must be obtained prior to participation in the lower division by an overage player.
- c) Clubs shall:
 - (i) Request a grading review of such player, via the Competitions Committee
 - (ii) Indicate the player on the team list submitted to THA – “OA” Over Age

Application for grading approval shall be in writing on the relevant form, from the player's club.

The Grading Committee shall commence the assessment of over age player requests upon receipt of the application. Clubs shall receive written notification of the decision from the Competitions Committee.

The Grading Committee may:

- a) Recommend acceptance of the application
- b) Request the Club to re-register such players into their age division upon reaching a suitable playing standard. This option shall require a follow up or monitoring of the player's performance.
- c) Request the Club to register the player into their age division.

13.2.4 Seniors

Review requests for specific consideration, and/or relaxation of rules pertaining to the teams & clubs submitted.

Monitor the movement of players, and if required, make rulings to regrade, restrict or approve movement of players.

Consider relative player numbers in determining the capacity of the club's teams and Association to maintain & sustain competitions across the agreed divisions for the year of competition.

Ensure that decisions are based on evidence and full details and objective analysis.

Delegates ensure equity in assessment of all team/club lists.

Identify where players are not participants in their registered divisions and consider appropriate action.

13.2.5 Between Teams in the Same Division

A club with two (2) or more teams nominated in the same division shall note restrictions applicable in the use of players.

Within the Preseason period, clubs shall be permitted to move players between teams in the same division or age group provided:

- a) The player shall only compete for one team in the division in any one week of competition.
- b) Advice of the change shall be provided to the THA office, for noting, prior to the match.
- c) The change is reviewed at the next grading meeting – clubs shall provide justification for such changes.
- d) Any club may challenge such regrading – The issue is to be resolved prior to approval or action.

After the first three weeks of the premierships

- a) Prior to a change occurring, a club shall identify the reason for the change and obtain approval from the Grading Committee.
 - (i) The interim Grading Committee shall have the discretion to
 - i. conditionally approve,
 - ii. seek all four clubs to provide interim support,
 - iii. refer the request to a full grading meeting
- b) If deemed necessary, the Chair may require Competitions delegates to consider the request between grading meetings.
- c) At least 48 hours' notice is required to obtain such regrading.
- d) Approval notification shall be provided to the club and to the Records Secretary by the Chair.

Exchange of players between teams in the same division may also occur if:

- a) A player is registered as a goalkeeper in one team and a field player in the other.

- b) Previous approval of the Competitions Committee has been sought and approved
- c) May occur without restriction during preseason matches.
- d) No player from either a higher or lower division, or lower age group, is permitted to play for more than one team, in the same division, in the same fixture week, except as outlined in (i), (ii) & (iii) above.
- e) Should a match from the same week be rescheduled, and the period of delay is greater than 14 days, these rules shall not apply.

Applications can be made to the Competitions committee to allow for specific nominated exceptions not identified in this rule, approval is required prior to action occurring.

13.3 Pre-Season Matches

During the pre-season clubs shall be permitted to move players between teams/squads, record of such movement shall be recorded on each playing card.

Movement of players shall be at the discretion of the clubs during designated preseason matches, allowing clubs to formulate teams for the premiership season.

13.4 Premiership Matches

Clubs shall:

- a) submit a graded list of all players, indicating squads and specifying teams, prior to the commencement of the Premiership Rounds.
- b) Submit updated lists, including all squads and specific team personnel, and highlight changes, whenever they amend their playing roster.

Clubs are permitted to manage their player movements on a week to week basis within the bounds of grading rules.

- a) All changes will be reviewed at the monthly grading meeting.
- b) If deemed necessary, the Grading Committee may place restrictions on regrading/movement of specific players.
- c) Each team has the required minimum number of active players (Refer Section 12.3 above).
- d) Where issues arise – Clubs advise THA Competitions to ensure resolution and support as required.

Provided the principles of the regrading rules are applied a club may regrade a player on the day of competition.

- a) The club shall advise THA office as soon as practical and notate the match report card to indicate such change. (i.e. A player may be regraded, up to the game time each week, without penalty)
- b) To be included on the playing card, clubs must lodge team changes with the THA office by 2pm each Thursday (This provision does not limit changes to team personal up to game time on game day)

Clubs are permitted to review their senior team lists weekly, and to select players into their teams, in line with the principles and guidelines provided.

A Club's graded lists shall be reviewed by the Grading or Competitions Committee monthly, or as requested.

The Records Secretary shall review player movements weekly (when entering match result data) with reference to:

- a) Identifying any possible anomalies with team personnel

The Records Secretary shall liaise with the Chair of Competitions (weekly).

The Chair may request clubs provide explanation and details to support their actions.

The Chair + two delegates of the Grading Committee may make an interim ruling to restrict some gradings.

13.5 Finals & Final Premiership Round

Restrictions on grading changes will apply to the regrading of players in the final round/s of the premiership and in the Finals series.

- a) Approval from the Grading Committee or interim committee is required before the moving of players to a lower division team can take effect.
- b) Regrading players up to a higher division may occur with notification to the THA office, as per preliminary rounds of the competition (i.e. At Club discretion).

14. Playing Across Divisions and Competitions

14.1 Playing Between Competitions and Divisions

Players are permitted to participate in more than one team within a competition structure (Seniors, Juniors, Masters) provided they meet all rules for each circumstance as listed below.

Players are permitted to play in multiple competitions provided they meet the entry requirements for each.

A player is not permitted to play both up and down divisions in the same fixture week.

A player is not permitted to play for two teams in the same division of a competition, with the exception that:

1. A player may be a nominated goalkeeper in one team, and a nominated field player in another team.
2. **Masters Men: Where a team has 8 players, but fewer than 11 players, they are permitted to use players from another club to make up to 11 players. However, they are not allowed to use players and have more players than their opposition. The players used should not unduly influence the result of the game.**

14.2 Playing in a Higher Division

A registered player is permitted to play in the division immediately above their registered division, provided:

- a) If the club has two teams in the higher division, the player can only play for one of those teams.

When an individual player has played five games in a division higher than their nominated grade, they may be identified as ineligible to play down in any further matches.

The Grading/Competitions Committee shall review instances where a player participates in a match which is two divisions above their registered grade.

- a) If the player plays in matches on three (3) separate occasions, the Committee will consider the regrading of the player.

In making the determination for a regrading, the committee shall consider the following:

- (i) The circumstances which required the player to play
 - (ii) The interests of the competition,
 - (iii) The interests of the individual player's development
 - (iv) Equity and fairness to other teams
 - (v) Information provided by the club regarding the circumstances
- b) Where a Club does not have a team in the next higher division, a player may be permitted to play more than three games in a team which is two divisions above which they are nominated.

Finals Matches –Two teams in a division

- a) A player from a lower division is not permitted to play for two different teams, in the same higher division, in the Finals series matches, **without approval**.
Consideration of the views of teams who may line up against several players in different teams forms the basis for this ruling.
 - (i) Junior and senior teams may be assessed independently for this provision.

14.3 Playing in a Lower Division

Juniors

Players are permitted to play in a lower age division provided approval has been sought and received from the Grading/Competition Committee.

Seniors

A player regraded down a division may not be used to make up the required number of active players in the division above, in the same round as they were regraded down.

Senior players may be permitted to play in a lower division where the following criteria apply:

- a) In specific circumstances, may seek approval from Grading/Competition Committee to allow a player to play down (e.g. to avoid a forfeit).
- b) A maximum of two higher division registered senior players may be permitted to play in the next lowest division provided the higher division player:
 - (i) Is unable to compete in their registered team and a maximum of 12 players participate in the lower division game involved, or
 - (ii) Is a registered marginal player and the marginal player provisions are met, and
 - (iii) May have additional restrictions placed upon them limiting the circumstances in which they may be permitted to play in a lower division.

Clubs may select or reselect teams and regrade players from a higher division to a lower division in line with club team selection. This may occur between rounds of the competitions and throughout the season provided:

- a) The player changes meet the active player and player number requirements in teams impacted by the changes
- b) The Competitions / Grading Committee may review the circumstance, and restrictions may be applied based on the circumstances and assessed player ability/impact on the division of competition
- c) A player not selected in his/her higher division for four (4) consecutive matches shall be reviewed for possible regrading to the lower division and, if required, a replacement player be registered to the higher division to maintain the required minimum number of active players.

Finals - Seniors

In Finals matches, restrictions apply to the use of higher division players in lower divisions. A player is not permitted to play in a lower division unless prior Grading/Competition Committee approval has been granted.

- a) A request to the Grading/Competition Committee is required to identify players eligible to play down into the lowest division.
- b) The Grading/Competition Committee assesses, and may provide approval, with or without restrictions. When considering each request, the Grading/Competition Committee may apply restrictions to the circumstances in which those players are eligible to play.
- c) There is a maximum of two players allowed to make up 12 players.

14.4 Marginal Player Rule

The marginal player rule shall be assessed each year of competition, and may, or may not, be applied.

The competition committee **shall make a ruling each playing season** as to its application for the season. Marginal player nominations and activity shall be reviewed and ratified by the Competitions Committee. In specific circumstances, a club may seek approval from the THA Competitions Committee to vary the application of the marginal player rule, where there is a demonstrated benefit to the sustainability and continuation of teams in the competition. This may also include specific restrictions and provisions imposed on the club making application.

Refer to Appendix A – Marginal Player Rule for the current season.

Principles of the Marginal Player Rule

- a) Reduce likelihood of forfeits and improve quality of competition
- b) Allow transition, or regularly substituted, players to access a reasonable quantity of hockey time.
- c) Marginal status is used to allow players from the higher division to have an opportunity to:
 - (i) Develop skills. To be considered a “Marginal Player, one shall be a player who may be regularly substituted in their nominated division. Marginal status provides increased playing participation and increased enjoyment of the game
 - (ii) Transition down the grades at the end of their playing career
 - (iii) Receive value for money
 - (iv) In instances where a club does not have enough higher skilled players in a team, allow players to:
 - i. compete at a level commensurate with their skills (retention)
 - ii. to develop younger players for the overall good of hockey
- d) The rule may be applied differentially across divisions and clubs, at the discretion of the Competition Committee, and in the interests of increased recruitment & retention of players to a club or clubs
- e) In making decisions regarding marginal players, consideration shall be given to:
 - (i) The individual player
 - (ii) The team setting in which they play
 - (iii) The standard of competition
 - (iv) The other teams in the competition
 - (v) The impact of the decision upon all the preceding statements.

Further, the rule expects clubs to:

- Consider the nominated player’s playing standard
- Where possible, promote players from grades below, before utilizing higher division players

In a season where the Marginal Player rule is applied, the following shall be required:

- a) The competition committee shall assess, and grade all nominated marginal players. Grading/review of marginal players shall occur:
 - (i) During the preseason, prior to Competition commencing
 - (ii) After Round 6
 - (iii) After Round 12
 - (iv) Prior to Semi-finals matches
- b) The number of marginal players shall be limited to those approved by competition committee.
- c) All changes shall require Competitions Committee approval
- d) Marginal status may be revoked where the playing circumstances do not reflect the proposals / detail submitted by the clubs
- e) Specific approval is required for Finals Matches & the names of eligible players shall be on the team card to avoid confusion.

Managing circumstances involving Marginal Player rule:

- (A) Late player arrival/Marginal player replacement

Where a match has commenced, and Marginal/higher division players are involved, and the total number of players in a team is at the maximum allowed, AND

- a. A player registered for the division of competition arrives late for a match –
 - i. such late player may then increase the total players above approved levels.
 - ii. Such late player substitutes for a higher division/Marginal player without penalty provided the higher division/Marginal player takes no further part in the match except in case of injury (Refer Injury provision below)
 - iii. A notation on the Team card indicating details / circumstances of the substitution shall be made by the team manager / captain

(B) Injured Player

- a. Where a player is injured to the point of being unable to participate further in the match – A marginal player may be substituted for such injured player provided the newly substituted player
 - i. does not increase the total number of higher division players above the maximum allowed (Refer Section 14.1 above), and
 - ii. the total number of players (Total players involved to point of injury minus injured player + substituted Marginal player) remains at the Marginal Player Rule limit or below. Refer Appendix 0 below

15. Playing Eligibility - Finals

15.1 Finals Grading Review of All Team Lists

The Competition's Grading Committee shall review all team nominations prior to the final six premierships weeks AND prior to Semi Finals

- a) The nominated players for the final three premierships games shall form the basis of Finals team nominations
- b) All Senior Teams are comprised of the required minimum number of active players (Refer 12.3 above), except where approval has been granted, by the Competitions Committee, to have a lower number.
- c) Teams eliminated from finals shall also have the required minimum number of active players before any players shall be permitted to play in a lower division.
- d) All eligible registered players are permitted to play in finals matches, provided the conditions specified in Section 15.6 below are met.

15.2 Qualifying Games

15.2.1 Requirement

Players must have played five (5) games for the same club in five (5) separate weeks of the relevant competition to be eligible for finals for that club.

To be eligible for their junior "age division", a player must have played in four of the five games in this division.

A younger age division player is eligible to play in a higher age division if they have played the qualifying number of games for the club

Masters Players must have played five (5) games for the same Club in five (5) separate weeks of the Master's competition to be eligible for finals for that club.

For Senior Competition:

Where a player has been an active participant in the Junior or recognised Masters' Competition (i.e. Formal competition, and identified independent teams, and valid THA records), and has played 5 or more matches in these competitions, conditional eligibility for a senior team may be approved by the Grading Committee. The Competitions Committee shall, at the time of submission of the finals team lists, determine the validity of Masters' matches for this criterion.

- a) The conditions may include
 - (i) restricted participation in non-registered teams
 - (ii) Committee determination of the registered division
 - (iii) May be in addition to the required number of active players (Refer [12.3 above](#))

15.2.2 Calculation

When calculating games played, the following shall apply:

- a) Playing in two divisions, in a club, in the same week, shall equate to only one match played, except where a double header round occurs. These games shall be regarded as two separate weeks for the purposes of this calculation.
- b) Participation in one, or all, of the preseason matches shall equate to a total of one match for this calculation, provided records are available to confirm playing involvement.
- c) Should a bye occur in the division, then a bye may be counted as one game played, provided such player plays both the game before and after the bye.
- d) When a competition game has been abandoned / aborted before it has been played then all registered players for both teams are deemed to have played in that match.
- e) When a team has forfeited then all registered players in the team not forfeiting are deemed to have played in that match.
- f) A club may make an application to the Competitions Committee, for special circumstances to be considered, to vary this requirement, including facts such as:
 - (i) the number of players available,
 - (ii) the impact of the player concerned on the division,
 - (iii) reasons such player failed to achieve minimum number of games (serious injury or illness)
 - (iv) identified benefits to the competition

15.3 Game Ratio – Games Played per Division

Clubs should ensure players registered in a specific team have played regularly in that team during the competition.

The Grading Committee shall review eligibility for all players who have played fewer than 50% of played matches in the team for which they are seeking registration.

- a) A player who fails this test may not be eligible for inclusion in a team. The Grading Committee shall make that determination for all instances identified
- b) The club shall present a case to a full grading meeting to have individual players who fail this criterion considered for eligibility to the lower grade.
- c) Where a player has been regraded during the season, the review shall consider:
 - (i) The circumstances of the regrading
 - (ii) The action of the club and player in relation to games in both the higher & lower divisions
 - (iii) Player ability and impact on the division in question.
- d) Where multiple regrades have occurred during the premiership season it should be noted it shall not be automatic for a regrading to carry through to finals.

15.4 Playing In a Lower Division

For the lowest division (e.g. D3 to D4 men and women), a higher division player may be permitted to play down a division, to make up enough players for a team only, and provided:

- e) Clubs have submitted a list of the players and have been approved by the Grading Committee/Chair for the Finals series.

15.5 Finals Team Lists

The Registered Player list shall form the basis for player eligibility for finals.

The Grading Committee shall review all team lists prior to finals.

To be eligible for finals matches, a player shall:

- a) Have a record confirming they competed in the prescribed number of matches.
- b) Be listed in the approved team list, or the list of a lower division in the same competition.
- c) Should a player, considered otherwise eligible, be omitted from the team list, the club shall take responsibility to confirm qualifying conditions have been met, and seek approval from the Competitions Committee to add a player to the team card prior to the event.

15.6 Maximum Number of Players in a Finals Match

Senior teams are **NOT** permitted to use more than 16 players, except for D4 and Masters. Special consideration may be requested for D4 and Masters provided:

- a) Players, numbering more than 16, shall have been registered and listed in team lists.
- b) All players have played consistently for the team in question.
- c) The Competitions Committee have approved the application prior to the day of the match.
- d) Only 16 players shall be permitted to participate in extra time periods.

Junior teams are permitted to use more than 16 players provided:

- a) All players have achieved the minimum game requirement.
- b) All players shall have been registered and listed in team lists.
- c) All players have played consistently for the team in question.
- d) The Competitions Committee have approved the application prior to the day of the match.
- e) Only 16 players shall be permitted to participate in extra time periods.

16. Match Records

16.1 Team Cards

16.1.1 Prefilled Data

The THA administration staff shall prepare Match Cards which shall include:

- a) Division, date, allocated field and time of match
- b) Allocated umpires and Technical Officials
- c) Names of all graded and registered players
- d) Designated fill in players from the grade below

16.1.2 Data to be Recorded

Team Manager/Captain

Team Manager/captain is the responsible person to complete player attendances and verify the accuracy of data recorded by umpires.

For each match a team sheet is to be filled in by the team manager/ captain. The data required:

- a) Tick off the starting 11 players

- b) Accurately record the names of players not listed who may participate.
- c) Tick off the name of all players who participated in the match.
- d) Note
 - (i) No player shall be recorded on the team sheet unless they have been present for the match in question.
 - (ii) Replacement players shall be marked on the playing card only if they participate in the match i.e. take the field.

Umpires/Match Officials

The Umpires/match officials shall:

- a) Record the match result (win/draw) including goals (e.g. Result: “Team A 1-0”)
- b) Notate the goal scorers
- c) Notate Cards issued
- d) Confirm total number of players for each team
- e) Ensure that card is signed off by officials from both teams

16.1.3 Data and Result Verification

Team Manager/Captain

- a) In the presence of the umpires, both team captains or manager are responsible to:
 - (i) Check and complete the playing card for their team.
 - (ii) Check and confirm the opposing team entries on the match card reflect those players who participate.
 - (iii) Notate the card to indicate any issues relating to the game.
 - (iv) Sign off to verify the data.

Umpires/Match Officials

Umpires shall resolve any points of dispute when completing cards

- a) If required, an umpire, or team official, may notate the card with information to indicate a point of dispute which cannot be resolved.
- b) This should be identified with duty officer or THA records as soon as possible.
- c) Review of dispute shall occur as soon as possible and under the direction of the Chair of Competitions.

16.1.4 Validity of Incomplete Cards

The process for incomplete cards shall be:

- a) THA records shall advise Clubs Liaison regarding the error.
- b) THA records may consult the umpires concerned.
- c) The clubs and umpires shall, within 7 days of notification of error or omission, provide advice (in person, via email or writing) to THA and opposing team (Club) outlining the details required to complete the cards.
- d) THA and Clubs will correspond to indicate if agreement exists or not with the responses.
- e) The next Grading meeting will consider and determine if such changes are to be accepted.

All incomplete cards shall be tabled at the monthly grading meeting for consideration and review.

16.1.5 Error or Alteration

Alterations to a match card are permitted only in the following circumstances:

- a) A change/correction is made in the presence of the opposition team manager/captain and/or umpire.
- b) A notation on the card requires some action of clarification.

- (i) Club provides written advice to the THA office of errors or omissions with explanation for the Competitions Committee to consider.

Chair of Competitions must authorise any change.

Record of the change is presented to the next meeting of Competitions or Grading Committees for review and approval.

16.2 Access, Distribution and Review

16.2.1 Access

- a) All clubs shall have regular access to a copy of the THA records, or as requested by Club Officials. This access shall include:
 - (i) Copy of Team cards –All clubs
 - (ii) Player records – All teams and players
 - (iii) Notification of Un-financial players
 - (iv) Suspended players

16.2.2 Distribution

- a) THA office shall distribute copies of all playing cards, to all clubs, weekly.
- b) The cards shall be ordered
 - (i) Men
 - (ii) Women
 - (iii) Juniors
 - (iv) Masters

16.2.3 Review

THA Competitions, THA Office staff and club officials shall ensure the appropriate review, identification and actioning of anomalies, as they occur, and such actions and issues shall be resolved at monthly Grading/Competitions Committee meetings. Any anomalies that occur must be identified and raised for discussion at the next meeting of the Grading/Competitions Committee, after which time all rights for review will lapse.

16.3 Electronic Lodgement of Records

THA shall, as practical, move to the use of electronic systems to manage the playing records.

Appropriate training & access to clubs shall be fundamental to the adoption of such systems.

17. Grand Premiership

17.1 Principle

The Grand Premiership will include individual categories plus overall Grand Premier. The categories will allow greater recognition of the contribution each group makes to the success of the clubs and the association.

Points to be allocated based on the final seeding at the end of the minor rounds. (i.e. Points based on finishing position – 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc. place in each competition.

Format is designed to allow all clubs to compete equally - regardless of size.

- a) There is an adjustment based on the number of teams each club has competing. Simply having more teams should not unduly influence the outcome.

- b) Consideration is given to managing multiple teams from the same club in a single competition - All teams from all clubs are included in the calculation.

A Club must have a minimum of three teams to be eligible to win the Grand Premiership.

17.2 Categories

The Grand Premiership recognises four categories.

- a) Grand Premier (Overall)
- b) Senior Men
- c) Senior Women
- d) Juniors

17.3 Calculation

17.3.1 Points allocation

A weighted point score (based on seeding):

Placing	Points
1 st	20
2 nd	15
3 rd	11
4 th	8
5 th	6
6 th	5
7 th +	4

17.3.2 Bonus Points

Bonus points are allocated to a team, in any grade, which achieves an undefeated season.

- a) Bonus points for undefeated Season = 4 points
- b) “Undefeated” is defined as “having won and drawn matches only (no losses)”

17.3.3 Calculation

- a) Category Winner – The club with the best average in each category will be declared that category winner.

$$\text{Category Average for each club} = \frac{\text{Sum of GP points allocated to teams in this category}}{\text{Number of teams in the category}}$$

- b) Grand Premier – The club with the best overall average will be awarded the Grand Premiership.

$$\text{Grand Premiership total} = \frac{\text{Sum of all GP points allocated to teams from the club}}{\text{Total number of teams in the club}}$$

18. Officiating

18.1 Allocation of Umpires

Prior to the commencement of each season, clubs shall supply a list of

- a) All potential umpires
- b) Those available to assist and coordinate the development of umpires
- c) Those wishing to commence or develop umpiring skills

Clubs shall appoint umpire delegates to be responsible for:

- a) Allocating umpires to weekly scheduled matches
- b) Advising individuals from their club of umpiring commitments

18.2 Responsibility of Umpires (Club Action)

One (1) min prior to start - Direct teams to the centre line and prepare to commence the match.

Review team card

- a) Prior to commencement of games – Check player list completed
- b) Half time – re check player list is accurate and add goals and cards issued

Finalise card at the completion of the match

- a) Obtain manager/coach signature
- b) Sign card as umpire
- c) Complete report if required for incidents and red cards issued

Failure to complete game records accurately may result in forfeiture of all or part of match payment.

18.3 Failure to Umpire

The Competitions Committee shall determine the process to be followed in the event of an umpire not being available at the commencement of the match.

- a) No action shall be taken against an umpire for late arrival unless at least one (1) of the teams has proceeded to the centre line prepared to commence the match.
- b) The Chair of Competitions & Officiating Chair shall be advised of all matters relating to umpire allocations and/or penalties.
- c) The chairs of Officiating and Competitions shall be included prior to a penalty decision being finalised.

The nominated umpire, umpire's team and/or umpire's club which fails to fulfil the allocated umpiring duty may incur the following:

- a) Loss of match payments
- b) Other penalties - based upon the circumstances, including loss of competition points to the team of the designated umpire.

18.4 Managing Player & Team Bench Conduct

Bench Conduct

- a) Comments or abuse from the bench towards an umpire, match official or opposition teams shall be managed by the umpires as follows:
 - (i) Minor offence: Captain to be given a green card.
 - (ii) More serious or Second Offence: Captain to be given a Yellow Card and must leave the field for the time stipulated by the umpire.
 - (iii) Persons on the bench may also be issued with a card. If a red card is issued to the team official or bench player, that person(s) will be required to leave the field of play and the team will be penalised by the loss of a player(s) equal to the number so carded.

Red Card report

- a) a written report shall be completed and lodged for referral to the Judiciary Committee chair

Suspended Goalkeeper.

- a) The suspension of a Goal keeper shall occur as per other players – the suspended player shall leave the field immediately and the match shall proceed.
- b) The rules allow for a match to proceed without a designated goal keeper.

- c) It is the responsibility of the club to manage the circumstances around the suspension of a goalkeeper (green, yellow or red card). The match shall not be delayed simply because the suspension applies to a goalkeeper rather than a field player.

19. Complaints/Reports/Charges/Protests

19.1 General

Any person, player, club or THA official may submit a complaint or report of inappropriate behaviour.

The lodgement of complaints or charges shall be directed through the listed officials:

- a) Officiating Umpire/s
- b) Chair of Officiating Committee
- c) Chair of Competition Committee
- d) Club Administrators - President, Vice President or Secretary (or person nominated by these officials).
- e) Board of Management member

19.2 Reports

Submitted reports (on the prescribed form where possible) shall include:

- a) Date, Time and Field Number of the game
- b) Team names and division
- c) Team Captains
- d) Umpires involved
- e) Protagonists and witnesses involved
- f) Incident - full description

19.3 Reports Regarding Persons Other Than Players

When non-playing persons (or persons not playing when cited) are reported, the word "person or spectator" is to be substituted for "Player".

19.4 Lodgement

Umpires report

- a) Should be emailed to the THA office.
- b) Lodgement shall be as soon as possible after an incident or event (preferably within 7 days of the event)

Report from an individual

- a) Lodgement may be in writing/email or in person via Club Official (President, Treasurer or Secretary) to the THA office, Chair of Judiciary, and Club President or club executive member.
- b) Lodgement shall be as soon as possible after the incident or event (preferably within 7 days of the event).

19.5 Process

All charges will be reviewed by the Judiciary Chair.

Persons charged shall be advised a charge is pending.

19.6 Judiciary Rules

Refer to M002 THA Judiciary Rules for details of the Judiciary Process.

20. Penalties

20.1 Intent

A Club may not be penalised where a team has met the requirements and intent of these rules, but has failed to provide the formal documentation relating to the specific issue, provided:

- a) The issue is proven by existing records (team cards, etc.) and is not reliant on outstanding documents.
- b) The notification is provided by a club, upon being advised by THA of any omission.
- c) The matter is presented, at the following Competitions Committee meeting, to be resolved.

20.2 Grading Rules Breach Notification

The process for review shall be as follows:

- a) The Club in breach will be notified prior to the next fixture match, or at a grading meeting.
- b) The Club may show cause why the breach occurred or request a review of any penalty. A 'Request for Review' shall be submitted to the next Competitions Committee meeting.
- c) A club may appeal a decision of the Competitions Committee.

20.3 Illegal Player

This ruling includes players playing in contravention of a restriction to playing down a division.

If the match was won:

- a) The team shall lose the three (3) premiership points and the match result will be recorded as a LOSS (Nil -5 goals).

If the match was lost:

- b) The Grading Committee may either:
 - (i) Deduct Zero (0) points, or
 - (ii) Determine to deduct points
 - i. One (1) to three (3) points may be deducted depending on the breach (i.e. motivation and other circumstances).

20.4 Insufficient Active Players in a Team

Should a club fail to maintain the statutory minimum number of active players in a division, the penalty, in the first instance, will apply to the team with insufficient players.

The penalty shall be:

- a) the loss of match points.

Where subsequent teams are impacted, the Grading Committee shall consider the impact. If the Grading Committee determine an advantage is gained by another team, or teams, the Committee may apply further penalty, or player movement restrictions, to compensate.

Should a second instance occur, it may be deemed that subsequent teams have gained an advantage, and the affected teams will then also lose points.

The full Grading Committee shall consider the imposition of penalties in this case.

20.5 Teams Playing Un-financial Players

Where THA:

- a) Has identified a player who is un-financial, and
- b) A ruling has been made that said player is not permitted to participate in any match until fees are paid, or payment arrangements have been put in place, and
- c) the player plays in a match

the following penalty shall apply:

- a) If the match was won
 - (i) loss of three (3) premiership points + two (2) additional points.
- b) If the match was drawn
 - (i) loss of one (1) point + two (2) additional points.
- c) If the match was lost
 - (i) loss of two (2) points.

In all cases the match result shall read as LOSS (0 - 5)

20.6 Team Playing Unregistered Players

No points shall be deducted for an unregistered player who is un-financial (i.e. There should not be a doubling of the penalty in relation to registration & financial status).

If a player commences playing without submitting an online Majestri registration, THA will notify the club of the unregistered player and the club will have 10 days to ensure that an online registration is completed by the unregistered player.

THA shall work with club officials to clear up registration anomalies as soon as possible. Clubs shall work to ensure all players complete registration details as soon as possible. The THA office shall provide updates to clubs to identify players who are not fully registered.

If requests to provide full registration details are not met, the Grading/Competition Committee shall set a time frame after which a player may not participate in matches, and if the player does so:

- a) If the match was won
 - (i) loss of three (3) premiership points + two (2) additional points.
- b) If the match was drawn
 - (i) loss of one (1) point + two (2) additional points.
- c) If the match was lost
 - (i) loss of two (2) points.

In all cases the match result shall read as LOSS (0 - 5)

20.7 All Other Breaches

For other breaches, the Grading Committee shall determine the penalty.

The objective of the rules is to identify the correct processes to be followed, and to ensure equity and fairness in competitions. Where the breach does not affect the competition, consideration of the penalty should be made, and any penalty should always reflect the significance of the breach, the motivation for the breach, and the impact of the breach.

When imposing a penalty, the penalty shall be consistent with equivalent breaches outlined above.

Appendix A – Marginal Player Rule

Specific Rules for Marginal player use

Players nominated in the higher grade, for the grade below, shall be limited to:

- a) From the club's second lowest division to the club's lowest division
 - (i) Two (2) nominated players for each lower division team
 - (ii) Where a club has two (2) teams in their lowest division, the club must specify which team the player will be allocated to.
 - (iii) In any one match, Two (2) players maximum to make a total of 12 players for the team

Appendix B – Tie Breaker Provisions: THA Finals Matches

SEMI FINALS

- b) No extra time is played in any junior age group or senior division.
- c) If the match remains drawn at the completion of regular time, the higher ranked team progresses.

PRELIMINARY FINALS

- d) All Extra Time is GOLDEN GOAL. The game finishes when a goal is scored.
- e) If the match remains drawn at the completion of extra time, the higher ranked team progresses.
- f) Extra time periods are specified as:

Grade		
U10	No Extra time	
U13	No Extra time	
U15	Extra time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Three (3) minute break at the completion of regular time b) Two (2) periods of five (5) minutes each way, with a change of end after the completion of the first extra-time period.
U18	Extra time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Three (3) minute break at the completion of regular time b) Two (2) periods of five (5) minutes each way, with a change of end after the completion of the first extra-time period.
D2 and below	Extra time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Three (3) minute break at the completion of regular time b) Two (2) periods of five (5) minutes each way, with a change of end after the completion of the first extra-time period.
D1	Extra time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Three (3) minute break at the completion of regular time b) Two (2) periods of ten (10) minutes each way, with a change of end after the completion of the first extra-time period.
Masters	No Extra time	

GRAND FINALS

g) If a match is drawn at the completion of regular time, the following conditions apply:

Grade		
U10	No Extra time	The premiership is shared between the two teams
U13	No Extra time	The premiership is shared between the two teams
U15	Shoot Out	Refer to Shoot Out procedure
U18	Shoot Out	Refer to Shoot Out procedure
Seniors	Shoot Out	Refer to Shoot Out procedure
Masters	No Extra time	The premiership is shared between the two teams

SHOOT OUT PROCEDURE

Adapted from HQ Competitions Manual (variation in Red)

In a shoot-out competition, five players from each team take a one-on-one shoot-out alternately against a defender from the other team as set out in this regulation.

The shoot-out competition comprises all series of shoot-outs required to determine a result.

The following sets out both the playing rules and the procedures to be followed.

1. Respective team managers /coaches nominate five players to take, and one player to defend, the shoot-outs from those eligible to play in the match as listed the Team List except as excluded below.
 - A player nominated to defend the shoot-outs can also be nominated to take a shoot-out.
 - **substitutions/replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition, as specified below.**
2. These regulations refer to players listed on the Team List for a particular match but if a shoot-out competition is used to determine rankings in a division a team may only nominate players eligible to compete in that team / division
3. A player who is still suspended by the Association at the time the shoot-out competition takes place or has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition, cannot take part in that shoot-out competition.
 - A player who has been warned (green card) or temporarily suspended (yellow card) may take part in the shoot-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match.
4. **The Competition Chair or Competition Committee in consultation with the Umpires will specify in advance the goal to be used.**
5. **The Competitions Committee will specify in advance of any possible shoot-out competition the method of timing shoot-outs taking account of the facilities available and the need to control time accurately.**
 - **Two match officials shall manage the time and shall monitor the time of two consecutive shootouts – one from each team and then change over note: should a shootout be retaken then it shall be regarded as the same shootout for this purpose**
 - **The officials shall observe the clock and blow a whistle when time expires – the official shall not observe the shootout in progress –The shootout ends on this whistle**
6. A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot-out.
7. All players on the Team List are permitted to enter the field of play outside the 23m area used for the shoot-out
 - Except any player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition
 - Players on the field must be at least 10 metres from the spot where the ball is placed at the start of the shoot-out, but only the players nominated to take part in the Penalty Shoot-out Competition may take their sticks onto the field.
8. The goalkeeper/defending player of the team taking a shoot-out may be on the back-line outside the circle.
9. A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.
10. If a player taking a shoot-out is also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents, (s)he is allowed reasonable time to take off his/her protective equipment to take his/her shoot-out and subsequently to put his/her protective equipment on again.
11. Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper/defending player of the other team in the sequence nominated, the Penalty Shoot-out Competition form, making a total of 10 shoot-outs.
 - **After each round of the shoot outs it is possible to substitute an attacking player**
 - **It is possible to substitute the defending player at any time in the shoot out**

12. Taking a shoot-out: Series of Five

The First series of shoot outs shall be played out with five completed shootouts by each team (unless an unassailable lead is created)

- The goalkeeper/defending player starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts;
- The ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;
- An attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;
- The umpire blows the whistle to signal the start of the shoot-out; the attacker and the goalkeeper/defending player may then move in any direction;
- The shoot-out is completed when:
 - **Time has elapsed**
 - 8 seconds has elapsed since the starting signal (D1, D2, U18)
 - 10 Seconds D3, D4, U15;
- A goal is scored;
- The attacker commits an offence;
- the goalkeeper/defending player commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle - the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper/defending player;
- The goalkeeper/defending player commits an intentional offence inside or outside the circle, in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;
- The ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper/defending player intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.

13. If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above,

- it is taken by the two players involved in the shootout concerned unless either of them is incapacitated or suspended.

14. At the end of the series of five Shootouts -The team scoring the most goals is the winner and the competition ceases once an outright winner is determined.

15. A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot-out competition.

16. If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player (either an attacker or a goalkeeper/defending player) is suspended by a yellow or red card:

- That player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper/defending player, cannot be replaced;
 - The replacement for a suspended goalkeeper/defending player can only come from team listed players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition;
 - The replacement goalkeeper/defending player is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper/defending player (s)he is replacing was wearing;
- For taking his/her own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off his/her protective equipment to take his/her shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again;
- any shoot-out (or penalty stroke) due to be taken by a suspended player counts as no goal; the shoot-outs taken by this player and scored before being suspended count as a goal.

17. If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper/defending player is incapacitated;

- that goalkeeper/defending player may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Pre-Game Team List (Form 10) for that particular match, except as excluded in sub-clause 3 (above) of this Penalty Shoot-out section of Clause 6.11 or unless suspended by an umpire during the shoot-out competition;
- The replacement goalkeeper;
 - Is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper / defending player was wearing;
 - If this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off his protective equipment to take his shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.

18. If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Team List for that particular match, except as excluded above 16 (above) of this Penalty Shoot- or unless suspended by an umpire during the shoot-out competition.

19. Sudden Death Series

If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs;

- A second series of five shoot-outs **is taken with the same players,** subject to the conditions specified in this section;
 - The sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;
 - The team whose player took the first penalty shoot-out in a series defends the first penalty shoot-out of the next series;
 - when one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot-outs, that team is the winner.
20. If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, the shoot-out shall continue to a result
- The sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;
 - The team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.
21. Unless varied by this Penalty Shoot-out section of Clause 6.11, the Rules of Hockey apply during a shoot-out.