



Griffith Hockey Association Inc. Competition By-Laws

Final Version 1.6.4

Created Date: 21st February, 2013

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Introduction

This document is to provide a guideline to how issues of discipline and resulting judicial matters are to be handled by the Griffith Hockey Association Committee and Sub-Committees.

1 Judicial Process

1.1 Composition of Judicial Sub- Committee

The Griffith Hockey Association will appoint a Judicial Sub Committee comprising of 2 persons playing or non-playing to be known as the “judicial hearing officers”. Hearing officers will be appointed at first general committee meeting after AGM each year. If the positions are left open the responsibilities will fall back to the general committee.

1.2 Composition of Judicial Panel

A panel for purposes of hearing judicial appeals will be comprised of the “judicial hearing officers” and a minimum of 3 General Committee members. Members on the panel must be as removed from the incident as possible.

1.3 Review Process

Incidents written on back of match cards are to be handed to the competition convenor on match day. Any incidents warranting suspension shall be referred to the Judicial Hearing Officer/s for review and a penalty handed out where necessary according to Penalty table below (table 1). Notification will be given to the Secretary of the Association.

1.3.1 Notification to Player

The teams Manager/Contact as specified on the team registration form will be notified by the Griffith Hockey Association Secretary within 48hrs of the completion of the match via Phone or e-mail of the player/official/spectator’s proposed penalty.

1.3.2 Notification of Player Intent

The team Manager or player/spectator/official suspended will have 48hrs from notification by the secretary to the team manager/contact to accept or appeal the penalty in writing to the Secretary of the Association via mail or e-mail to the below contact details:

Griffith Hockey Association
PO Box 942
Griffith NSW, 2680
Or

griffithhockey@hotmail.com

Appeals will only be heard in the case of new evidence being presented

1.3.3 **Judicial Committee Meeting**

Upon receipt of an appeal a Judicial Committee Hearing Meeting will be convened within 48hrs. Parties involved will be requested to attend to present new evidence. The Judicial Committee's findings will be final.

2 Penalties

Penalties will be divided into 2 categories.

- Judicial Penalty System
- Accumulative Card Points based Penalties

2.1 Judicial Penalty System

Judicial Penalty System will be followed when incidents resulting in Instant Red card offences by players or unacceptable Spectator/Official behaviour are reported to the Umpires/Committee. Penalties listed in table 1 below. Suspensions may carry over to the next competition.

2.2 Cumulative Point Card System

Accumulative Card Points based penalties will be given out as a disciplinary measure as per table 2. Points will accumulate over 1 competition and be restarted at the commencement of a new competition. Accumulated Point suspensions are automatic. Team Manager/Contact or Player will be notified once suspensions have been reached.

2.3 GHA Codes of Behaviour

Please refer to document GHA – Codes of Behaviour

Player/Spectator/umpires/board members found to be in breach of the GHA – Codes of Behaviour are subject to penalties as stipulated in table 1 of the GHA – Disciplinary & Judicial process above. To be found in breach of these codes official complaints must be submitted to the Association via the mail address stipulated above or via email to griffithhockey@hotmail.com containing the below information.

Name & Contact of complainant, Name of alleged offender, Date & Time of alleged offense, all details including any witnesses to alleged offence. Complaint will be referred to the Judicial Sub Committee as per rule 1 – Judicial Process above & will follow standard GHA judicial process.

2.3.1 Social Media Guidelines

Players, Umpires, Officials or spectators will not mention/imply in a detrimental or negative way any comments relating to Griffith Hockey Association and its related entities including but not limited to Teams and their sponsors names, players and/or officials. What is considered detrimental or negative will be completely at the discretion of the committee and will be subject to the "other misconduct" section of the judicial penalty system.

Note: If spectators are found to be associated to a specific team, penalties may apply to that team as determined by the committee.

Table 1

Guideline for Judicial Penalty System

Offence Against Umpires	Penalty
Dispute Umpires Decision resulting in red card	1-2 Matches
Verbally abuse umpire	2 Matches
Verbally abuse umpire (2 nd offence)	4 Matches
Deliberately striking an umpire (assault)	Life
Offences Against Players	
Striking another player (aggressive non-directional)	1 – 2 Matches
Deliberately/Attempted striking another player	2 Matches – 1 Year
Striking another player with a Hockey Stick (aggressive non-directional)	2 – 4 Matches
Deliberately/Attempted striking another player with a Hockey Stick	4 Matches – 1 Year
Deliberately striking another player with a Hockey Stick (2 nd Offence)	Life
Other Misconduct	
Spiting at a player/spectator/Official	2 Matches
Abusive and/or offensive conduct	1-5 Matches
Acting in a detrimental manner to the association/sub-body	1-5 Matches
Abusive conduct while a spectator	1 Match
Deliberate throwing of a stick	1 Match
Intoxicated/Drug Influenced	1-5 Matches
Crude or abusive Hand Gestures by a player/spectator/official	1 Match
Inappropriate Physical Play	2 Matches
Persistent and Deliberate breach of the rules	1-4 Matches
Conduct breaching social media guidelines	1-5 Matches

Table 2

Cumulative Card Point System

Card	Points
Green	1
Yellow	4
Red (2 x Yellow Cards)	10
Instant Red Card refer to Judicial Penalties in Table 1	
Suspension	
10 Points	1 Match
15 Points	1 Match
20 Points	referred to Judicial Committee
After 20 Points penalty has been served the player will commence back at 10 points	

3 Match Rules & Regulations

3.1 Match Rules & Regulations

Griffith Hockey Association will follow the current International Hockey Federation (FIH) match rules.

3.1.1 Trial Rules

Trial rules will be implemented at the discretion of the Committee prior to the commencement of the competition. All teams will be notified of changes in writing prior to the commencement of the season.

3.2 Competition Points

Competition points will be awarded as below:

Win	3
Draw	1
Loss	0
Forfeit (team giving forfeit)	-3 (notification after Wed 5pm prior to match)
Forfeit (team receiving forfeit)	3
Bye	0
Meetings	1

3.2.1 Forfeits

Teams winning by Forfeit shall be awarded a positive goal difference of +3.

Note: Matches where team is disqualified and goal difference exceeds +3, to the non-disqualified team then the match score stands

In the event of a team being disqualified due to un-registered player. The match result stands, however the offending team will have -3 deducted from their table in the competition that they have offended in.

3.2.2 Meeting Bonus Points

Teams will receive 1 bonus point per meeting where at least 1 representative attends. Will commence the general meeting at which team nominations are due

3.3 Team Nominations

- 3.3.1 Teams must nominate a minimum of 13 players by nomination day as determined by committee at AGM. It is the responsibilities of the Team Managers to ensure below dates are met. No exceptions will be made. Teams may have no more than 20 players registered on their team sheets, including social players. Team sheets are to be finalised before the end of round 3, after which no changes are to be made, except in the case of a NEW player to the association. In situations where Men's div teams have nominated Ladies div players, a ladies div player must be dropped to make room in the 20 allowed and cannot re-add them after round 3 if a new player arrives after the deadline including social players.

3.3.2 **Player Registrations & Fees**

Teams must have all players individual online registrations submitted prior to taking to the field. All online registrations & fees will need to be completed prior to 5pm Friday before the first round of matches (when a registered players list will be generated). Any registrations after this time must print the confirmation email and present it to the competition coordinator 20 minutes prior to the start of match any subsequent round.

- Any player found to take the field without submitting an online registration application & fee payment will be deemed unregistered and their team will have been deemed to forfeit the match regardless of result. (See rules 3.2 & 3.2.1 for forfeit rules). This is to be managed by the team managers.

3.3.3 **HNSW Registered/Dual registered player**

If player is registered for another association within the OST system, social fees will be \$10 per match for a total of 3 matches after which player will be considered a full fee paying member. Player must register as a Dual registration through the GHA – registration portal to be found on the www.griffithhockey.com.au website. Players must comply to Rule 3.8 to play qualify for finals.

3.3.4 **Social Players**

Teams wishing to register social players must be registered through Hockey NSW registration portal and comply to rule 3.3.1. Player is to choose “HNSW player – *Age group*”. Once the player has played their 3 matches they are to pay remaining “GHA fee” as per the yearly fees determined at AGM to the treasurer. It is the responsibility of the team to follow this up. Failure to do so ‘could’ result in penalties imposed on the offending team.

3.3.5 **Player Transfer**

Any player who wishes to move from one team to another during a season must submit a case to the association in writing (email will suffice) for consideration. A player may only transfer once during any season and transfers will only be considered before the half-way round in the season. (i.e. 15rd normal season no applications after Rd7). The final decision shall be at the discretion of the committee.

3.3.6 **Junior Boy Age Restrictions**

Junior boys play in the women’s division and have the option to play “socially” in the men’s division (as long as matches don’t clash i.e. women’s commitments first) until the calendar year in which they turn 14. Those who turn 15 in the calendar year may play in women’s **or** men’s competitions but not both. They may transfer (see rule 3.3.4) from women’s to men’s div but not the other way. As of the year they turn 16 they must play in the senior men’s.

3.3.7 **Team Umpire & Tech Duty**

To submit a team in GHA competition teams are required to submit a nomination of a minimum of 2 umpires who must attend a minimum 50% of training & development throughout the season.

Teams are also required to have tech bench duty when nominated. Duty includes running match time and 2 minute green card time.

3.4 Commencement of Matches

3.4.1 Notification to take the field

A 2 Minute warning will notify teams to take the field. Matches times will commence at the start of the second hooter.

3.4.2 Forfeit of Matches

Failure by a team to take the field by commencement of the match will result in the team being penalized 1 goal every 5 Minutes until they take the field up to a maximum of 15 Minutes at which stage the match will be forfeited.

3.4.3 Match Deferring

Matches are to be played at the designated set time as per season draw. Only under exigent circumstance may games be re-scheduled. The final decision will be at the discretion of the committee.

3.5 Wet Weather

Final Decisions on wet weather will be made by grounds committee no later than 1 hour before scheduled start time. Team captains will be notified no later than 1 hour before matches. Once grounds are passed by committee any changes to match status will be at the umpire discretion in consultation with grounds committee.

3.5.1 30/30 stormy weather rule

Griffith Hockey Association will adopt the 30/30 rule in regards to thunderstorms. If Lightning is seen and Thunder heard within 30 seconds of each other, players must leave the field for a minimum of 30 min. Play should not commence until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike and thunder. Game completion will be at the discretion of the umpires. 1 completed half constitutes a result and points awarded accordingly. If less than half game is completed, the match will be declared a draw and points shared. Further games that day will be at the discretion of the committee.

3.5.2 Finals Weather Rule

Finals matches will be played under most circumstances with the exception of stormy weather which will be subject to rule 3.5.1. Matches may be postponed to a later start time at the discretion of the committee. Decisions on play will be made no earlier than 30 min prior to commencement of play by a grounds committee vote with consultation of team managers. If games cannot progress the team higher on the ladder at the end of the regular season will progress.

3.6 Match Results for Finals

If at the end of 70 minutes regular time scores are level, teams will play 10 minutes each way 'Golden Goal' extra time. Meaning the team to score first wins the match. If at the end of 20 minutes extra time there is still no result the match will go into penalty strokes. A toss of coin will determine the team to go first. Each team will have 5 strokes. Team with the most goals at the end of 5 strokes is determined the winner. If scores are still level sudden death strokes will determine the winner. Each team will have 1 stroke each round first team to score while other team misses will be declared the winner.

3.7 Mandatory Equipment Rule

All Players that take the field must wear Shin guards at all times when partaking in Hockey activities organised by the Griffith Hockey Association or its clubs/teams.

3.7.1 Mouthguard waiver

By completing the online registration form and registering with Griffith Hockey Association & Hockey NSW you are agreeing to the Hockey NSW membership disclaimer found on the HNSW policy website.

By agreeing to this membership disclaimer while registering through the HNSW registration portal you agree to Appendix A (GHA exclusion of liability) of this document.

All players under the age of 18 must wear Mouthguards and are not able to agree to the waiver.

3.8 Player Finals Eligibility

Players must have played a minimum of 1/3 “regular” competition matches for the one team they wish to play finals for. Players that play both men’s and women’s division must play 1/3 in each team.

3.8.1 Player exemptions

Exemptions for Long Term injury & Out of town work commitments will be considered by the committee. Exemption requests must be submitted in writing outlining the reason in which exemption is sought with evidence (i.e. Dr’s Certificate etc) by Monday 5pm prior to Semi Finals. Applications after this time will not be accepted. Exemption to be approved/declined by committee vote following consultation with team managers.

3.9 Representative Fees

Players playing in a representative side for Griffith Hockey Association must pay 50% of the team registration fee on top of any accommodation, travel or other costs incurred. This is due to different cost structures of the various competitions entered.

4 GHA Changes to FIH rules

4.1 Stick Over Shoulder

FIH have introduced the ability to play the ball with the stick over the shoulder height. Guidance on the rule from Hockey Australia stated to take into consideration skill levels before incorporating to reduce the possibility of danger. GHA have therefore decided to not play this rule and will review on a yearly basis.

5 GHA additions to Constitution

5.1 General Committee

The general committee outlined in the constitution consists of 4 office bearers and 3 General committee positions. These positions are

President, Vice-President, Secretary (public officer), Treasurer, Competition Coordinator/Publicity officer, Umpire Coordinator & Junior Coordinator.

5.2 Team voting rights at GHA meetings

Each team currently registered in that Hockey Year (1st of April to 31st March) will have 1 vote per motion during GHA Annual General Meeting, General Meeting & Special General Meetings.

Appendix A



PLAYER AGREEMENT

Griffith Hockey Association strongly promotes the wearing of safety equipment during the participation in the sport of Hockey.

Exclusion of Liability for Damage to Team Member's Person or Property and Indemnity as a result of non-wearing of mouthguard – Griffith Hockey Association Inc

I hereby accept there is an inherent and foreseeable risk of receiving a knock to the mouth or a ball striking my mouth in undertaking hockey activities. I acknowledge these risks are why Hockey NSW has a policy advocating the compulsory wearing of mouthguards. I accept and acknowledge Griffith Hockey Association Inc supports the policy of Hockey NSW.

I hereby agree that Griffith Hockey Association Inc. its board members, employees, umpires, technical officials, players and other volunteers shall not be nor be deemed responsible or liable whether in contract, or in tort or under statute, for any injury, illness or other mishap to me or my property sustained in, arising from or out of, or in any way directly or indirectly connected with any match, competition, practice, training or function of whatsoever nature held during the period of this Agreement or in any way directly or indirectly connected with the team or with any medical or scientific examinations, tests or treatments conducted on me during the period of this Agreement as a result of my non-compliance with the Griffith Hockey Association Inc. & Hockey NSW safety rule relating to the compulsory wearing of mouthguards.

I hereby indemnify and will at all times hereafter well and sufficiently indemnify and keep fully indemnified Griffith Hockey Association Inc., its board members, employees, umpires, technical officials, players and other volunteers from and against all actions, suits, causes of action, proceedings, claims, demands, costs and expenses whatsoever which may be taken or made against Griffith Hockey Association Inc. its employees, umpires, technical officials, players and other volunteers or incurred or become payable by Griffith Hockey Association Inc., its board members employees, umpires, technical officials, players and other volunteers in connection with, or arising out of any such injury, illness or mishap to me or my property arising from my noncompliance and/or refusal to wear a mouthguard.