



Geraldton Hockey Association [Inc.] 2017 BY-LAWS

1. Administration.

- a) These By-Laws shall be administered by the Board;
- b) The Board shall have the general power to enforce these By-Laws of its own volition or upon the receipt of a complaint from a member of the Association;
- c) A report from a member of the Association will not be acted on by the Board unless it is lodged at the GHA Office by 5pm on the third working day following the event giving rise to the complaint.

2. Powers and Duties of the Clubs

- a) Clubs do not have the power to commit the Association.
- b) Clubs shall comply with all reasonable requests of sub committees of the Association and in particular the Permits Committee and the Protests and Disputes Tribunal.
- c) Clubs shall have the right of appeal under Clause 24(g) of the GHA Constitution over penalties imposed under these By-Laws. The club making the appeal will be required to pay \$250 for the appeal to be heard. This money will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- d) Clubs shall submit **FULLY COMPLETED** Senior and Junior Player Registration forms, **to the GHA Office after the third playing fixture but before the fourth fixture.** A fine of \$50 [1st request], \$100 [2nd request], \$200 [3rd request], and loss of points may also be imposed for each team Registration Form which is late.
- e) New players need to be registered prior to playing their second fixture or they will be considered to be an ineligible player and their team will be penalised according to By-Law 13(a). **New player registrations must be completed and signed on a 'Player Detail Form' which is available from the noticeboard inside the clubrooms.** An email is to be sent out by the GHA Registrar before the 2nd playing date requesting information on any outstanding registrations.

3. Uniforms and Playing Attire

- a) All clubs are to submit a description of each team's uniform and any subsequent changes to the GHA Administrator for the Board's approval before it is worn in a GHA fixture.
- b) **All players in each team are to be in correct uniform by the third playing fixture. Any player not complying is to be removed from the card and not permitted to play.**
- c) **Hard brimmed headwear shall not be worn during fixtures or training.**
- d) **All players must remove or tape all jewellery** before a fixture commences. Any player failing to comply will not be permitted to play.
- e) **At all games, each team must have a Captain who is easily identified by the wearing of a distinctive band or ribbon.**

4. Application to the Permits Committee.

- a) Any application to the Permits Committee as referred to in these By-Laws must be lodged with the GHA Administrator (or similar Office Bearer) by a Club Officers (not by individual players) as soon as practical after the Club is aware of the need for a permit. The Permits Committee shall consist of a Director of the GHA Inc. and four other members of the hockey fraternity that shall be appointed by the Board.
- b) A permit application must be made during normal working hours and can only be made outside normal working hours to two members of the Permits Committee if they are satisfied that in the circumstances the club could not have reasonably lodged an application within working hours. This application must be approved by both members of the Permits Committee. The onus is on the club to contact the members of the Permits Committee in these circumstances.
- c) Senior and Junior players must apply to the Permits Committee for permission to play for any metro team or country association.

5. Competition Fixtures.

- a) Fixtures must be played on the day and date and time and on the ground appointed. There is no allowance for out of time games. (However in **extreme circumstances**, the GHA Permits Committee will give consideration to an out of time game on receipt of a letter of application. **This application needs to be submitted at least two weeks before the scheduled fixture** unless the circumstances leading to the application prevent this.)
- b) When a team forfeits a fixture, full points for a win are credited to the opposing team and five (5) goals. It is regarded as a 5-0 victory. In addition the team which forfeits will be penalised one (1) point.
- c) When a club has more than one team and wishes to forfeit a senior fixture through lack of numbers it must forfeit in the lowest senior grade in which it is represented.
- d) No team with less than seven (7) players is permitted to start a fixture but must forfeit in accordance with By-Law 4(b)
- e) Any team with insufficient numbers (less than 7 players) to commence play within fifteen (15) minutes of the appointed time must forfeit the fixture in accordance with By-Law 4(b).
- f) Where any team has begun playing a fixture withdraws from that fixture, full points for a win will be credited to the opposing team. Goals shall be awarded as for a forfeit (5-0). In addition the team which forfeits will be penalised one (1) point if the forfeit is due to a walk off.
- g) When a senior team forfeits a fixture, the team will be issued a warning for the first forfeit and will be fined \$250.00 for the second forfeit. In addition, Champion Club points will be deducted as per points awarded for win in relevant grade.

6. Premiership Tables

- a) Premiership Tables shall be recorded giving 3 points for a win and 1 point for a draw.
- b) Where two teams have played in an equal number of fixtures and have an equal number of premiership points, the relative positions on the premiership table shall be decided on goal difference. Should the teams have equal premiership points and identical goal differences, priority shall be attained by the team with;
 - i. The most number of wins; then if still equal;
 - ii. The most number of goals; then if still equal;
 - iii. The highest total of goals scored when the teams played each other during the season.If the teams are still tied, a sudden death play-off game will decide priority.
- c) Where teams have played in an unequal number of games, for the purpose of the next two subsections, the position of the teams on the premiership table shall be decided on match ratio percentages;
- d) The leading two teams at the completion of the qualifying period as set by the Board for A Grade and A Reserve shall contest the Challenge Cup; and
- e) The leading four teams at the completion of the qualifying fixtures shall contest the semi-finals in each grade.

7. Tie Breakers

In the event of a Challenge Cup or Final series fixture resulting in a draw at the conclusion of normal playing time, all games will be decided as per the ruling determined by the GHA Board prior to the commencement of the season.

8. Transfers

- a) At the conclusion of the season any financial player of a club of GHA, is free to move to any other club. It is the responsibility of clubs to send a list of 'unfinancial' players to the GHA Office prior to the start of the season.
- b) For a player to move within GHA clubs during the season, a transfer must be obtained before the 1st of July.
- c) A player's transfer must be signed by a Club Committee person from each club a player cannot be refused a clearance following the request for such unless they have failed to fulfil their financial responsibilities to the club.
- d) A player, who transfers from another association to the GHA and then plays in any other association within a four week period, from their first GHA game will be deemed to be an ineligible player in the fixtures in which they played in the GHA.

- e) An exemption by application to this bylaw may be granted by the Permits Committee if the player is working in the Geraldton region for a shorter period of time, as determined by the Permits Committee.
- f) For all clearances a written application must be lodged with the GHA Permits Committee at **least two (2) days** prior to the game. The club must have written approval from the Permits Committee before the player can take the field.
- g) Once a player has played one game for a club, that player is deemed to be a member of that club.
- h) A player playing in a fixture contrary to this section of the By-Laws will be considered to be an ineligible player.

9. Two Games in a Round

No player who plays in any match in any grade in any round may play in another match in the same round except as follows:

- a) As a 'Nominated' player;
 - i. Each club may select up to Six (6) players (hereinafter called 'nominated players') each week from a lower graded team, who may play in a higher grade team as substitutes.
 - ii. These Six players may not enter the field of play during the **first ten minutes of the first and second halves of the game** unless substituting for a player, who in the opinion of the umpire has sustained an injury either preventing him from immediately resuming his part in the game because his injury requires medical attention off the field or preventing him from taking any further part in the game.
 - iii. The nominated player(s) must be clearly indicated on the higher grade match card by a "N".
 - iv. When A-Reserve teams are on a bye, or not participating in Challenge Cups or the Finals Series, the Nominated Players from that team Must still abide by the Nominated Player Rule [i.e. not in the starting 11].
 - v. The nominated player(s) will be identified by the wearing of a recognisable band or ribbon.
 - vi. Use of the nominated player rule is permitted in the final series.
 - vii. If a team doesn't have eleven non-nominated players, it may play a nominated player in the starting eleven. However once a player has started the game as a nominated player on Eight (8) occasions they can no longer be used as a nominated player for the remainder of the season. (This player may still play either A Grade or A Reserve for the remainder of the season but cannot play in both grades in one round).
 - viii. It is the responsibility of the Team Coach or Manager to clearly indicate on the back of the game card that they intend to start a Nominated Player.
 - ix. If any club contravenes this rule, then the nominated player becomes an ineligible player in his second or later fixtured match regardless of the grade.
 - x. Each club is required to lodge a list of up to six nominated players with the GHA prior to the commencement of the Week 1 senior fixtures. Names may be deleted or added to this list during the season by contacting the GHA Office, or by advising on the back of the game card.
 - xi. Prior to Week 1 of Senior Fixtures each Club is required to lodge a list of a minimum of 11 A-Grade players. These players may only play one game per week and may not be on the Nominated Player List. Names may be removed or added to this list during the season by contacting the G.H.A. Office. **If an A-Grade player who is named in the original 11 becomes unavailable for the rest of the season due to some reason, then the Club/team will need to advise the G.H.A. office of a new player to make up the 11 players again.** Failure to comply may result in a penalty being imposed by the GHA Board.

OR

- b) A player from a lower grade may take the place of a player from a higher grade who is representing the region or higher in a hockey tournament or compulsory training. A permit application needs to be sent to GHA Office not later than 4pm on the Thursday prior to the fixture. (Teams are still permitted to use up to five 'nominated' players)

OR

- c) A recognised goalkeeper may play in a higher grade than their usual as a goalkeeper on up to five (5) occasions.

A recognised goalkeeper may play in a lower grade than their usual as a goalkeeper with permission from the Permits Committee on up to three (3) occasions. A written application will need to be submitted which indicates that all goalkeepers from lower grades (including juniors) are unavailable or not capable of playing at that level.

OR

- d) A recognised goalkeeper may play in two grades in one week, one as a Goalkeeper and one as a field player. That player can qualify for two Finals, but can only qualify in a final for the position in which that player has played in that grade throughout the year.

OR

- e) A player who is of qualifying veteran's age is permitted to play two games in one round only if one of the games is a veterans' fixture.

10. Grading of Players

- a) Players may move within grades until five (5) fixtures prior to the commencement of the finals. For the remaining fixtures a player must receive a permit from the Permits Committee to move to a lower grade. Exceptions may be granted by the Permits Committee.
- b) For the final five (5) fixtures a player cannot be a nominated player if he has played more than 50% of their games in the higher grade.
- c) A player may play in any grade for which he/she is qualified provided that when that player's usual team has a bye, and then the player cannot play in a lower grade. (Usual team being the team that the player has played more than 50% of his/her games). This By-Law shall only apply after the first three weeks of the season.
- d) If a club has two teams in one division, once a player has played for one team they cannot play for the other team. This applies for senior and junior grades.
- e) Any player intending to play in the senior competition must turn thirteen (13) years of age for girls and fourteen (14) years of age for boys in that calendar year or they will be deemed ineligible unless special permission has been granted by the permits committee.
- f) If team has 13 regular players available, Permit Players are not to be used. A Permit application may be considered for exceptional circumstances.

11. Qualification for Challenge Cup

- a) A player must have played at least one game for that Club, in that grade (or lower) in the period as set by the Board prior to the Challenge Cup unless they are a 'listed' A-Grade player who can only play in an A-Grade Challenge Cup.
- b) An individual may only play in two Challenge Cup fixtures if they are a 'nominated player' in the higher grade.

12. Qualification for Finals

- a) A player must have played a minimum of 25% of games (either A Grade, A Reserve, Veterans, Under 17 or Under 14) if he/she wishes to play in a senior final.
- b) This does not apply to A Grade with a player only having to play five games (in any grade) to qualify. If a player plays two games in one round as per Bylaw 9; then only the game played for your usual registered team will count as qualification towards playing in a final.
- c) A player must have played more than half of that player's games in A Reserve to qualify for an A Reserve final notwithstanding 12(b).

13. Penalties

The penalties detailed in the sub paragraphs hereunder may be varied for a lesser penalty at the discretion of the Board;

- a) In the event of an ineligible player playing in a qualifying fixture, the offending team shall lose the fixture and shall also be penalised three (3) points. Any goals scored by the team offended against shall be retained by that team. Any goals scored by the offending team shall be cancelled. (Fairest and Best votes for the game will be retained except for any awarded to the ineligible player)
- b) In the event of an ineligible player playing in a Challenge Cup, Semi-Final, Preliminary Final or Grand Final fixture, the penalty shall be forfeiture of the fixture, in which the breach occurred.
- c) In the event of a false recording of a name on a scorecard, in addition to the penalty stipulated in By-Law 13(a) the player who plays under the name and the player if any, under whose name he/she has played shall be deemed not to have played during that week at all for the purpose of qualifying for Challenge Cup or Finals series.

14. Substitution and Interchangeable Reserves

Due to the constant evolution of hockey, these rules will be governed as per current Federation of International Hockey (FIH) ruling.

At times throughout the season, namely Challenge Cups and Finals, the Board may introduce the use of a Tournament director who will monitor substitutions and substitution procedures during particular matches.

15. Umpiring

Juniors & Sub-Juniors: Teams shall provide umpires as directed by the Association from time to time. Teams failing to attend junior umpiring duties will be subject to a fines and points loss system, \$20.00 for every missed sub-junior umpiring duty and \$30 for every missed junior umpiring duty. If a team misses three (3) or more duties, they will be subject to a one (1) point loss along with the allocated fine for every missed umpiring duty.

The umpire who umpires an Association match where an umpire does not arrive must indicate on the card:

- a. Their name
- b. Team they represent
- c. Number of umpires missing (1 or 2).

Seniors: Clubs will be requested by the Board to **provide at least two club members per Team to the senior's umpire's panel**. These individuals will be expected to take part in senior umpiring duties and attend umpiring lectures, seminars and panel. Meetings throughout the season. A list of these individuals must be made available to the Board by a date determined by the Board each season. **A Club who fails to fully complete and lodge the umpiring list by the due date will incur a \$100 fine.**

A panel umpire who misses a senior umpiring duty will receive a warning from the GHA. If this umpire misses a second umpiring duty, their club will be fined \$100, plus a 1 point loss for their team. Each subsequent missed umpiring duty by this Umpire will incur a \$100 fine and a 2 point loss for the team they represent.

It is the responsibility of the panel umpire to find a suitable replacement if they are unable to umpire a fixture that they have been allocated.

These fines and loss of points are at the discretion of the GHA Board.

The umpire who umpires an Association match where an umpire does not arrive must indicate on the card:

- a. Their name
- b. Team they represent
- c. Number of umpires missing (1 or 2).

16. Codes of Behaviour

- a) All teams are to ensure their players are aware of the G.H.A. Codes of Behaviour, being Appendix to these By-Laws.
- b) Failure to comply with the Codes of Behaviour may result in a report and penalty Under Section 17 of these By-Laws.

17. Suspension of Player by Clubs or Association

Where any player is suspended by his/her club or Association for misconduct at a hockey fixture and the fact of this suspension is advised to this Association by the suspending club, then the player shall not be permitted to participate in any hockey fixture as a player or official in this State for the duration of his/her suspension save that the Board may vary the period or remove the suspension as it deems fit.

18. Reports

A player, club official or spectator may be reported by the umpire or opposing team captain, a Board Member or a Club President if he or she has:

- a) Disputed the decision of the umpire
- b) Used insulting or abusive language before, during or after the match
- c) Done a deliberate act contrary to fair play
- d) Caused interference or attempted to cause interference with the control exercised by an umpire during a match
- e) Acted in a manner likely to bring discredit on the game of hockey.

The report shall be forwarded to the GHA Office in writing by 5.00pm on the third working day following the match.

An umpire who witnesses serious misconduct during a game under their control MUST REPORT the incident in writing (GHA encourages the use of the 'GHA Report Form') to the GHA Office by 5.00pm of the third working day of the alleged offence. If a report is not completed, the umpire will be required to provide reasons why not and may be subject to a charge of misconduct.

An Automatic Penalty system will apply for any player, club official or spectator reported during or after a game. The automatic penalty will allow the person reported to accept a reduced penalty and avoid progressing to the Tribunal System. The person offered the Automatic Penalty can elect to reject the offer, therefore proceeding to a Tribunal Hearing. Refer to G.H.A. Guidelines for Offences and Penalties.

Umpires will have access to the following Card System:

- Green Card – minimum 2 minute suspension
- Yellow Card – A player must leave the ground until permitted to return to the game by the umpire.
- Red Card - Suspension from the game for the remainder of play.
 - i. A player who receives a red card in the senior or junior competition will be ineligible to play in any games [both Junior and Senior] in the remainder of that round and the following round of fixtures.
 - ii. Three yellow cards, within ten playing fixtures, shall be deemed to be a red card [this does not lead to ineligibility for a GHA Fairest & Best Award].
 - iii. Yellow cards received in junior fixtures will not be added to yellow cards received in senior fixtures.
 - iv. The GHA Office will notify the President of a club whose player has received three yellow cards, within ten playing fixtures, by 4.00pm on the Wednesday following the fixture in which they received the third yellow card.
 - v. If a player receives a Red Card suspension, he/she will not be eligible to win an Association Fairest and Best Award.