



DARWIN HOCKEY LEAGUE

COMPETITION RULES

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The DHL Competition Rules should be read in conjunction with FIH Rules of Hockey. The FIH rules of Hockey remain the ultimate source of information regarding how matches should be conducted. In those instances where the DHL Competition Rules differ from the FIH Rules of Hockey, the DHL Competition Rules shall take precedence.

Article I.PART 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. POWER TO MAKE COMPETITION RULES

- 1.1 These Competition Rules are made by the Board of Hockey NT pursuant to the Constitution.
- 1.2 In the event of a conflict between these Competition Rules and the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.

2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 All definitions in the Constitution and By Laws apply to these Competition Rules unless otherwise defined in these Competition Rules.
- 2.2 In addition, the following definitions apply unless the context otherwise requires.

Act means the Associations Act.

Board means the HNT Board established by Section 22 of the Constitution. The members elected and appointed at an Annual General Meeting as the Directors to govern the operation of Hockey in the Northern Territory.

Business Day means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia as declared pursuant to the Public Holidays Act.

Championship Trophy means the Club Championship trophy.

Code of Behaviour means the Code of Behaviour as made, from time to time, and issued by Hockey Australia and the Hockey NT Board.

Competition means the Darwin Hockey League [Note: as at the date of these Competition Rules the Competition is generally held from March to September.]

Compliant Player means a player who is registered with Hockey NT and their respective club in the prescribed manner.

Constitution means the Constitution for the time being of Hockey NT Incorporated.

Core Player means a Player who has been nominated by their Affiliated Club to only play in the designated Grade (or a higher Grade) in accordance with these Competition Rules.

Club Secretary means the Secretary of an Affiliated Club.

Delegate means a person appointed by the HNT Board.

DHL means the Darwin Hockey League that is administered and managed by Hockey NT.

DHL AP means the Darwin Hockey League Advisory Panel.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) means the person appointed by the Board under Section 30.1 of the Constitution.

Field means the Field nominated by the Board, from time to time, for a Match to be played during the Minor Rounds and Finals.

Fixture means the complete set of matches for the Competition including dates, times and venues.

Forced Loss means a loss, as a result of a forfeit or by penalty for the breach of a rule, resulting in a 5 – 0 score line being recorded against the team in breach.

Grade means the Junior Grades and Senior Grades (noting that A Grade is a 'higher' grade than C Grade and similarly under 16's is a 'higher' grade than under 10's).

GST means any tax calculated by reference to the value of goods or a service provided, calculated and levied at the point of sale or supply of the goods or services and includes GST within the meaning of that abbreviation in the GST Act and any penalties imposed.

GST Act means A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Tax Act 1999 (Cth) and includes other GST related legislation and regulations under that legislation.

HNT means Hockey NT Incorporated, the governing body of Hockey in the Northern Territory.

HNT Delegate means a person designated by the Board to undertake a specified activity or activities.

Hockey Rules means the rules of outdoor hockey as made, from time to time, by the FIH (Federation of International Hockey) as the international governing body of hockey unless otherwise modified by these Competition Rules.

Junior Grade means those designated in Competition Rule 4.1(b)

Major Rounds (Finals) means the matches for each Grade (including semi- finals, preliminary final and the grand final) in the Competition.

Match means a game, played between two opposing teams in the same Grade, during the Competition.

Match Officials means the Umpires and Technical Bench Officials for the particular Match.

Member Association means any affiliated association of Hockey Australia.

Minor Rounds means a set of matches for each Grade leading to qualification for participation in the Major Rounds of the Competition.

Non-Compliant Player means;

- (a) A Player who is not registered pursuant to the Competition Rules
- (b) A Transferring Player who has not received:
 - (i) a Clearance Notice; or
 - (ii) a determination from the HNT Delegate pursuant to Competition Rules
- (c) A Player who is in breach of Competition Rule 13 or 14

Pathway Advisory Panel means the sub-committee of the Board that advises on Performance and Development matters.

Penalty Mechanism means the mechanism prescribed by the Board for the determination of a Match in accordance with these Competition Rules. [Note: this could be penalty strokes, 'one on one' or some other mechanism.]

Player means an individual registered to play for a Team in accordance with these Competition Rules. Premiership Ladder means the ladder maintained by the DHL in accordance with Competition Rule 20.

Records means the electronic database used by HNT to record:

- (a) Players
- (b) Teams
- (c) Affiliated Clubs
- (d) the results of each Match

Team Card means the form prescribed by the HNT Delegate identified in Competition Rule 16.

Technical Bench Official means a person who acts in the capacity of a technical bench official during any Match.

Technical Director means the HNT employee responsible for leading the Performance and Development of HNT.

TPL means the Territory Premier League, the preeminent competition for hockey in the Northern Territory and the Darwin Hockey League. N.B. replaces the previous A grade DHL competition.

Match Tribunal means a tribunal appointed by the Board and formed, from time-to-time, to investigate offences and complaints under these Competition Rules.

Playing Season means the period of time between Round 1 and the Grand Finals.

Uniform includes the playing and alternate strips and socks meeting the requirements in Competition Rule 7 and approved by the Board as the Affiliated Club's uniform in accordance with Competition Rule 7.

Umpire means a person who acts in the capacity of adjudicating play during any Match.

2.3 In these Competition Rules:

- (a) Headings and bold type are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of these Competition Rules.
- (b) The singular includes the plural, and the plural includes the singular;
- (c) Words of any gender include all genders.
- (d) Where a word or expression is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or expression have a corresponding meaning.
- (e) A reference to a document includes all amendments or supplements to, or replacements or novation's of that document.
- (f) No provision of these Competition Rules will be construed adversely to a party because that party was responsible for the preparation of these Competition Rules or that provision.
- (g) A reference to a body, whether statutory or not.
- (h) Which ceases to exist.
- (i) Whose powers or functions are transferred to another body.
- (j) Is a reference to the body which replaces it, or which substantially succeeds to its powers or functions.
- (k) A reference to a time is a reference to the time in Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia.
- (l) Specifying anything in these Competition Rules after the words 'include' or 'for example' or similar expressions does not limit what else is included.
- (m) All monetary amounts are in Australia dollars, unless otherwise stated.
- (n) A reference to any legislation includes all delegated legislation made under it and amendments, consolidations, replacements or re-enactments of any of them.
- (o) Unless otherwise defined the term "prescribed" means prescribed by the Board from time to time.
- (p) An amount payable by a party under these Competition Rules in respect of a supply by the other party which is a taxable supply under the GST Act, unless expressly provided

otherwise, represents the GST exclusive value and price of the supply and the recipient must pay to the supplier the GST Amount at the time that it pays the supplier the consideration for the Taxable Supply if a GST Invoice has been issued.

(q) An example or note in the text of these Competition Rules is not part of these Competition Rules but are for provided guidance only; and

(r) If an act must be done, or the last day upon which it may be done, falls on a specified day which is not a Business Day must be done on the next Business Day.

3. OVERARCHING DUTIES

The:

- (a) Affiliated Clubs (including their representatives)
- (b) Darwin Hockey League Advisory Panel
- (c) Members of the Board
- (d) Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- (e) Hockey NT Employees

must act in good faith in all their dealings pursuant to the Constitution, By Laws and these Competition Rules.

4. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

4.1 The Board has determined that at the date of these Competition Rules there will be the following categories of competitions for both male and female genders:

(a) Senior Grades encompassing the Territory Premier League (TPL), B Grade and C Grade.

(b) Junior Grades encompassing Under 16 (U16 Super League), Under 13, Under 10 and Under 8.

4.2 Affiliated Club Participation Requirements'

(a) It is a mandatory condition for all affiliated clubs participating in the Senior Grades competition to field an A Grade team, designated as the Territory Premier League (TPL) team, for both male and female categories.

- i. In circumstances where a club believes they are unable to field a TPL team in any given season, they can apply to the CEO for a one season dispensation of this requirement.
- ii. The club will be responsible for demonstrating to the CEO that their player base is not of the standard required for the TPL competition, detailing their efforts with respect to recruitment, retainment and development ensuring they can field TPL teams each season.
- iii. This request will be reviewed by the CEO in consultation with the DHL AP and decided at the absolute discretion of the CEO.

(b) In addition to fielding a TPL team, affiliated clubs are permitted to participate in the B Grade and C Grade competitions. However, the entry of a C Grade team by an affiliated club is contingent upon the club also fielding a B Grade team in the same gender category.

(c) These participation requirements are established to maintain a competitive balance and ensure the structured progression of teams and players within the league. Non-compliance with these rules may result in sanctions or penalties as determined by the Board.

5. COMMUNICATION AND NOTICES

- 5.1 All applications, notices or other communication under these Competition Rules, unless otherwise determined by the Board from time to time, must be in Writing (which for the avoidance of doubt includes via electronic transmission).
- 5.2 The Darwin Hockey League, the Board and the Affiliated Clubs will endeavour to comply with the prescribed communications protocol (determined by the Board from time to time).

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1 Entire understanding

Subject to the Constitution these Competition Rules:

- (a) Are the entire agreement and understanding regarding the conduct of the Playing Season; and
- (b) Supersedes any prior agreement or understanding on anything connected with that subject matter.

- 6.2 Variation

An amendment or variation to these Competition Rules is not effective unless it is made in accordance with the Constitution. The DHL AP shall consider rule changes and make recommendations to the Board. The Board may vary the Competition Rules at any time and must advise Affiliated Clubs of such variance within 24 hours of doing so.

- 6.3 Appendix A – Addendum

Where an Addendum to these Competition Rules is required, such addendum shall be appended as Appendix A and apply to the season specified.

Article II. PART 2: TEAM PROVISIONS

7. UNIFORMS

- 7.1 Each Affiliated Club must supply the HNT Delegate with details of its current Uniform for approval by the Board. Any Affiliated Club can apply to amend its Uniform prior to the commencement of the Playing Season by making an application to the HNT Delegate.
- 7.2 Each Affiliated Club must ensure (individually):
- (a) That each shirt worn by a Player participating in a Senior Grade has a unique number within the relevant Team for the relevant Grade).
- (b) Following the first three (3) Minor Rounds, each Player is wearing the Uniform (subject to any dispensation issued by the HNT Delegate)

[Note: refer to Competition Rule 29.3 in relation to fines and fees imposed for a breach of this Competition Rule]

- 7.3 Uniform Requirements

- (a) Skirt/shorts/skorts
- (i) Bicycle pants must be the same (or very similar) colour to the Uniform skirt or shorts.
- (ii) Slight differences from the approved Uniform will be permitted if due to age, fading or manufacturers variations.

- (b) Socks
 - (i) Slight differences from the approved Uniform will be permitted if due to age, fading or manufacturers variations.
 - (ii) Shin pads must be worn on the inside of the Uniform socks.
- (c) Shirts
 - (i) Slight differences from the approved Uniform will be permitted if due to age, fading or manufacturers variations.
 - (ii) Numbers must be clearly displayed/visible on back of the shirt in a contrasting colour for all Senior Grades

8. FEES

- 8.1 In accordance with the Constitution the Board shall determine:
- (a) The fees applicable to Affiliated Clubs; and
 - (b) The manner of payment and receipt of all fees, due and payable to HNT from time to time prior to the commencement of the Playing Season.
- 8.2 For the avoidance of doubt:
- (a) The Board may, at its absolute discretion, accept the part payment of fees or vary the manner and method of payment; and
 - (b) Notwithstanding any withdrawal or forfeiture of a Team or Affiliated Club any incurred fees remain due and payable to HNT.

9. TEAM NOMINATIONS AND TEAM WITHDRAWALS

- 9.1 Any Affiliated Club may enter Teams for a Grade for the Competition by:
- (a) Completing and lodging the DHL Team Nomination Form by the required deadline as determined by the Board and
 - (b) Paying the prescribed team nomination fee, to the DHL HNT as specified by the Board from time to time.
- 9.2 For the avoidance of doubt the failure to comply with Competition Rule 9.1 renders a Team of an Affiliated Club ineligible to take part in the Playing Season.
- 9.3 If an Affiliated Club notifies the HNT Delegate that a Team is being withdrawn (withdrawn team) after the commencement of the Playing Season, during the minor rounds and before the commencement of the major rounds then:
- (a) All Matches played, or to be played, by the withdrawn team shall be deemed forfeits by virtue of Competition Rules 17.1, 17.2, 17.3 & 17.4 and scored in accordance with Competition Rule 17.5; and
 - (b) Any team replacing the withdrawn team (replacement team) is able to score points for all Matches actually won or tied (as the replacement team) but shall not be credited with any points scored by the withdrawn team.
- 9.4 Any team withdrawing during the Major rounds shall be deemed a forced loss in accordance with Competition Rule 17.1.
- 9.5 For the avoidance of doubt any withdrawn team after the first Match shall be:
- (a) Fined the prescribed amount; and
 - (b) Liable for all unpaid and outstanding fees.

[Note: refer to Competition Rule 29.3 in relation to fines and fees imposed for a breach of this Competition Rule]

10. FIXTURES

- 10.1 The DHL AP will determine the Fixtures for the Playing Season and submit to The Board for approval. The Fixtures to be issued at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the Competition (subject to Team nominations being received in accordance with Competition Section 9).
- 10.2 Prior to the Fixtures being determined in accordance with Competition Rule 10.1 each Affiliated Club is entitled, in extenuating circumstances, to make a submission to the DHL AP on matters affecting the Fixtures but the determination is at the absolute discretion of the HNT Board.

Article III. PART 3: PLAYER PROVISIONS

11. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 11.1 Each person who intends to play hockey during a Competition must, before participating in a Match as a Player, submit a duly completed and executed prescribed online registration form (in whatever form is acceptable to the Board) to their nominated Affiliated Club.
 - (a) Each Affiliated Club must complete any other details on the Records Database as required by the Board from time to time.
- 11.2 For the avoidance of doubt a person is not registered as a Player in the following circumstances:
 - (a) The Records Database does not show the person to be registered in one (1) of the following DHL payment classes;
 - (i) DHL – Player Under 8 Levy (8 years and under)
 - (ii) DHL – Player Junior Levy (9 years to 18 years)
 - (iii) DHL – Player Senior Levy (19 years and over)
- 11.3 The HNT Delegate shall advise Affiliated Clubs details of any unregistered player. If an Affiliated Club cannot reasonably demonstrate the relevant individual's registration then the individual shall be deemed to be a Non-Compliant Player.

[Note: refer to Competition Rule 29.3 in relation to the associated penalties].

12. PLAYER TRANSFERS

[Note: the process below applies for the Affiliated Clubs in the Darwin Hockey League and is not relevant for individuals moving from interstate or Alice Springs].

- 12.1 If a person is or was a member of one Affiliated Club and registered pursuant to Competition Section 12 and wishes to become a member of a different Affiliated Club (Transferring Player) that process is a player transfer.
- 12.2 The Player Transfer must occur in the following manner:
 - (a) Subject to Competition Rule 12.1, a Player Transfer may take place prior to the commencement of the 3rd round;
 - (b) The parties to a Player Transfer must duly complete and sign DHL Player Transfer Form or other official correspondence by email or through RevSport;
 - (c) A Player Transfer cannot occur if the Transferring Player has not received written notification that all monies due and payable to their Affiliated Club and to HNT or former Member Association has been paid and no monies are owing (Clearance Notice);
 - (d) All documentation must be lodged with DHL Competitions by 16:00 on the

preceding Thursday of the scheduled start to the relevant match in which the Transferring Player proposes to participate for the new Affiliated Club;

(e) The new Affiliated Club of the Transferring Player must ensure that the Records Database is updated as necessary, and the Affiliated Club must provide all necessary assistance in relation to this matter;

(f) A player transferring from an Affiliated Club in Darwin to another Affiliated Club in Darwin will take across with them their core player status and penalty cards from the transferring Club.

12.3 Notwithstanding Competition Rule 12.2 a Transferring Player will have been deemed to have received the Clearance Notice from their Affiliated Club if:

(a) The debt is incurred and unpaid by the Transferring Player for a period commencing three (3) years prior to the date of Transferring Player's application;

(a) The HNT Delegate determines, upon application of the Transferring Player, that no monies are owing to the current Affiliated Club, or to HNT or former Member Association; or

(c) The HNT Delegate determines, upon application of the Transferring Player, that:

(i) The current Affiliated Club has been dissolved or wound up pursuant to the Act; and

(ii) The Transferring Player has paid to HNT a nominated amount of the outstanding fees from the former Affiliated Club.

12.4 In this clause the parties to a Player Transfer are:

(a) The Transferring Player.

(b) The current Affiliated Club.

(c) The new Affiliated Club.

[Note: the process below applies for the other people who are not members of an Affiliated Club and are moving from interstate or Alice Springs].

12.5 Permanent transfer: if a person, who relocates Darwin permanently, wishes to participate in a Match as a Player for an Affiliated Club then the Affiliated Club must:

(a) Ensure the player is registered online.

(b) Receive confirmation from the individual's previous club that they are financial and compliant with the requirements of that association; and

(c) Receive confirmation that the Records Database is updated accordingly, including registration of the Player in accordance with Competition Section 12, prior to participating in any Match.

12.6 Temporary transfer: if a person, who returns to or visits Darwin temporarily and wishes to participate in a Match as a Player for an Affiliated Club then the Affiliated Club must apply to the HNT Delegate and include:

(a) Details of the individual;

(b) Confirmation from the individual's ordinary club that they are financial and compliant with the requirements of that Association and available to participate in a Match;

(c) Confirmation that the Records Database is updated as necessary including registration of the Player in accordance with Competition Section 12, and

(d) Confirmation that the individual is otherwise eligible to participate in the relevant Match, prior to participating in any Match.

12.7 A player can apply for exemption to play for another affiliated club if that player's affiliated club is not represented in the grade. Applications must be submitted to the HNT Delegate no

later than 16:00pm on the Thursday prior to the commencement of the next round. That player's dispensation will only be for that team, within the prescribed grade.

- 12.8 A player in breach of this rule is deemed a non-compliant player.

13 GRADING

- 13.1 Any player who during the immediately preceding two (2) playing seasons is selected for representative duty for:
- (a) The under 18s teams may not participate in the lowest senior grade (C grade).
 - (b) The Under 21s or NT Seniors (Territory Stingers), may only play in the highest senior grade (TPL).
- 13.2 A player once having played in a TPL match may not play in any C Grade match, at any time during the season. Any player in breach of this rule shall be deemed to be a Non-Compliant Player.
- 13.3 An application for exemption must be submitted, in writing, to the HNT Delegate no later than 11:00am on the Friday prior to the commencement of the next round.
- 13.4 Applications for exemption will be considered by the Hockey NT Delegate and CEO and will be based on any advantage that may be gained.
- 13.5 Any player granted an exemption to play in both TPL and C grade may not play in any B grade match. Any player in breach of this rule shall be deemed to be Non-Compliant Player.
- 13.6 If an Affiliated Club has more than one (1) Team nominated for a particular Grade then after the first three (3) Minor Rounds of the Competition a Player must only play for the Team they last played for in that Grade.
- (a) Only play one game per round for that grade
 - (b) Any player in breaches of the rules, will be deemed to be a non-compliant player
- 13.7 At any stage during the competition, a non-compliant player has competed in a match, the HNT Delegate shall notify the respective Affiliated Club before 17:00 Thursday. The applicable penalty may be applied up to 28 days following such determination.
- 13.8 Affiliated Clubs may apply to the HNT Delegate to give dispensation for players who are people with physical or intellectual disabilities (or are learning the game and it is deemed appropriate for their development and safe for their competitors) to play in a lower age Division.
- 13.9 The HNT Delegate may, at any time, revoke a dispensation or consent, or revise conditions attached thereto.
- 13.10 For the purposes of determining age divisions, players shall be determined to be eligible to play if they were below the age for the respective Division on January 1st preceding the DHL field competition or as otherwise prescribed by Hockey Australia.
- 13.11 Players under 16 years, as of 01 January of the calendar year for that season.
- (a) A player must play their own age group to be eligible to play up a grade.
 - (b) However, a player can apply for dispensation not to play in their own age group, based on developmental and/or wellbeing needs. An application can be submitted to the Technical Director, to be assessed by the Pathway Advisory Panel if required.
 - (c) A player in breach of this rule is deemed a non-compliant player.

- 13.12 Duty of care and safety towards the development and wellbeing of a junior player playing up age divisions is the responsibility of the clubs. If the club in question does not show a duty of care, HNT reserves the right to overturn the decision of the club to play that junior in that grade. If HNT exercises their right, a decision justified by a framework established by the Technical Director and the Pathway Advisory Panel will be communicated to the club. Should the club opt to, it may contest this decision by following the appeal process outlined in clause 28.

14 CORE PLAYERS

- 14.1 A core player list shall be instituted in the following manner:
- (a) each Affiliated Club must:
 - (i) Prior to the commencement of the fifth Minor Round, nominate to the HNT Delegate a completed list of seven (7) Core Players for each Team nominated for the TPL and B Grade and;
 - (ii) If a Core Player does not participate as a Player in three (3) consecutive Matches, other than because of Representative Duty, then the Affiliated Club must nominate a substitute Core Player in accordance with Competition Rule 14.2 except that if the Core Player to be replaced is returning to the team for the fourth match, then they can remain on the Core Player list.
- 14.2 In nominating Core Players each Affiliated Club must ensure that:
- (a) Nominated Players have played a minimum of one (1) match within the first four (4) rounds
 - (b) Any of their Players who during:
 - (i) The current; or
 - (ii) The immediately preceding two (2) Playing Seasons, is selected for Representative Duty at the under 21 or senior level are nominated as a Core Player for a TPL Team.
- 14.3 An Affiliated Club may apply to the HNT Delegate to remove an individual from being a Core Player by:
- (a) Submitting an explanation to support the removal of the listed player; and
 - (b) Proposing a replacement Core Player.
- 14.4 To ensure the Core Player process is being adhered to by all Affiliated Clubs the TPL Core Player listings will be monitored by the HNT delegate and CEO to ensure that the best players from the Affiliated Clubs are identified and placed on the Core Player list.
- 14.5 Any player in breach of the definition of a core player, will be deemed to be a Non-Compliant Player.

Article IV. PART 4: MATCH PROVISIONS

15 RULES

- 15.1 The Darwin Hockey League is bound by the FIH Hockey Rules except whereby the Constitution, By-Laws or these Competition Rules specifically modify the operation of those Hockey Rules.
- 15.2 TPL games are to play 15-minute quarters, with 40 second stoppages for the initial awarding of a penalty corners and without stoppage for goals.

- 15.3 B and C Grades are to play 17-minute quarters without stoppages for penalty corners or goals.
- 15.4 The break times for all senior grades shall be a two (2) minute break taken between the 1st and 2nd quarter and between the 3rd and 4th quarter. A break of five (5) minutes shall be taken between the 2nd and 3rd quarters.
- 15.5 U13 and U16 teams must play with an equipped goalkeeper.
- 15.6 Specific Rules for the Under 16 Junior Grade:
- (a) Rules: Normal FIH rules of hockey apply
 - (b) Pitch Layout: Full pitch
 - (c) Equipment: All players must wear shin pads, all players are strongly encouraged to wear a mouthguard
 - (d) Player eligibility: The player must be 12-15 years of age on 01 Jan that year.
 - (e) Match Duration: 4 x 12-minute Quarters, no stoppage. Breaks: 2 minutes 1st and 3rd Quarter, 5-minute break for half time
 - (f) Goal keeping: The following protective equipment is mandatory:
 - (i) kickers and leg guards
 - (ii) padded shorts and box
 - (iii) chest and neck guards
 - (iv) helmet and hand protectors

15.7 Specific Rules for the Under 13 Junior Grade

- (a) Rules: Normal FIH rules of hockey apply
 - (b) Player Numbers: 7v7 Games
 - (c) Pitch Layout: Half pitch, sideline to sideline
 - (d) Equipment: All players must wear shin pads; all players are strongly encouraged to wear a mouth guard.
 - (e) Match duration: 4 x 10-minute Quarters, no stoppage.
 - (f) Breaks: 2 minutes 1st and 3rd Quarter, 5-minute break for half time.
 - (g) Player eligibility: The player must be 12 years or under of age on 01 Jan that year.
 - (h) Specifics: The "tomahawk" and overheads are permitted in the under 13 Grade. A "tomahawk" is defined as any hit using the uppermost edge of the stick or the edge above the head of the stick.
- N.B. to be reviewed Rd 4 2024
- (i) Goal keeping: The following protective equipment is mandatory:
 - (i) Kickers and leg guards
 - (ii) Padded shorts and box
 - (iii) Chest and neck guards
 - (iv) Helmet and hand protectors
 - (j) Coaching: One coach from each Team may be on the Field during the Match without interfering with play.

(k) Points: There will be one week of finals consisting of matches as per the finishing order on the ladder. The matches will be 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v 6 etc. There will not be extra time for these finals, with a drawn match resulting in the team placed higher on the ladder being declared the winner.

15.8 Specific Rules for the Under 10 Junior Grade

(a) Rules: hockey5s rules

(b) Player Numbers: 5v5 Games

(c) Pitch Layout: Quarter pitch

(d) Equipment: All players must wear shin pads; all players are strongly encouraged to wear a mouthguard.

(e) Match duration: 4 x 10-minute Quarters, no stoppage.

(f) Breaks: 2 minutes 1st and 3rd Quarter, 5-minute break for half time.

(g) Player eligibility: The player must be 9 years or under of age on 01 Jan that year.

(h) Specifics: The "tomahawk" is not permitted in the under 10 Grade. A "tomahawk" is defined as any hit using the uppermost edge of the stick or the edge above the head of the stick.

(i) Hitting is allowed in U10's with safety to be managed by coaches and umpires.

(i) Goal keeping: Goalkeepers are optional for under 10's

(j) Penalty Stroke/Challenge: Penalty strokes or Challenges may not be awarded. A free hit is awarded in place of this.

(k) Coaching: One coach from each Team may be on the Field during the Match without interfering with play.

(l) Points: There will be one week of finals consisting of matches per the finishing order on the ladder. The matches will be 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v 6 etc. There will not be extra time for these finals, with a drawn match resulting in the team placed higher on the ladder being declared the winner.

15.9 Specific Rules for the Under 8 Junior Grade:

Aim: The aim of U8s is to increase participation and introduce hockey to young people. As such, the game is managed by the coaches of both teams, to encourage enjoyable and safe play. No competition points nor finals are included from U8s.

(a) Pitch Layout: 1/8 pitch

(b) Player eligibility: The player must be 7 years or under of age on 01 Jan that year.

(c) Match duration: 2 x 15-minute Halves, no stoppage

(d) Breaks: 5-minute break for half time

(e) Equipment: All players must wear shin pads, all players are strongly encouraged to wear a mouthguard

(f) Player Numbers: Games are five (5) a side however, upon agreement by the coaches or teams can have less players or one more player. Sides should be equal in player numbers.

(g) Coaching: One coach from each team may be on the field during the match without interfering with play. Coaches will umpire the games.

(h) Penalty Stroke/Challenge: Penalty strokes or Challenges may not be awarded. A free hit is awarded in place of this.

16 TEAM CARDS

- 16.1 Prior to each Match commencing, each Team shall provide a fully completed Team Card to the Technical Bench Officials including:
- (a) The full name of:
 - (i) The Players participating in the Match including substitutes.
 - (ii) A maximum of four (4) Club officials participating in the Match (including the coach and team manager).
 - (b) The Uniform number of each Player (other than for the Junior Grades).
 - (c) Any other information required by the HNT Delegate from time to time.
 - (d) Failure to submit a Team Card in accordance with Competition Rule 17.1 will result in a forced loss and financial penalty in accordance with Competition Rule 29.3.
- 16.2 A Technical Bench Official is to ensure:
- (a) Any person not listed on the relevant Team Card is to be removed from the Field (including the bench); and
 - (b) Report any misconduct (of whatever severity) by making a note of the Team Card.
 - (c) The commencement time of the Match.
 - (d) The result of the Match and the score.
 - (e) The goal scorers from each Team.
 - (f) Any penalty cards awarded and to which Players.
 - (g) Strike out and initial the names of any players who have not taken the field before the completion of the match.
 - (h) Details of any incorrect Uniforms worn by which Players.
 - (i) Suspended player(s) are not permitted on the team benches or field of play at any stage for a round from which they are suspended.
 - (j) Any player who receives a red card in a match removes themselves from the team bench area for the remainder of the match,
 - (i) Any other information required by the DHL from time to time and,
 - (j) That team officials do not make any notations on the card
- 16.3 The HNT Delegate will provide the Technical Bench weekly with the name(s) of player(s) who are ineligible to play because of a suspension or other breach resulting in that players ineligibility to play.
- 16.4 Following completion of a Match the Umpires will, in this order;
- (a) Ensure that the Technical Bench Officials have completed the Team Card in accordance with Competition Rule 16.2.
 - (b) Ensure both captains sign the opposing team's card.
 - (c) Allow a digital image of the cards to be captured. Noting that this is NOT to occur after any other details have been completed.
 - (d) Complete the Team Card by including the following details:
 - (i) The best and fairest Players.
 - (ii) Play the Whistle points in accordance with Competition Rule 22.
 - (iii) Details of any personal penalties imposed, including details of the offence.
 - (e) Record protests from the captains on the Team Card,

(f) Ensure completed team cards are placed into the locked HNT mailbox in the southern tunnel to Field 1.

(g) Provide a report to the HNT Delegate on request.

17 FORFEITS

- 17.1 If a team is unable to participate in a Match, the affiliated club must advise the HNT Delegate and their opponent Club Secretary no later than 11am Friday prior to the match.
- 17.2 In order to maintain the integrity of the DHL, forfeits are not permitted in scheduled TPL matches, Clubs are permitted to request that a TPL match be rescheduled only if they can demonstrate extenuating circumstances that warrant a reschedule. The request for a reschedule will be decided at the absolute discretion of the CEO.
- 17.3 A Team is deemed to have forfeited if a Senior (or U16 Grade) is unable to take to the Field with at least seven (7) Players within ten (10) minutes of the Umpire having signalled the commencement of the Match.
- 17.4 A team in the U10 and U13 Grades are deemed to have forfeited if they are unable to take the field with at least four (4) players within five (5) minutes of the Umpire having signalled the commencement of the Match.
- 17.5 HNT will impose the following penalties against the relevant Affiliated Club and Team for the breaches of Competition Rule 17.1, 17.3 & 17.4:
- (a) A fine in accordance with Competition Rule 29.3:
 - (b) The result of the relevant Match will be a score line of 5-0 against the forfeiting Team, and
 - (c) The Affiliated Club is liable for all costs associated with the Match (including the hire of the turf and the provision of Umpires)

18 TECHNICAL BENCH DUTY

- 18.1 The HNT Delegate will determine, prior to the commencement of each Competition, the manner in which Technical Bench Officials will be organised and provided for the Matches.
- 18.2 Notwithstanding the above:
- (a) Where available, Senior Technical Bench Officials shall be appointed by DHL Competitions.
 - (b) The Affiliated Clubs acknowledge that the provision of Technical Bench Officials is the responsibility for each Affiliated Club.
 - (c) All Technical Bench Officials shall, following appointment or acting in the capacity of:
 - (i) Are subject to control and authority of the Darwin Hockey League.
 - (ii) Will undertake their duties to the best of their ability and in good faith; and in line with the Code of Behaviour.

19 UMPIRING

- 19.1 The DHL AP will determine, prior to the commencement of each Competition, the manner in which Umpires will be provided for Matches.
- 19.2 Notwithstanding the above, if the two (2) appointed Umpires are not present on the Field five (5) minutes after the appointed commencement time of the Match then:
- (a) A Match may not commence with only one (1) Umpire (although the clock will commence at the scheduled commencement time); and

(b) The respective Teams' captains shall appoint and agree upon Umpires.

19.3 Notwithstanding the above:

(a) All Umpires following appointment shall be subject to control and authority of HNT and will undertake their duties to the best of their ability and in good faith; and in line with the Code of Behaviour.

(b) It is the guiding principle that junior umpires should not umpire Matches in their own Junior Grade or age cohort, unless deemed to be the appropriate development level. This needs to be approved by the Technical Director and have appropriate mentoring in place if this is an ongoing occurrence.

19.4 Clubs will provide a hockey ball(s) that is compliant with the rules of hockey for each of their Matches of the Minor Rounds.

Article V. PART 5: POINTS PROVISIONS

20 THE PREMIERSHIP LADDER

20.1 HNT will ensure that accurate records are maintained;

(a) Of the results of the Matches in the Minor Rounds,

(b) Of the results of the Matches in the Major Rounds,

(c) Of the goals scored by Players,

(d) Penalty cards issued to Players;

In accordance with good practice and these Competition Rules.

20.2 HNT will publish the Premiership Ladder publicly from time to time in the manner it deems appropriate (in good faith and as soon as possible).

20.3 During the Minor Rounds HNT shall award competition points in the following manner. (Competition Points):

(a) In the event of a win: three (3) points to the winning Team.

(b) In the event of a draw: one (1) point to each Team; and

(c) In the event of a loss: zero (0) points to the losing Team.

20.4 The relative positions of each Team in each Grade on the Premiership Ladder shall be determined in the Minor Rounds as follows:

(a) Number of Competition Points;

(b) Number of Matches won;

(c) If still level: goal difference;

(d) If still level: goals for;

(e) If still level, then a ranking based on the results of the matches among (only) them shall determine their respective position.

(f) If still level, shoot out (one on one) between both sides, Hockey Australia Tournament regulations for shoot outs will apply.

21 BEST AND FAIREST

- 21.1 At the completion of each Match during the Minor Rounds (other than matches for under 8's) the Umpires shall award best and fairest points to players in the following manner:
- (a) 3 points;
 - (b) 2 points; and
 - (c) 1 point on the Team Cards.
- 21.2 Subject to Competition Rule 26.4, at completion of the Minor Rounds the Player in each Grade with the highest number of points shall be declared the best and fairest Player for that Grade for the Playing Season.

22 PLAY THE WHISTLE

At the completion of each Match during the Minor Rounds **for TPL games only** the Umpires shall award 1 "play the whistle" point to the team who best demonstrated fair play and sportsmanship. This may only apply to one team, not both teams.

23 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

- 23.1 HNT shall award the Championship Trophy to the Affiliated Club that, during the Minor Rounds (not including the Finals), displays the following attributes:
- (a) Of sportsmanship; and
 - (b) Achievement.
- 23.2 Affiliated Clubs accumulate points for the Championship Trophy in the following manner:
- (a) The awarding of points:
 - (i) One (1) point awarded for a Team in the Senior Grade that wins a Match; and
 - (ii) One (1) point awarded for a Team in a Junior Grade that wins a Match (except under 8's).
 - (iii) Accumulation of Play the Whistle points.
 - (b) the deduction of points:
 - (i) If applicable) one (1) point deducted if the Affiliated Club fails to supply an Umpire for Senior Grade Matches;
 - (ii) One (1) point for each Player receiving either a yellow or red personal penalty suspension during a match as a result of Competition Section 27
- 23.3 In the event that an Affiliated Club has more than one (1) team in any Grade then only the highest ranked team from that Affiliated Club in that Grade will be eligible to be considered in the Club Championship points.
- 23.4 In the event there is more than one Affiliated Club with the same number of club championship points then the Affiliated Club who will be awarded the Championship Trophy will be determined in the following sequence:
- (a) The Affiliated Club with the least number of points deducted in accordance with Competition Section 25.

- (b) If still tied: the Affiliated Club with the most Matches won during the Competition (for both Senior Grades and Junior Grades);
- (c) If still tied: the Affiliated Club with the most Matches won for the Junior Grades during a Playing Season;
- (d) If still tied: the Affiliated Club with the most Matches won for the Senior Grades during a Playing Season; and
- (e) If still tied: the Affiliated Club with the most "play the whistle" points.

24 TROPHIES

- 24.1 Hockey NT shall retain possession of all perpetual shields and trophies.
- 24.2 If a perpetual shield or trophy is temporarily loaned to an Affiliated Club then:
 - (a) The Affiliated Club will pay a fully refundable deposit (prescribed in the budget) to HNT prior to taking possession;
 - (b) HNT will repay the deposit to the Affiliated Club upon the return of the object in the same condition (fair wear and tear excepted); and
 - (c) The Affiliated Club will be charged the replacement value if it fails to return the object within 30 days of being requested by HNT.
- 24.3 For the avoidance of doubt, any chattel (including any shield or trophy):
 - (a) Purchased for; or
 - (b) Donated to, the chattel remains the property of the HNT.

Article VI. PART 6: PENALTY PROVISIONS

25 BEHAVIOUR

- 25.1 To ensure that the integrity of hockey is upheld:
 - (a) Members of all Affiliated Clubs must comply with the Code of Behaviour;
 - (b) Members of all Affiliated Clubs must not make derogatory comments in the public arena (including on any social media platform) regarding:
 - (i) The performance of Match Officials;
 - (ii) Other Affiliated Clubs;
 - (iii) Players; or
 - (iv) Any member of any Affiliated Club,
- 25.2 A breach of Competition Section 25 is an offence and will be dealt with in accordance with Competition Section 27. A guide to which breaches of the Competition Rules and the Code of Behaviour will be penalised is contained within section 38.

26 PENALTIES

- 26.1 The following are breaches of these Competition Rules and will result, automatically, with a penalty being imposed by DHL Competitions

- (a) A Non-Compliant Player participating in a Match;
 - (b) A Player who is suspended pursuant to Competition Rule 27 participating in a Match;
 - (c) A Team providing an incorrect or incomplete Team Card (including tampering with a Team Card).
- 26.2 The HNT Delegate may, at their discretion, impose the following penalties against the relevant Affiliated Club and Team for each breach of Competition Rule 26.1:
- (a) A fine in accordance with Competition Rule 29.3; and
 - (b) A score line of 5-0 against the breaching Team.
- 26.3 If an Affiliated Club breaches Competition Section 14 then a fine and a forced loss in accordance with Competition rule 29.3 for the breaching team shall be imposed every week until the team complies.
- 26.4 Irrespective of any penalties imposed on an Affiliated Club or Team in accordance with Section 27, any individual best and fairest votes and / or penalty cards will be retained by any individual player from the match; unless they are a Core Player playing in a lower grade, their individual best and fairest votes will be disregarded.

27 PERSONAL PENALTIES

- 27.1 Umpires will, subject to their own discretion, endeavour to issue a verbal warning in relation to any breach of the Hockey Rules (or these Competition Rules) prior to issuing a Personal Penalty.
- 27.2 Pursuant to the Hockey Rules any Umpire or Technical Official may award a personal penalty to a Player or Team Official during a Match and, in the event such a penalty is awarded the issuing Umpire or Technical Official must ensure details are recorded on the Team Card including:
- (a) The individual the subject of the penalty;
 - (b) The colour of the card awarded; and
 - (c) The reason for issue.
- 27.3 In the event that a Personal Penalty is awarded by an Umpire or Technical Official then the Hockey Rules determine the period of suspension during the Match.
- 27.4 The following automatic suspension system shall apply for the Competition. If any Player:
- (a) Accumulates three (3) yellow cards during Competition then that Player is automatically suspended from participating as a Player in any Match (for any Grade) for the following Round;
 - (b) Accumulates a red card during the Competition then that Player is automatically suspended from participating as a Player in any Match (for any Grade) for the following round;
 - (i) The Match Tribunal reserves the right to increase the suspension of a player who receives a red card;
 - (c) Receives two yellow cards for the same offence in a match this may be escalated to the HNT Delegate for review and investigation
 - (d) Receives a red card and a yellow card for the same offence in a match, the yellow card will not be counted under 27.4a;
 - (e) Is suspended and that Player's team is not scheduled to play, for whatever reason, that does not constitute as a Match for the purpose of a suspension pursuant to this Competition Rule;

- (f) has completed their suspension, for clarity, that player shall return to competition with a clean record.
- 27.5 The HNT Delegate will notify the relevant Affiliated Club and the Player in writing of any suspension by 17:00 on the Wednesday before the next Round.
- (a) A notification of the intent to call a Tribunal shall be issued to the Affiliated Club in the first instance. The Affiliated Club shall be responsible for ensuring notification to the affected player.
- 27.6 Each Umpire may request, prior to the next round commencing, that the HNT Delegate investigate further the conduct of a Player who has been awarded a personal penalty.

28 PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

- 28.1 Any matter of protest, allegation, charge or any infringement of these Competition Rules may be reported to the HNT Delegate by submitting a written statement.
- 28.2 The HNT Delegate is to determine the matter in the manner it sees fits but in accordance with:
- (a) Procedures of and principles of:
- (i) good administration;
 - (ii) due process; and
 - (iii) natural justice, and
- (b) The matter must be determined within seven (7) business days of it being reported to the HNT Delegate;
- 28.3 Should an Affiliated Club feel that good administration, due process or natural justice has been impeded, the Affiliated Club may refer the matter to the HNT Board President for investigation.
- 28.4 For the avoidance of doubt the HNT Delegate may, refer matters to the Match Tribunal including breaches of these Competition Rules by an Affiliated Club or player.
- 28.5 The HNT Delegate has the following specific powers:
- (a) If a matter is in relation to the result of a Match he or she may:
- (i) uphold the result of the Match;
 - (ii) alter the result of the Match; or
 - (iii) order the Match to be replayed,
- (b) If a matter is in relation to an alleged breach of these Competition Rules, then the HNT Delegate may:
- (i) dismiss the alleged breach; or
 - (ii) determine the alleged breach occurred and impose a fine; and/or impose a suspension;
- (c) any ancillary powers in relation to the above.

29 FINES

- 29.1 The HNT Delegate is empowered to collect any monies payable under these Competition Rules and to remove competition points.
- 29.2 If a fine or the removal of competition point is imposed pursuant to these Competition Rules then:
- (a) Individuals must pay within seven (7) days of the date of the issue of the fine (individuals are unable to participate in any Match until the fine is paid in full); and
- (b) An Affiliated Club must pay the fine within fourteen (14) days of the date of issue of the fine (Affiliated Clubs are ineligible to participate in Finals if the fine is overdue until the fine is paid in full).
- 29.3 The schedule of fines which are to be determined and imposed by the HNT Delegate for strict liability matters are as follows:

| Description | Reference | Amount | Match Point / Penalty |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|
| Failure to nominate Core Players | Competition Rule 14.1 | \$100.00 | Forced Loss |
| Playing a Non-Compliant Player | Competition Rule 11.3, 12, 13.1, 14 & 30.1 | \$25.00 | Forced Loss |
| Failure to submit a Team Card | Competition Rule 16.1 | \$100.00 | |
| Forfeiting without prescribed notice (Note 1) | Competition Rule 17.1 | \$100.00 | Forced Loss |
| Failure of a Team to take to the Field within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled commencement | Competition Rule 17.3 & 17.4 | \$30.00 | |
| Team Withdrawal | Competition Rule 9.4 | \$25.00 | |
| Failure to comply with Uniform requirements (Note 2) | Competition Rule 7.2 | \$10.00 per player \$50 per Club/Team | |
| Failure to supply an umpire, if applicable | Competition Rule 19.2 | \$50:00 | 1 point |
| Failure to supply a Technical Bench Official, if applicable | Competition Rule 18.1 | \$25.00 | |

Note 1: Juniors shall be exempt from this fine.

Note 2: C grade ladies may wear shorts of the same design if approved by the HNT delegate.

- 29.4 An Affiliated Club may appeal a decision and penalty imposed by submitting an application, with supporting evidence, within seven days of receipt of the HNT Delegate's notification, to the Board via the Chief Executive Officer.
- 29.5 The Board shall consider the application, supporting and previous evidence within seven (7) days and may call upon witnesses and other sources of information to determine the appeal. The Board's decision shall be final.

Article VII. PART 7: DARWIN SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

30 C GRADE (OR LOWEST GRADE)

- 30.1 A maximum of eighteen (18) Players are permitted in the lowest Senior Grade. Where this Competition Rule is breached the additional players shall be deemed to be Non- Compliant Players.

[Note: as at the date of these Competition Rules the lowest Senior Grade is C Grade].

31 ON THE FIELD / OFF THE FIELD

- 31.1 The only persons permitted on the Field are the Umpires, the Players or persons specifically invited by the Umpires.
- 31.2 Subject to these Competition Rules, there shall be no coaching (including guidance) of any Team from the outside the designated dugout.

[Note: See Competition Rules 15.7, 15.8 & 15.9 regarding coaches being permitted on the Field during the Match for some Junior Grades].

32 INTERRUPTION AND POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

- 32.1 If the Fields are:
 - (a) Unfit; or
 - (b) Unavailable, in accordance with the approved Fixtures then DHL Competitions must reschedule the relevant Matches.
- 32.2 If a Match is interrupted by the Match Officials, including for:
 - (a) Bad weather including thunderstorms and lightning;
 - (b) Heavy rain;
 - (c) Lack of lighting; or
 - (d) Safety,

The Match should be resumed within thirty (30) minutes of the cessation of play if the reason for the interruption is no longer relevant.

- 32.3 If the Match cannot be resumed then the Match shall be suspended and if:
 - (a) The Match has commenced; and the 3rd quarter has been completed in Senior and under 16s, the score as at the time of the cessation of play will be deemed to be the final score for that Match.
 - (a) otherwise, if the Match is rescheduled, at the approval of the HNT Delegate;
 - (i) The time and date must be within 1 month of the original match, or prior to the commencement of the major rounds, whichever is the earlier.
 - (ii) The Match will resume with the time remaining and score as at the time of the cessation of play with as many of the same participants from the original match as possible: replacements are not permitted.
 - (iii) For Matches during the Major Rounds the Match shall resume from the point of play on the Field as at the time of the cessation of play.
 - (iv) If the above cannot be achieved in good faith, the score at the time of the suspension will be deemed as the final score.

Article VIII. PART 8: MAJOR ROUNDS PROVISIONS

33 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- 33.2 To participate in any Finals:

- (a) An Affiliated Club must have no monies unpaid or outstanding to the DHL; and
- (b) A Player must have no monies unpaid or outstanding to the DHL.

34 MAKE-UP OF THE FINALS

- 34.1 At completion of the Minor Rounds the first four (4) Teams on the Premiership Ladder in each Grade shall compete in the Major Rounds.
- 34.2 If the Teams are equal on the number of Competition Points, then the position and eligibility is determined in accordance with Rule 20.4.

35 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR MAJOR ROUNDS

- 35.2 Any Player who has participated as a Player:
 - (a) With their Affiliated Club for less than five (5) Minor Rounds will be ineligible to participate as a Player in any Major Round.
- 35.2 Subject to these Competition Rules, a Player may not participate in the Major Rounds for a lower Grade than their eligibility allows.
- 35.3 The requirement for eligibility to participate as a Player in the Major Rounds are as follows:
 - (a) Juniors: Played 5 Minor Rounds for their registered Club in the age division applicable based on date of birth. Must be eligible to play as per rule 13.10.
 - (i) An Under 10 player who has played five (5) or more minor rounds may play in the Under 12 Grade finals matches.
 - (ii) An Under 13 player who has played five (5) or more minor rounds is eligible for Under 16 Grade finals matches.
 - (iii) An Under 16 player who has played five (5) or more minor rounds is eligible to play in Under 16 and senior grade finals matches.
 - (iv) Any junior player who is a regular senior grade player will also be bound by Competition Sections 13 & 14.
 - (b) Seniors: Played 5 Minor Rounds for their registered Club and must comply with Competition Rules 13 & 14
 - (i) Competition Rule 13 restricts any player who has played TPL from playing C Grade at any time during the season without the required approval.
 - (ii) Competition Rule 14 caters for Core players who cannot play in a grade below their core player status.
 - (iii) There is no restriction on any player playing up a grade in the finals series provided they have played the minimum five (5) minor rounds for their registered Club.

36 MAJOR ROUNDS

- 36.1 The Major Rounds for each Grade will be organised and played in the following manner:
 - (a) The first semi-final will be played between the first and second Teams on the Premiership Ladder and the winner of that Match will advance to the Grand final;
 - (b) The second semi-final will be played between the third and fourth Teams on the Premiership Ladder;

(c) The preliminary final will be played between the loser of the first semi-final and the winner of the second semi-final; and

(d) The grand final will be played between the winner of the first semi-final and the winner of the preliminary final.

37 RULES FOR MAJOR ROUNDS

37.1 If, during the Senior Grade Major Rounds, the score is equal at the completion of regulation playing time (according to the rules of hockey) then the match will progress straight into a shootout competition.

37.2 If, during the Under 16 Junior Grade Major Rounds, the score is equal at the completion of regulation playing time (according to the rules of hockey) then the match will progress straight into a shootout competition.

37.3 Shootouts will be conducted as per the current FIH rules.

Article IX. PART 9: SUBCOMMITTEE PROVISIONS

38 MATCH TRIBUNAL

38.1 The Match Tribunal:

(a) Will consist of three (3) individuals who have expertise in a particular area (such as umpiring, player, legal profession) and be of good standing in the community;

(b) Will be appointed for a particular incident; and

(c) Shall investigate and determine matters referred to it by the HNT Delegate pursuant to Competition Rules 27 & 28.

[Note: The HNT Delegate will in accordance with Competition Rule 28, upon receipt of a protest or complaint, will determine whether the matter should be referred to a Match Tribunal.]

38.2 The Chief Executive Officer or HNT Delegate may appoint the Match Tribunal members ensuring:

(a) A Match Tribunal member is not a member of the Affiliated Club the subject of the determination; and

(b) The Match Tribunal member has the necessary skills in relation to the matter the subject of the referral.

38.3 The Match Tribunal is to determine the procedures to be followed in connection with any matters referred to it however:

(a) such procedures must be in accordance with:

(i) good administration;

(ii) principles of due process; and

(iii) principles of natural justice'

(b) A matter must be determined within seven (7) business days of being referred to the Match Tribunal or as otherwise determined by the Match Tribunal;

(c) In considering a penalty/sanction may consider:

- (i) any extenuating circumstances;
- (ii) the severity of the incident;
- (iii) previous incidents involving the person; and
- (iv) any other matter which the Match Tribunal considers relevant.

(d) The Match Tribunal must report its findings in writing to:

- (i) the parties involved; and
- (ii) the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate, as soon as possible.

38.4 The Match Tribunal may utilise the following chart as a guide to the level of penalty imposed on an individual or Affiliated Club if found guilty of an offence:

(a) For individuals:

| Offence | Suspension Guideline |
|--|----------------------|
| Umpire dissent: | |
| - disputing an Umpire's decision | 2 Rounds |
| Umpire abuse (verbal or physical whether on or off the Field) | |
| - use of lewd gestures | 1 Round |
| - striking an Umpire | Life |
| Misconduct (whether on or off the Field) | |
| - breach of the Code of Behaviour | 1 Round |
| - breach of these Competition Rules | 1 Round |
| - persistent and deliberate breach of the Hockey Rules | 1 Round |
| - persistent and deliberate breach of the Code of Conduct | 1 Round |
| - abuse of equipment, either personal or DHL | 2 Rounds |
| - abusive conduct | 4 Rounds |
| - threatening a Player, official, or Umpire | 4 Rounds |
| Striking (on the Field) | |
| - punching or deliberately elbowing any other Player | 4 Rounds |
| - deliberately kicking any other Player | 4 Rounds |
| - deliberately striking any other Player with a stick | 8 Rounds |
| second striking offence | 1 year |

(b) For affiliated clubs:

| Offence | Suspension Guideline: |
|---|-----------------------|
| - breach of the Code of Conduct | \$150.00 |
| - breach of these Competition Rules | \$150.00 |
| - persistent and deliberate breach of the Code of Conduct | \$300.00 |

Article X. PART 10: HEALTH & SAFETY PROVISIONS

39 BLOOD POLICY

- 39.1 An umpire is required to call 'time off' when a player who is bleeding is noticed or an on-field player has indicated the presence of blood.
- 39.2 The player(s) in question is to leave the field of play to have the wound attended to. Play is to recommence once the player(s) has left the field of play, and any blood has been cleaned from the pitch. The player(s) is not to return to the field until such a time that the bleeding has stopped and covered, and that all blood on the players clothing has been cleaned up or covered. This is assessed at the discretion of the technical bench.
- 39.3 Once the umpire is satisfied that all requirements have been met, they will restart play.

40 CONCUSSION PROCESS

- 40.1 Hockey NT has a Concussion Guidelines document which should be utilised in conjunction with the below process should a participant be thought to be suffering from concussion.
- 40.2 If any player who receives any impact to the head or a knock that could lead to head injury, in whatever circumstance, the umpires are to immediately call "time off" and in the absence of a first aid trained appointed TO the tech bench officials are to call for the Duty Manager.
(a) An impact to the head is defined as being any impact, including that from a ball, a stick, collision with another player or with the turf itself.
- 40.3 Any player who receives any impact to the head is to be removed from the playing field, to the bench as soon as practical. That is, the player should not be moved if there is a risk of exacerbating the injury.
- 40.4 The Duty Manager or the Match TO shall visually and verbally assess the player for signs of concussion and reach a decision as to whether the player may return to the match.
- 40.5 Any player deemed unfit to return to the match must be referred to a medical professional for further assessment and shall not be allowed to attend training or take part in a match until a written clearance is provided to the HNT Delegate.
- 40.6 For the purpose of this document, any player that displays any of the following clinical features either observed directly or reported by others must be removed from play:
- Loss of consciousness or prolonged immobility (greater than 2 seconds)
 - No protective action in fall to the ground (not bracing for impact)
 - Impact seizure (stiffening arms or legs on impact)
 - Balance disturbance (loss of control over movements)
 - Dazed, blank/vacant stare or not their normal self
 - Unusual behavioural change for the player
 - Confusion or disorientation
 - Memory impairment (e.g. fails Maddock's questions)
 - Player reports concussion symptoms
- 40.7 To assist in administering Rule 40.4 the following style of questions shall be asked of the player to assist in any assessment. These questions must be preceded by the statement: "I am going to ask you a few questions, please listen carefully and give your best effort";
- What venue are we at today?
 - Which half is it now?
 - Who scored last in this game?

- What team did you play last week?
- Did your team win the last game?

40.8 HNT follows Hockey Australia's concussion policy and concussion management workflow, these documents can be found on the HNT and Hockey Australia websites.