

BY-LAWS
of the
WEST GIPPSLAND
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
Inc.
A004426X



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Adopted 31 October 2023

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PREAMBLE

As far as practicable the West Gippsland Hockey Association Inc. (WGHA) shall follow the Rules of Hockey as provided by the Federation of International Hockey (FIH). Where there is a conflict between the FIH Rules of Hockey and these By-Laws, then these By-Laws will prevail. To be read in conjunction with Rules of the WGHA.

CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

Changes to these By-Laws shall be by way of resolution at an Annual General Meeting of the WGHA. (Refer Rule 14.4) However the Committee of the Association shall be empowered to make interim amendments to these By-Laws. Any such amendments shall be subject to ratification at the following General Meeting.

1. POSITIONS OF MANAGEMENT

As per the Rules of the WGHA (refer Rule 14), the Board shall comprise:

- (a) the President;
- (b) the Vice-President;
- (c) the Secretary; and
- (d) the Treasurer;

who will all be elected at the AGM in accordance with Rule 15; and

- (e) up to two (2) appointed Directors who may be appointed by the elected Directors

in accordance with Rule 16.

The Board will call for nominations and appoint the following positions for the purpose of administering the competition and all decisions made by these representatives are to be reported to the Board for ratification. (Refer Appendix A for nomination form)

- Junior Coordinator
- Senior Coordinator
- Strikers Coordinator
- Umpires Convenor
- Match and Fixtures Officer
- Publicity Officer
- Grounds and Equipment Officer
- (Players) Development Convenor

- Hockey Victoria Delegate – this position to be filled by a Director of the Board
- Canteen/Food Safety Officer

2. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

WGHA has adopted the Code of Conduct within the Hockey Australia National Integrity Framework (NIF) Codes of Conduct which will be publicised to all players and clubs. Players and clubs must adhere to the Codes of Conduct. WGHA puts the responsibility on all clubs to counsel their players, members and representatives in the correct Codes of Conduct. Penalties may be imposed by the WGHA to clubs and / or individuals who do not adhere to the Codes of Behaviour (Refer Rules of WGHA 12 &13 plus [By-Law 10.J Penalties Code 33](#)).

3. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Club shall be responsible for:

A. REGISTRATIONS:

All affiliated club members are to be registered electronically via the HV Revolutionise Sport registration website as a member of WGHA.

B. PHOTO CONSENT:

As per registration with Hockey Australia

C. PLAYER UNIFORM & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Each team shall have distinguishing uniforms which must be registered and approved by the Committee.

- a. Skirts or shorts may be worn providing that these be in Club colours of a style specified by the Club.
- b. Skins/Compression garments may be worn under a player's uniform providing they are the same colour as the uniform, flesh colour or black.
- c. Uniform socks are to be worn.

Protective Equipment

- d. Shin-guards and mouth guards are compulsory for junior players, including those juniors playing in senior competition matches.
- d. Face masks are compulsory for juniors when defending a short corner, this includes those juniors playing in senior competition matches
- d. Face masks, mouth guards and shin guards are strongly recommended for senior players

Players not in complete and correct uniform by Round 3 will not be allowed to take the field. (See [By-Law 10.J Penalties Code 4](#))

D. COACHES IN JUNIOR MATCHES:

- a. From U15s upwards - No coach allowed on the field at any time.
- b. U12's - one coach is allowed on the field at any time
- c. Exceptions to be granted by WGHA

E. CLUB DUTY ON MATCH DAY:

Clubs must supply personnel, when rostered as per playing season Match & Fixture schedule to undertake duties as specified by WGHA on match day. These may include, but may not be limited to canteen duty, taking out bins, preparing the tech bench etc.

(See [By-Law 10.J Penalties Code 32](#))

4. TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

A. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- a. A suitably qualified person (team manager or other adult who witnessed the event) is to complete an incident and/or injury form within 24hours of the incident. This form should be printed and is to be promptly emailed to the West Gippsland Board. It is essential for insurance purposes that this procedure is followed accurately.
- b. Provide an official to staff the Tech Bench

B. RESULTS MANAGEMENT:

Each team manager/captain will be supplied with a Match Book.

It is the responsibility of the captain or their representative to ensure this book is completed correctly and legibly with the following details:

- a. signatures of both captains and umpires
- b. the first name and surname of each player
- c. players shirt number
- d. scores for the game
- e. allocation of cards issued by umpires
- f. Results to be entered into Revolutionise Sport within the timeframe specified by WGHA. Penalties may be enforced.

This responsibility determines the:

- a. accuracy of the outcome of the most valuable player award
- b. eligibility to play finals

Players who are listed on the team sheet but did not play must be crossed off the list. Players who are listed on Rev Sport but did not play must not be ticked

Players who are not listed on the team sheet cannot be ticked on Rev Sport.

Players who do not have adequate registration in Rev Sport are not registered players, and must not play.

Only players registered on Rev Sport will be eligible for finals.

When a discrepancy exists between the match book and Rev Sport, Rev Sport is considered to be the official result.

Matchbooks should not be signed unless the results between books are consistent.

Any discrepancies that cannot be resolved on match day should be addressed with the Board as soon as practicable.

Completed Match Book Sheets must be placed in the container provided in the clubrooms at the end of the game. (See [By-Law 10. J Penalties Code 8](#)).

5. WINTER COMPETITION

A. AGE GRADING.

- a. Ages are taken from 1st January in each year. e.g. if a player turns 12 during the calendar year, they are eligible to play in the Under 12 competition.
- b. Exceptions to these grading provisions and team compositions can only be made by PRIOR permission of the WGHA Board

(See [By-Law 10. J Penalties Code 18](#)).

B. TEAM COMPOSITION AND GAMES PLAYING

- a. Open Women (Women only)
- b. Open Men
- c. Age groups for the Junior Competition will be determined by the Board from time to time.
- d. Teams in Junior Competition are of mixed gender
 - (i) Under 8 & Under 10
 - (ii) Under 12 or 13 & Under 14 or 15
 - (iii) Under 16, 17 or 18

NOTE: The Committee will consider individual applications for Junior players to play in younger age groups based on their merits. Applications in writing must be received by the Committee prior to Round 3, or if a new player to the club, during the season as required.

- e. A player receiving a red card during a WGHA match shall not be permitted to play any further matches in the same round until disciplinary proceedings are finalised.
- f. Players may only move up and down the age groups and grades, and junior players may not move up or down more than one junior age group. However, players aged 14 and above as at 1st January in the year of competition may also play for a senior team.
- g. Where clubs have 2 teams in an age group, players who play regularly at that age group or play up from a younger grade must be allocated to one of those teams after Round 4 and notify the Match and Fixture officer.

- h. Matches must be played as arranged in the fixture, except in special circumstances a match may be played at another time or place by mutual consent of the teams concerned, and with the approval of the Board.
- i. The number of rounds for the Winter Season, including finals will be determined by the Committee in conjunction with the recommendations of the Match & Fixture Officer.
- j. "Double Up" Rule can be enacted by the Board in a season where low player numbers threaten the integrity of the competition - to assist clubs who have too few players for a single team, players may switch from one team (club) to the other in subsequent rounds or play for two different club teams in the one round ("double up") subject to the following provisions:

- i. A player is only permitted to qualify for finals for the team they have registered with (as per Rev Sport), and qualifies for this team as per By Laws 5.B.(k) and 5.B.(j.ii) and 5.B.(j.ix)

ii.No "double up" is permitted in finals matches

- iii. 'Double up' players should never allow a team to have a greater number of players than the opposition side (i.e. both teams should have an equal number of players)
 - iv. Where "double up" players are being used, the opposition captain or coach must be made aware that the "double up" players intend to participate. The team sheet must be endorsed as such by the opposition captain or coach.
 - v. Once the game has commenced, any change to "double up" players must be agreed on by both team managers. This includes the introduction of a new double up player to the match.
 - vi. "Double up" players must be asterisked (*) on the team sheet and the opposition and umpires are to be notified of these players. Asterisked (*) players cannot receive MVP votes for that match.
 - vii. "Double-up" players must be entered as fill-ins on Rev Sport
 - viii. If a player "doubling up" has not been asterisked (*) on either team sheet then they shall be deemed to have been asterisked (*) in the second match played.
 - ix. Any request to change Primary team must be made in writing, and reviewed by the Board prior to the first week of finals

Note: These provisions are to be applied in conjunction with the "Code of Conduct" and in the spirit of sportsmanship, with the sole purpose of supporting a Club who endeavours to retain and recruit players, without jeopardising the Club's capacity to field competitive teams.

- k. No player shall take part in a final or semi-final match unless they are registered in the Rev Sport as having played in at least one third of matches (rounded up to a whole number) played by their team in the current season OR they meet the parameters of By-Law 5.B.(o).
 - i. In the case of a forfeit that is only notified on match day, players on both teams that are present at the field shall have the match counted towards eligibility for finals.
 - ii. Where a team advises as per clause C.(g) in advance of match day that they will be forfeiting a match, the match will not be counted towards finals qualification for the forfeiting team.
 - iii. In the event of a forfeit, players in the non-forfeiting team who were intending to play in the forfeited match and had their names recorded on the team sheet shall have the match counted towards finals qualification. It is expected that both clubs involved in a forfeited match will ensure that integrity and the spirit of fair play prevail, and that only those players meeting the prescribed criteria will have a forfeited match counted towards finals qualification.
 - iv. Any special cases are to be requested in writing to the Board five (5) days prior to Semi - finals. The Board shall have the power to act.
 - l. A team may offer to lend a player or players to an opposition team that has less numbers for a scheduled match, provided that the team choosing to accept a 'donation' of a player or players has reached the minimum numbers from their own club, as required in these by-laws. The match shall not be considered a forfeit. The team receiving a 'loaned' player should include the player's name on their match sheet and 'asterix' them, but are recorded as a fill-in on Rev Sport. Any such player is still eligible

to receive MVP votes and will have the match counted for qualification for their own club for finals purposes.

- I. Any player who has been donated to another team must stay with that team for the duration of the game (as a fill-in player) and not return to their own team during that game
- I. A Player may play in more than one grade in the final series provided that the eligibility conditions as set out in By-Law 5.B are met for each of the grades.

C. FIELDING A TEAM

- a. If a team cannot field six players at the beginning of a match, the offending team must forfeit the match (subject to By-Law 5.C.(d)). If a team starts short, the missing players may join in at any time subject to the rules of Hockey. The umpires must be notified.
- b. Should a team be reduced to 5 players the match shall be abandoned with the score being resolved according to By-Law 5.E.(a).
- c. Where a player of a team playing with 6 players receives a yellow card, the team is still considered to have "6 players" and the match can continue. In the event of a player receiving a red card, thereby being permanently suspended from the current match and leaving only 5 players in the team, the match shall be abandoned.
- d. If a match is not commenced at the appointed starting time, a penalty of one goal per 5 minutes will be awarded against the offending team. If a match is not commenced within 15 minutes of the stated time, the team unable to proceed shall forfeit the match.
- e. Time lost at the commencement of all games except finals matches due to a late start shall not be made up by extending the match beyond its scheduled finishing time. The timing of all Junior games except finals matches will start and finish with the siren (though the ball shall still be 'live' until the umpire's whistle is blown to signify the end of play).
- f. Any team failing to play three consecutive matches shall withdraw for the remainder of the season, unless a satisfactory explanation can be provided to the Committee.
- g. A team which knows in advance of match day that they will be forfeiting a match is required to notify the WGHA Board and the Umpires Convenor.
- h. In the event an u12 team has less than 9 players taking the field (regardless of double-ups), the game will be played as half field game. 9 players or more will warrant a full-field game.
- i. Scratch matches are played safely at the umpires discretion

D. ON FIELD INJURIES

- a. In the event of an injury in non-finals when there is no provision for "time to be stopped", designated officials (Coach, Manager etc.) can go onto the ground to attend to the player whilst the game is still in play. It is preferable that permission is sought from the umpire. However, where the Club Official cannot attract the Umpire's attention and the player's injury warrants it, the first priority must be the welfare of the player. In the event of a serious injury where the player is unable to leave the field, the game will be stopped by the umpires.
- b. The Club Official must make every endeavour not to interfere with the game in progress. The Club Official is only entitled to attend to the player and not to coach the side, complain to the umpire etc. The Club Official shall attend to the injured player quickly and shall not remain on the ground for longer than is necessary.
- c. Where an interchange is required a usual substitution occurs (at the half-way line of the field).
- d. Treatment of bleeding players;

- i. (As per FIH rules) A player who is injured or bleeding must leave the field unless medical reasons prevent this and must not return until wounds have been covered; players must not wear blood-stained clothing.
- ii. A substitution of the bleeding player may occur at the half-line

E. POINTS, BYES, LADDER POSITIONS & ABANDONED GAMES

- a. Premiership points will be allocated from the Score Cards.
 - i.4 points shall be awarded for a win.
 - ii.2 points for a drawn game.
 - iii.1 point to the losing team.
 - iv.0 points for a forfeit

For a forfeit, a 3-0 win shall be recorded for the team present. (Except in the case of a “retrospective forfeit” where provisions outlined in By-Law 5.E.(e) will be implemented.)

- b. In Age Groups where there are an uneven number of byes (caused by the number of teams in the fixture or by cancellation of matches) finalisation of the ladder at the end of the season shall be done as follows:
 - 1. To decide the final position on the ladder, teams which have played fewer matches than other teams at their level will have added to their points total the average number of premiership points they scored per matches played for each match they are in deficit.

Example: A team which scored 36 premiership points over 11 rounds and has played one match less than the maximum played by a team in that competition will have an extra 3.27 points ($36 \div 11$) added to their season’s points tally.

- c. In abandoned matches (caused by weather or serious injury etc), the score shall remain as on the score card provided the match has extended beyond 5 minutes into the second half. Matches that are discontinued for any other reason (or abandoned before 5 minutes into the second half) will be referred to the next Committee Meeting for decision as to the result to be recorded.
- D. A “retrospective forfeit” is a game that is played with the presumption by all players and Umpires, except the offending player(s), that all team composition criteria have been adhered to, but subsequently is deemed to be a forfeit by the Match & Fixture Officer post game due to incorrect team composition (e.g. Unregistered player). In which case the following will occur:
 - i. Finals eligibility – All players, except the offending player(s), will have the game count towards their “games played” tally.
 - ii. Votes – All players, except the offending player(s), will receive the MVP votes awarded by the Umpires for that game.
 - iii. Game score – Where the “losing team” is subsequently awarded a “win by forfeit” the game score will be recorded as 3-0. Where the “winning team” is subsequently awarded a “win by forfeit” the game score for the “winning team” will be the greater of, 3 or the goal difference in the game played, and the “losing team” will be 0.

F. FINALS FIXTURE

The method of playing finals in the Winter Competition shall be as follows:

- a. **Semi Finals:** First v Fourth & Second v Third
- b. **Grand Final:** Winners of Semi Finals

In exceptional circumstances, such as a clash between scheduled WGHA finals matches and Hockey Victoria scheduled matches at Bellbird Park, the Committee will consider a suggested variation to the structure of finals for that season, as proposed by the Match and Fixture Officer

G. DRAWN GAMES IN FINALS

In the event of a drawn game,

- Where possible, the result will be resolved via penalty shootout in line with Hockey Victoria and FIH Rules
- Prior to the commencement of finals, if a penalty shootout is not possible, and at the end of regular time a semi-final match is declared a draw, the Board may stipulate an appropriate method of deciding the grand finalist

6. GROUNDS & GAME DAY

- a. In the event of dangerous playing conditions, a representative of the WGHA Board (in consultation with the WGHA Umpire's Convenor if available) shall be responsible for inspecting the field and making any recommendation to the Board that the grounds are unfit for play. If the recommendation is endorsed by the Board, a Board member shall be responsible for notifying all team contacts and umpires if field is dangerous for
 - i. entire day; or
 - ii. part day or
 - iii. a scheduled game.
- b. In the event of a deterioration of ground conditions during the day such that player safety is becoming seriously compromised, the Umpires Convenor (in consultation with the representative of the Board) shall be empowered to temporarily halt or totally abandon matches.
- b. No points shall be awarded to any team for matches cancelled or abandoned due to dangerous playing conditions, unless the match has extended beyond 5 minutes into the 2nd half. In the event of a cancelled game causing an uneven number of byes or matches played, refer to [By-Law 5.E - Points, Byes, Ladder Positions & Abandoned Games](#).
- b. In the event that finals are affected by cancellation of matches, due to dangerous condition, the Committee are responsible for determining an adequate solution.
- b. Any dangerous ground should be reported to the BBPHAC by the Board

7. GOALKEEPERS

- a. Each Junior team must have a goalkeeper on the field at all times during play. It is compulsory for goalkeepers in all age groups to wear protective headgear except when as an attacking player taking a penalty stroke. A helmet incorporating fixed full-face protection and cover for the entire head is compulsory and throat protection is highly recommended. Goalkeeping Helmets MUST NOT be worn in general play beyond the 23metre line.
- b. It is compulsory goalkeepers in all Junior matches wear, as a minimum, the following equipment: chest protector, hand protectors, leg guards, pelvic protectors and kickers. Additional protective equipment for arms and thighs is also recommended.
- c. It is recommended that goalkeepers in Men's and Women's matches also wear full protective equipment.

- d. An incapacitated or suspended Junior goalkeeper must be replaced by another goalkeeper. Play is to be stopped to replace the goalkeeper; time will not be stopped unless playing a final.
- e. During the suspension of a goalkeeper, the team concerned has one less field player.
- f. Teams in Men's and Women's matches may opt to play 11 field players.

8. UMPIRING

- a. Umpires must wear a fluoro top or vest
- b. Umpires provide an approved match ball (as per FIH Rule Book)
- c. The Umpire's decision is final and no discussions will take place. The captains of the teams concerned must enforce this By-Law
- d. In all finals, time will be kept by the umpires. Time will be stopped according to the Rules of Hockey e.g.: penalty strokes, substitution of goalkeepers, and where appropriate for serious injury, warnings, lost ball etc.
- e. Any person umpiring finals should be of an appropriate standard at the discretion of the Umpires Convenor or WGHA Board

A. UMPIRE VOTING (MOST VALUABLE PLAYER)

- a. Both umpires are to jointly complete a Voting Form for the Most Valuable Players in the game they umpire:
 - This responsibility determines the accuracy of the outcome of the most valuable player award and should be considered carefully.
- b. For senior matches the 3 most valuable players shall be selected (3 votes to the most valuable player, 2 votes to the next most valuable etc.
- c. For junior matches, the votes will be 4, 3, 2, 1 with both genders represented in the votes given
- d. Most Valuable Player votes shall be recorded from the MVP Voting Slips
 - 1. A player who receives a yellow or red card shall not be eligible to receive MVP votes in that match, with the exception of the captain of a team who receives a yellow card for spectator or team misconduct
 - 2. A player who is suspended from WGHA competition for one of more matches by the Disputes Committee shall be ineligible for any WGHA awards for the season in which the incident leading to the suspension occurred
 - 3. Suspensions arising from incidents in the finals will render that player ineligible for awards the following year
- e. In Junior Grades, from Under 12, awards shall be presented to the Most Valuable Male Player and the Most Valuable Female Player (and to the male and female runner-up MVP at the discretion of the committee)

B. UMPIRE TRAINING.

Clubs are encouraged to identify potential umpires and inform the Umpire Convenor of any new umpires. Umpire training will be arranged for all umpires in the association, ensuring that new umpires are adequately coached. Umpires are encouraged to obtain their Community Level qualification as per Hockey Victoria guidelines.

9. SUMMER COMPETITION

- a. Age groupings for such a competition to be determined by the organising committee.
- b. The method of playing finals (if any) is to be determined by the organising committee.

10. COMPLAINTS & DISPUTES

a. As per National Integrity Framework

For guidance, the previous By-Laws considered:

- b. Any complaints or charges made against or concerning any team/s, player/s or official/s of the WGHA shall be lodged in writing (formal letter) with the “Secretary” of the WGHA within three days of the alleged offence in respect of which the complaint or charge is made. A deposit of \$20 shall be lodged with each complaint or charge and shall be forfeited if the complaint or charge is considered frivolous by the Disputes Committee. An umpire making a complaint or charge concerning the match at which they were officiating shall not be required to lodge a deposit.
- b. Any dispute between Clubs and/or members regarding any infringement, the WGHA By-Laws or the HV Codes of Behaviour, shall be lodged in writing (formal letter) with the Secretary of the WGHA within three days of the alleged infringement, stating the subject matter and full circumstances of the dispute. A deposit of \$20 shall be made with each dispute and shall be forfeited if the dispute is considered frivolous by the Disputes Committee.
- b. On receipt of the complaint, charge or dispute, the Secretary shall, with at least three working days’ notice in writing:
 - i. Forward to the team(s), player(s) or official(s) charged or complained against, or the disputing Club and/or member(s), all the alleged facts of the complaint, charge or dispute.
 - ii. Inform the team(s) and / or member(s) concerned of the date, time and place fixed for the hearing.
- e. Any team or member shall be entitled to request any person(s) to attend the meeting to give evidence on their behalf.
- e. The Disputes Committee shall determine all complaints, charges and disputes. If after an inquiry it considers:
 - i. The complaint, charge or dispute is not proven or not substantiated; it shall dismiss the matter and report its action to the WGHA Committee.
 - ii. The complaint, charge or dispute is proven, it shall reprimand, fine, suspend from participation in WGHA fixtures for a certain period, expel from membership or take such other actions it deems appropriate. In the case of expulsion, such member(s) shall forfeit such membership and all interest and benefit (if any) in the Association and the funds thereof. (Refer to WGHA Rule 12)
- g. If during the course of the hearing, it is proved to the satisfaction of the Disputes Committee that action should be taken against any team(s), player(s) or official(s) complained against, such action may be taken. The disputes committee shall refer to the schedule of penalties ([By-Law 10.H Penalties](#)) when determining an appropriate penalty.
- h. The Secretary shall, in writing, inform all parties to the hearing of the decision of the Disputes Committee as soon as possible.
- i. **Dispute Appeals**
- i. Should any party to the hearing be aggrieved by the decision of the Disputes Committee, that party shall, within three days of being notified in writing of the decision of the Disputes Committee, lodge in writing with the Secretary, a Notice of Appeal.

- ii. Such an appeal shall be heard by the Committee at its next meeting.
- iii. The decision of the Disputes Committee shall stand until such time as the next Committee Meeting passes a resolution gaining two-thirds majority of the members present entitled to vote, amending it.

j. Penalties

- i. The WGHA and delegated committees have the right to impose penalties on clubs and / or individuals for non-adherence to By-Laws or other offences as deemed as appropriate. Whilst it remains at the discretion of the disputes committee, the following penalties are recommended as guidelines:

TABLE OF PENALTIES

By-Law / Code	Offence	Club Penalty	Individual Penalty
5	3 cards in a season (any combination of green/yellow)		1 match suspension
3	Non-attendance of at least one delegate from each Club as requested	\$20	
4	Incorrect or incomplete uniform		Offending players will not be permitted to participate in any game until they are in complete and correct uniform (subject to special permission from the Executive)
8	Incomplete match book	\$20	
21	Playing a player who has not obtained a transfer or clearance	Forfeit of the match	
32	Failure of the Duty Club to fully complete their duty	\$20	
18	Playing the incorrect team composition	Forfeit of the match	
31	Non-attendance of representatives at WGHA umpiring instruction sessions or for Umpire's badge testing	\$20 per player/representative not in attendance	
33	Non-adherence to WGHA Code of Behaviour to be implemented by the disputes committee only		

	Suggested penalty	
a) Bringing hockey into disrepute	\$100	2 weeks
b) Swearing / abusive language	\$10	2 weeks
c) Threatening behaviour / intimidation	\$50	4 weeks
d) Play endangering player safety	\$200	4 weeks
e) Dangerous play causing physical injury	\$200	12 months
f) Striking / physical assault causing injury	\$300	12 months
g) Threatening behaviour / intimidation of an umpire	\$200	4 weeks
h) Striking / physical assault of an umpire causing injury	\$300	24 months

11. SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT

A. In the event of a spectator's behaviour being judged by an umpire to be detrimental to the spirit of the game, the following procedures shall apply:

a. The Captain of the team (or Coach of junior team) who the offending spectator is supporting will be required to request the offender to discontinue the unacceptable behaviour.

b. In the event that the unacceptable behaviour continues the Captain of the team will be penalised with a yellow card.

c. In the event of threatening or dangerous behaviour from any member of the community, any authorised representative of the Board (including Umpires) may evict the offender from the ground. If the offender refuses to leave, the match will be abandoned and Emergency Services will be contacted

d. Disciplinary procedures may be followed for anyone evicted from the ground.

12. WGHA REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

A. AIMS

The WGHA shall provide opportunities for local players to participate in representative matches with the primary aim of enabling those selected to enjoy and benefit from the experience of representing the Association with players from clubs within the association.

B. SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. All registered players participating in the current WGHA winter season shall be eligible for selection consideration (unless suspended or for other disciplinary reasons) and shall be given the opportunity to indicate their interest in being selected.
- b. Selection to represent the WGHA shall be based predominantly upon performances in the current WGHA winter season; however, some allowance shall be made by the selectors on a case-by-case basis for players who have not played regularly in the current WGHA winter season due to injury, illness, or some other reasonable limitation.
- c. Consideration shall only be given to selecting players who do not meet the above criteria where insufficient players meeting such criteria have indicated availability for a particular team. Additionally or alternatively, where a particular team has insufficient available players, consideration may be given to combining with another hockey Association rather than deny those available the opportunity to participate.
- d. It is an expectation that players selected for representative teams shall participate in training sessions.

C. SELECTORS

Selection of players, coaches and managers to represent the WGHA shall be the responsibility of the WGHA Board, with the power to co-opt additional selectors as considered appropriate.

13. COMPETITION RULES

- A. Any dangerous ball in the circle shall be penalised in Under 12 grades and below (the intent is that the goalkeeper is not "fair game").
- B. The 'tomahawk' hit is banned in all grades under 14 years
- C. Above the shoulder playing of the ball is not permitted in any junior matches, including U18s

14. UNDER 8 RULES (? SUBSECTION – NOT UPDATED 2023)

These rules are based on the Hockey Australia Half Field Hockey with modification.

Field Markings:

1. Centre spot on field
2. Mini goals at centre of goal lines
3. Scoring circles 9m radius

Rules:

The rules of the game of hockey shall apply except that:

1. The stick must not be raised above the knee.
2. Pushing and slap hitting is only permitted.
3. Lifting the ball above knee height is not permitted at any time and will be penalised under dangerous play provision.
4. At the time of a free hit being taken, no other player (of either side) may be within three metres of the ball.
5. Obstruction (definition). Obstruction is using the body as a shield to protect the ball or inhibit opposition players.

1. (This can cause danger to other players and to oneself. The obstruction rule is to be applied with discretion to discourage 'playing for obstruction' and free hits.)
6. The ball is not allowed to touch the foot. (Foot obstruction). To be applied with discretion and where offending team gains an advantage from this breach.
7. For any breach occurring:
 - a. Outside the Circle:
 - a free hit shall be awarded to the opposition team taken where the breach occurred.
 - b. Inside the Circle (by a defender):
 - a free hit shall be awarded to the opposition team taken at a spot 3 metres outside the circle in line with where the breach occurred.
 - c. Inside the Circle (by an attacker):
 - a free hit is awarded to the defending team which shall be taken 9 meters from the back line (level with the top of the circle) and in line with where the infringement occurred.
8. When the ball goes over the back line and no goal is scored:
 - a. Off the stick of a defender (whether deliberate or not):
 - a free hit shall be awarded to the attacking team to be taken approx. 12 meters from the back line, in line with where the ball crossed the back line.
To assist in determining where the hit is to be taken, use the top of the circle (9m) as a guide, with the free hit taken approx.3 meters past a line level with the top of the circle.
 - b. Off the stick of an attacker:
 - a free hit is awarded to the defending team which shall be taken 9 meters from the back line (level with the top of the circle), in line with where the ball crossed the back line.
9. There are no penalty corners or penalty strokes in U8 quarter field
10. Teams shall consist of 7 players on the field with up to 5 additional players as substitutions.
11. There are no goalkeepers.
12. The "self-pass" is not allowed.

Umpiring:

1. Two umpires are recommended but by mutual agreement one umpire may suffice.
2. All decisions should be explained.
3. No temporary suspension system.

15. UNDER 10 RULES (Based on Hockey Victoria Half-Field Rules 2015) – Not updated 2023

These rules are based on the Hockey Australia Half Field Hockey but have been modified for the Hockey Victoria competition.

Field Markings:

1. Centre spot on field
2. Standard (3.66m) goals at centre of goal lines
3. Scoring circles 9m radius

Rules:

The rules of the game of hockey shall apply except that:

1. The stick may not be raised above the shoulder.
2. Lifting the ball above waist height to be discouraged and penalised under dangerous play provisions.
3. At the time of a free hit being taken no other player (from either side) may be within three (3) metres of the ball.
4. The obstruction rule to be applied with discretion to discourage "playing for obstruction" and free hits.
5. For any breach occurring:
 - d. Outside the Circle:
 - a free hit shall be awarded to the opposition team taken where the breach occurred.
 - e. Inside the Circle (by a defender):
 - a free hit shall be awarded to the opposition team taken at a spot 3 metres outside the circle in line with where the breach occurred.
 - f. Inside the Circle (by an attacker):
 - a free hit is awarded to the defending team which shall be taken 9 meters from the back line (level with the top of the circle) and in line with where the infringement occurred.
6. When the ball goes over the back line and no goal is scored:
 - c. Off the stick of a defender (whether deliberate or not):
 - a free hit shall be awarded to the attacking team to be taken approx. 12 meters from the back line, in line with where the ball crossed the back line.
To assist in determining where the hit is to be taken, use the top of the circle (9m) as a guide, with the free hit taken approx.3 meters past a line level with the top of the circle.
 - d. Off the stick of an attacker:
 - a free hit is awarded to the defending team which shall be taken 9 meters from the back line (level with the top of the circle), in line with where the ball crossed the back line.
7. There are no penalty corners or penalty strokes in U10 half field
8. Teams shall consist of 9 players on the field (maximum of 7 players of each gender) with up to 7 additional players as substitutions.

Umpiring:

4. Two umpires are recommended but by mutual agreement one umpire may suffice.
5. All decisions should be explained.
6. No temporary suspension system.