

# Masters League By-Laws

# Masters League By-Laws

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## Document Control

Version	Date Approved by Board	Date approved by Members	Proposed review date	Proposed reviewer
1	17 February 2021	28 February 2021	September 2021	Competitions Rules Committee

# Masters League By-Laws: Intents & Purposes

## **A Authority**

These Masters League By-Laws are made under clause 23 of the Constitution – 'By Laws of the Association'.

The Masters League By-Laws should be read in conjunction with the Hockey WA Competitions and Events Rules and FIH Rules of Hockey. The FIH Rules of Hockey are an important source of information regarding how matches should be conducted. However, where these Masters League By Laws differ from the FIH Rules of Hockey, then these Masters League By-Laws will apply.

To the extent of any inconsistency with any other rule or by-law of Hockey WA, these By-Laws prevail with regard to the Masters League.

## **B Purpose**

The Masters League Rules are intended to:

- (a) encourage the largest amount of participation at all levels of our sport;
- (b) create an atmosphere of sportsmanship, equality and fair play; and
- (c) penalise Clubs who seek to gain an unfair advantage.

## **C Penalty Provision**

Where there is a prescribed financial penalty for a breach of any of these By-Laws, the rule will be designated in these By-Laws as a Penalty Provision.

## **D Definitions**

The defined terms used in these By-Laws are set out in **Appendix A**.

Where these By-Laws incorporate any rule taken from the FIH Rules of Hockey, Hockey WA Competition & Events By-Laws, Hockey Australia Australian Championship Operations Manual, Hockey Australia Tournament Regulations, Hockey WA Codes of Behaviour or Hockey WA Membership By-Laws, these By-Laws are taken to incorporate any updates or changes.

## **E Review**

The Competition Rules Committee is responsible for determining the process by which these By-Laws and any competition rules are reviewed on a periodic basis.

Hockey WA will seek and consider the Competition Rules Committee's decisions and Masters Committee's recommendations when determining the application of these By-Laws.

## 1. Competition structure

- (a) The Masters League encompasses the following Leagues:

Weekend Men's Masters League
Weekend Women's Masters League
Midweek Men's Masters League
Midweek Women's Masters League

- (b) The Weekend Men's Masters League is to be divided in descending order as follows:

O40 Division 1 Men
O40 Division 2 Men
O50 Division 1 Men
O40 Division 3 Men
O40 Division 4 Men
O50 Division 2 Men
O60 Division 1 Men
O50 Division 3 Men
O50 Division 4 Men
O60 Division 2 Men

- (c) The Weekend Women's Masters League is to be divided in descending order as follows:

Proposed O35 Division 1 Women
Proposed O35 Division 2 Women
Proposed O50 Division Women

- (d) The Midweek Men's Masters League is to be divided in descending order as follows:

O40 Division 1 Men
Proposed O40 Division 2 Men
Proposed O50 Division Men

- (e) The Midweek Women's Masters League is to be divided in descending order as follows:

Rae Blunt Pennant Women
O35 Division 2 Women
O35 Division 3 Women
O35 Division 4 Women
Proposed O50 Division Women

- (f) Hockey WA may create additional divisional League Grades as required.
- (g) If the number of teams nominated in a division require that this division is split into multiple Grades, the Grades will be aligned to reduce travel time.

- (h) The number of Teams and rounds will be as follows, unless otherwise determined by Hockey WA:

Weekend Men's Masters Division	Teams	Rounds
All Divisions	Nine (9) or Ten (10)	Eighteen (18)

Weekend Women's Division	Teams	Rounds
All Divisions	Nine (9) or Ten (10)	Eighteen (18)

Midweek Men's Division	Teams	Rounds
All Divisions	Nine (9) or Ten (10)	Eighteen (18)

Midweek Women's Division	Teams	Rounds
All Divisions	Nine (9) or Ten (10)	Eighteen (18)

- (i) No Club is permitted to have more than one (1) Team in any Masters League Grade except the lowest possible Grade. If a Masters Division is split into two Grades based upon regional location, then a Club may have one (1) Team in each of these two (2) Grades.

## 2. Conduct of matches

### 2.1 Match conditions

Matches will be conducted as follows:

- (a) All matches must be played on the date and time and at the ground nominated, unless determined by Hockey WA.
- (b) A match will consist of:

Four (4) periods of play	Timing of play	Intervals of play immediately following the nominated period of play	Other match conditions
First quarter	Seventeen (17) minutes	First interval will be two (2) minutes	No end swap, same Team recommences with centre pass Teams must remain on the pitch during the interval
Second quarter	Seventeen (17) minutes	Half-time interval will be five (5) minutes	Teams must swap ends after half-time, other Team recommences with centre pass
Third quarter	Seventeen (17) minutes	Third interval will be two (2) minutes	No end swap, same Team recommences with centre pass Teams must remain on the pitch during the interval
Fourth quarter	Seventeen (17) minutes	Fourth interval will be the end of the match	Not applicable

- (c) A maximum period of ten (10) minutes may be added for delays or interruptions but the match must conclude at a time which is the earlier of:
- five (5) minutes before the scheduled commencement of the next match scheduled to take place on the same field; or
  - eighty-five (85) minutes after the commencement of play.
- (d) Each Team must provide at least one (1) white hockey ball of standard requirements in serviceable condition, to the satisfaction of the umpires. A coloured ball may be used by the agreement of both Teams and both umpires.

## 2.2 Team conditions

The Team conditions will be as follows:

- (a) Teams can comprise of up to sixteen (16) Players. A maximum of eleven (11) Players are allowed to play at one time. Players may be interchanged at any time except during penalty corners.

Each Team must play with either:

- (i) a goalkeeper wearing full protective equipment comprising of at least Protective Headgear, leg guards and kickers and subject to Competitions and Events By-Law 2.1 (c); or
- (ii) 11 field players.
  - Any Team wanting to change between these options must make a substitution at a break in play when their Team is in possession.
- (b) No Team is permitted to commence play with less than seven (7) Players.
- (c) A Team with less than eleven (11) Players may add extra players during the progress of a match until the full complement of eleven (11) Players is reached.
- (d) No field player has goalkeeping privileges or may wear a different shirt. Protective Headgear must not be worn by field players, other than a face mask when defending a penalty corner.
- (e) If a Team has seven (7) or more Players, including any HAHPP draft Players absent for a fixture due to hockey commitments endorsed by Hockey Australia (i.e. national squad competition), Hockey WA, or School Sport WA, then consideration will be given for the fixtures to be rescheduled to an appropriate time. A written request for a reschedule must be received by Hockey WA at least ten (10) days prior to the original fixture date as published and requests will be addressed on a case by case basis. Non-HAHPP draft Players must have previously played for that Team within the current Winter Season.

## 3. Officiating

### 3.1 Technical Officials

- (a) Hockey WA may appoint Technical Officials to control matches in any Grade. The function and powers of Technical Officials are as outlined in the Hockey Australia Australian Championship Operations Manual and as determined from time to time by Hockey WA.
- (b) No Player may enter the playing arena without the consent of the Technical Official.
- (c) Where a Technical Official is present, the captain or manager of each Team must accurately complete the line-up sheet clearly indicating the starting eleven (11) and return it to the Technical Official at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start time of the match. The Technical Official will record the time an interchange Player enters the field for the first time.
- (d) The Technical Official will allow up to a maximum of four (4) non-playing persons on a Team bench during a game including the coach, assistant coach, manager and any medical staff, plus up to five (5) reserve Players. All medical staff present on a Team bench must have sufficient documentation of accreditation.
- (e) The Technical Official can require any person on a Team bench who engages in loud or offensive behaviour to withdraw from the playing arena, in addition to any consequence referred to in Competitions & Events By-Laws rule 5 (c).

### 3.2 Umpiring

The umpiring Rules are as follows:

- (a) Hockey WA will allocate each Grade umpiring duties throughout the year. Wherever possible, these will occur at Umpiring Byes scheduled through fixturing. However, if there is an even number of Teams in a Grade, then Teams will be allocated umpiring duties by Hockey WA.

- (b) Where the allocated umpire(s) fails to arrive by the scheduled starting time a replacement umpire(s) must be sourced by the competing Teams. Failure to source a replacement umpire(s) will result in the competing Teams nominating a Player(s) to undertake the umpiring allocation.
- (c) In the event that both Teams are required to nominate a Player umpire under sub-rule (b), failure of one (1) Team to do so will result in forfeiture of the match.
- (d) Failure of the allocated umpire(s) to attend the match does not give cause to request re-fixturing of the match. For the Team that was allocated to umpire, *this is a Penalty Provision*.
- (e) If the allocated umpire(s) arrive after the commencement of the match, they may take the place of the replacement umpire(s) by agreement of both Teams.

## 4. Player qualification

The player qualification rules are as follows.

### 4.1 Qualifying Season player qualification

- (a) A Player may only play in one (1) Masters League match within the same Fixture Week, unless:
  - (i) One of the games is in a Weekend Masters League match and the other is in a Midweek Masters League match;
  - (ii) They are a Double Up Player, State Replacement Player or Permit Player under rule 0, 4.3 or 4.4;
  - (iii) Competition & Events By-Law rule 6.3 applies (which deals with playing more than one (1) match in a Fixture Week across different age restrictions); or
  - (iv) More than one (1) match in the same Grade is scheduled to be played during the same Fixture Week;

Note: An Umpiring Bye will be considered to be a Fixture Week. Any Player participating in an Umpiring Bye, whether they actually umpire or just do not play in a match that weekend, will be deemed by Hockey WA to have participated in that Fixture Week for that Grade.
- (b) A Player may play in any Grade for which they are qualified provided that when that Player's Regular Grade has a bye or forfeits a game, they cannot play in a lower Grade unless permission has been granted by Hockey WA. Application for permission must be in writing and submitted to the Hockey WA office two (2) full business days prior to the fixture.

This sub-rule (b) only applies after the first three (3) weeks of the Winter Season.
- (c) A Player may not drop more than one (1) Club Grade within one (1) Fixture Week. The order for determining Grade hierarchy is located in the Competition Structure in Rule 1.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Player that does not play for consecutive Fixture Weeks may drop the same number of Grades as the number of Fixture Weeks missed.
- (d) Hockey WA may declare a forfeit where it deems that a Club, without a satisfactory explanation to Hockey WA, has played a disproportionate number of regular Players from a higher ranked Team in a lower ranked Team.
- (e) During the Eligibility Period, a Team must not include more than two (2) Players whose Regular Grade immediately prior to the Eligibility Period, was in a higher ranked Team. The two (2) Players may only play one (1) match for that Fixture Week.

(f) To play in the Masters Leagues, Teams must meet the following criteria:

Weekend Men's Masters	All Players	Exceptions
O40 Division 1	At least 40 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	3 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 36 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A fourth may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
Other O40 Divisions	At least 40 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	2 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 39 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A third may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
O50 Divisions	At least 50 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	2 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 49 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A third may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
O60 Divisions	At least 60 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	2 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 59 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A third may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
Weekend Women's Masters	All Players	Exceptions
O35 Divisions	At least 35 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	2 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 34 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A third may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
O50 Division	At least 50 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	2 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 49 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A third may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
Midweek Men's Masters	All Players	Exceptions
O40 Division 1	At least 40 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	3 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 36 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A fourth may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
Other O40 Divisions	At least 40 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	2 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 39 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A third may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
O50 Division	At least 50 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	3 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 49 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A fourth may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
Midweek Women's Masters	All Players	Exceptions
Rae Blunt Pennant	At least 35 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	3 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 31 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A fourth may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
Other O35 Divisions	At least 35 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	2 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 34 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A third may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper
O50 Division	At least 50 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held	3 under-age Players may be selected who are at least 49 years old at 31 December of the year the season is held A fourth may be selected if they are the Goalkeeper

Clubs may apply for a Permit for additional underage Players should exceptional circumstances apply for either the Player or the Team the permit would apply for. These applications will be considered by the Masters Committee, with a particular focus on any potential unfair advantage to be gained, and their recommendations will be applied by Hockey WA.

## 4.2 Double Up Players

- (a) A Team may list and play three (3) Double Up Players, or four (4) if one of the Double Up Players is a goalkeeper.
- (b) The Rules about eligibility of Double Up Players are as follows:

	Rules	Result	Procedure
<b>A Player is eligible to be a Double Up Player if:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) one (1) game is in the Player's Regular Grade; and</li> <li>(ii) the other game is in the Grade immediately either side according to the Club's hierarchy as referred to in Rule 1.</li> </ul>	A Double Up Player may play two (2) matches in a Fixture Week	Double Up Player(s) must be clearly indicated by a "D" in the Player role column of the match report sheet in the higher graded match and by a "1" in the Double Up column on the Online Portal. <i>This is a Penalty Provision</i>
<b>A Player is not eligible to be a Double Up Player if they are or have been:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A member of a team playing in an open age national hockey competition in the previous two (2) years; or</li> <li>(ii) a HAHP Player; or</li> <li>(iii) an open age national team representative in the previous twelve (12) months; or</li> <li>(iv) listed in a Club's Core Player list.</li> </ul>	A Player, who is not a Double Up Player, cannot play two (2) matches in a Fixture Week.	Nil

- (c) In the Eligibility Period, a Team cannot include a Double Up Player if that Double Up Player's Regular Grade immediately prior to the Eligibility Period was higher than one (1) of the matches the Team intends to play the Double Up Player in.
- (d) When a Player has played in more than one (1) game in a week as a Double Up Player, then only the match played in the lower Grade may be used for assessing that Player's Regular Grade.
- (e) If a Club contravenes rule 0, then the Double Up Player(s) will be an ineligible player in that Club's lower Grade match and the appropriate penalty will be applied, as set out in rule 10 of the Competition & Events By-Laws.

## 4.3 State Replacement Player

- (a) The rules about eligibility of a State Replacement Player are as follows:

	Rules	Result	Procedure
<b>A Player is eligible to be a State Replacement Player if:</b>	<p>The Player is playing in place of another Player who is absent (Absent Player) due to being a member or official of a recognised National or State team or squad, or event official, and is participating in, or travelling directly to or from, an Official Activity associated with that role;</p> <p>Provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) one (1) Team a State Replacement Player plays for in a Fixture Week is the Team in which the Absent Player usually plays;</li> <li>(ii) the other Team the State Replacement Player plays for in the same Fixture Week is in a lower Grade and is or will be that Player's Regular Grade; and</li> <li>(iii) the Absent Player has not been replaced under this Rule more than six (6) times in the current Winter Season, unless permission has been obtained from Hockey WA.</li> </ul>	A State Replacement Player may play two (2) matches in a Fixture Week.	State Replacement Player(s) must be clearly indicated by an 'S' in the Player role column of the match report sheet in the higher graded match and by a "1" in the State Replacement column on the Online Portal. <i>This is a Penalty Provision</i>

- (b) In the Eligibility Period, a Team cannot include a State Replacement Player if that Player's Regular Grade immediately prior to the Eligibility Period was higher than one of the matches the Team intends to play the State Replacement Player in.

- (c) When a Player has played in more than one (1) game in a week as a State Replacement Player, then only the match played in the lower Grade may be used for assessing that Player's Regular Grade.
- (d) If a Club contravenes Rule 4.3, then the State Replacement Player(s) will be an ineligible player in that Club's lower Grade match and the appropriate penalty will be applied, as set out in rule 10 of the Competition & Events Rules.

#### 4.4 Permit Player

- (a) The rules about eligibility of a Permit Player are as follows:

	Rules	Result	Procedure
<b>A Player is eligible to be a Permit Player if:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a Player has a Goalkeeper permit (automatic). That Player may take the field in one (1) match as a goalkeeper and in any other match as a field player; or</li> <li>(ii) in exceptional circumstances, Hockey WA may grant a permit for a Player to play in two (2) matches in a Fixture Week. Permit requests must be received by close of business on the second last working day prior to the match</li> </ul>	A Permit Player may play two (2) matches in a Fixture Week	Permit Player(s) must be clearly indicated by a 'P' in the player role column of the match report sheet in the match for which permission has been granted and by a "1" in the Permit column on the Online Portal. <i>This is a Penalty Provision</i>

- (b) If a Permit Player plays as a field player and a goalkeeper throughout the Winter Season, that Permit Player can qualify for two Finals, but can only qualify in a Final for the position in which the Permit Player has played in that Grade throughout the year.

For example: if a Player has played as a goalkeeper in O40 Division One and a field Player in O40 Division Two they cannot play as a goalkeeper in an O40 Division Two game.

- (c) If a Club contravenes Rule 4.4, then the Permit Player(s) will be an ineligible player in that Club's lower Grade match and the appropriate penalty will be applied, as set out in rule 10 of the Competition & Events By-Laws.

#### 4.5 Finals qualification

- (a) To play in a Final:

A Player must have played at least three (3) fixtures prior to Finals for the Club in the Masters League or have obtained the prior permission of Hockey WA; and

The Player must have played greater than half of their matches for the Winter Season for that same Club in the Grade they are seeking to play Finals in or lower;

**OR**

If the Player's Regular Grade is higher, the Player must have played in the Masters League in the Grade they are seeking to qualify for or lower, for the same Club, in the Eligibility Period. If a Team has an Umpiring Bye within the Eligibility Period, the Player must participate in this Umpiring Bye to qualify for Finals;

**OR**

The Player must obtain permission from Hockey WA, which will only be given if Hockey WA is satisfied no unfair advantage will be gained.

- (b) In the event of an ineligible player playing in a Finals fixture, the outcome will be forfeiture of the fixture in which the breach occurred, as set out in rule 10 of the Competition & Events Rules.
- (c) Players will be exempt from Rule 4.4(c) if they are prevented from qualifying to play Finals due to Australian representation.

## 5. Finals

### 5.1 Format for Finals

The format for Finals will be as follows:

- (a) The top four (4) Teams on the premiership table at the completion of the Qualifying Season will play in the final series.
- (b) The final series will comprise of:

Final	Explanation	Result
<b>First semi-final</b>	The third and fourth placed Teams on the premiership table play each other	The losing Team is eliminated from Finals.  The winning Team will play the losing Team of the Second semi-final in the preliminary final.
<b>Second semi-final</b>	The first and second placed Teams on the premiership table play each other	The losing Team will play the winning Team of the first semi-final in the preliminary final.  The winning Team will play the winning Team of the preliminary final in the Grand Final.
<b>Preliminary final</b>	The winning Team of the first semi-final and the losing Team of the second semi-final play each other	The losing Team is eliminated from Finals.  The winning Team moves into the Grand Final to play the winner of the second semi-final.
<b>Grand Final</b>	The winning Team of the second semi-final and the winning Team of the preliminary final play each other	The winning Team is the winner of the grade.

### 5.2 Tie breakers

The format for tie breakers will be as follows:

- (a) If the score in a Finals game is level at the end of normal time then, after a five (5) minute rest period, umpires will toss a coin with the captains and the winner will have the choice of ends or possession of the ball to re-start the match. Two (2) periods of up to five (5) minutes of extra time will be played, in between which Teams must change ends without a rest period.
- (b) The first Team to score a goal in extra time is the winner of the game.
- (c) In the event that the score is still level at the end of the two (2) periods of extra time then a penalty stroke competition as outlined in the Hockey Australia Tournament Regulations will be played to establish the winner of the match.
- (d) In a penalty stroke competition, five (5) Players from each Team will take a penalty stroke alternatively.
- (e) Permanently suspended (red card) Players are ineligible to take part in a penalty stroke competition.
- (f) The umpires, after consultation with the Team captains and Technical Official if present, will choose the goal to be used and will toss a coin with the captains, the winner having the choice to take or defend the first penalty stroke.
- (g) One of a Team's nominated goalkeeper/s must defend for their Team unless unable to do so, in which case another Player may replace them. This Player must wear approved goal keeping equipment, including Protective Headgear.
- (h) Once each Team has taken five (5) penalty strokes, the Team with the highest number of goals is the winner of the game.

- (i) In the event of an equal number of goals having been awarded to each Team during the first penalty stroke competition, a second penalty stroke competition will occur as follows:
  - (i) the same Players as featured in the first penalty stroke competition will take part;
  - (ii) it will feature 'sudden death', which means that the winning Team will be the first Team to have scored one (1) more goal than the opposing Team after an equal number of penalty strokes has been taken by each Team;
  - (iii) the sequence of Players taking penalty strokes does not need to be the same as in the first penalty stroke competition and the Team captain has freedom of choice at the time of each penalty stroke as to which of the nominated Players will take it;
  - (iv) all five (5) nominated Players must take a penalty stroke before any of them are eligible to take a further one;
  - (v) the Team which defended the first penalty stroke of the first competition must not defend the first penalty stroke of this second competition.

## 6. Promotion and relegation

- (a) Hockey WA will apply the promotion and relegation guideline in **Appendix C**. The guideline will be applied at the commencement of the Winter Season each year, starting from the highest Division and moving downward through the grades.
- (b) Where Hockey WA considers the application of the guideline will result in an outcome that is not consistent with the objectives of these Rules, Hockey WA may apply its discretion, taking into account the following principles:
  - (i) outcomes which encourage participation in hockey are to be preferred;
  - (ii) each Grade should consist of Teams of similar ability, so far as is possible;
  - (iii) the views of Clubs affected by a decision should be considered before the decision is finalised.
- (c) Where a Club fails to nominate a Team into a Grade or there are openings in Grades, Hockey WA may apply its discretion to allocate Teams to Grades, taking into account the principles in 6 (b) above.
- (d) A Club may request that a Team not be promoted. Promotion will not occur provided Hockey WA considers that outcome is in the best interests of the Competition, taking into account the principles in 6 (b) above.

## 7. Situations not covered by these Rules

- (a) Hockey WA must consider the intent and purpose of these By-Laws so that they may be applied in any given situation.
- (b) Any situation not provided for explicitly in these By-Laws will be referred to Hockey WA for consideration and determination.

## 8. Seeking an unfair advantage

- (a) Clubs or Teams who deliberately seek to gain an unfair advantage will be subject to a penalty.
- (b) For example, Clubs or Teams that collude or conspire to predetermine the results of any match will be deemed to be seeking an unfair advantage.
- (c) *This Rule 8 is a Penalty Provision.*

## 9. Fines table

Where any rule confers discretion on Hockey WA to determine a fine, Hockey WA will be guided by the following decision matrix:

Level of breach	Example
Minor breach	Procedural breach only
Medium breach	Has the potential to operate to the detriment of another Club or Team
Serious breach	Wilfully attempting to gain an unfair advantage, to the detriment of another Club or Team

## Appendix A: Defined terms

**Absent Player** is a Player who a State Replacement Player is replacing.

**Advisory Group** refers to an advisory group that is set up by Hockey WA to assist with the decision-making process.

**Association, WAHA, and Hockey WA** all refer to the name of the Western Australian Hockey Association Incorporated and its Staff, Board and Committees.

**Australian Permanent Resident** is defined as someone who is present in Australia at that time and holds a permanent visa at that time.

**Business Day** means a day (other than a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday) in Perth, Western Australia.

**CEO** refers to the Hockey WA Chief Executive Officer.

**Club** means any Club or Association, or any other group within Australia or overseas controlling the playing of field hockey, according to the Rules of FIH.

**Committee** refers to a Committee that is set up by Hockey WA to carry out delegated functions or powers of Hockey WA, such as the **Competition Rules Committee**.

**Competition** means the leagues controlled by Hockey WA.

**Division** refers to the specific ways in which each League controlled by Hockey WA is separated. These are outlined for each specific League within their own specific Rules.

**Double Up Player** is a Player who has met the criteria in Rule 0.

**Eligibility Period** means the last four (4) rounds of the Qualifying Season for Premier Division One and the corresponding Fixture Weeks for all other Divisions.

**FIH** refers to the International Hockey Federation.

**Final** refers to any of the series of matches played at the end of the Qualifying Season to determine the Premier.

**Fixture Week** refers to a period during which a set of fixtures for that Competition takes place, as set out in Hockey WA's season calendar.

**Grade** refers to the specific ways in which each Division within each League controlled by Hockey WA is separated, which is mainly done when divisions can be separated by location.

**HAHPP** refers to the Hockey Australia High Performance Program.

**League** refers to one of Senior Turf League, Metropolitan League, Masters League, Junior League, Senior Indoor League or Junior Indoor League which are conducted under the auspices of Hockey WA.

**Media** means any form of media or social media such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, Instagram, Tiktok or Flickr.

**Members** are the Clubs and regional associations affiliated with Hockey WA.

**Official Activity** refers to championship fixtures and all commitments associated with them, and rest periods for athletes sanctioned by the governing bodies responsible for those athletes.

**Online Portal** refers to the online Competitions, fixtures and results portal used by Hockey WA.

**Penalty Provision** means a rule which if breached could result in the imposition of a financial penalty (usually a fine).

**Permit Player** is a Player who has met the criteria in rule 4.4.

**Player** refers to any player regardless of their position, includes field players and goalkeepers.

**Premier Division One** refers to the highest grade in the men's and women's Competitions conducted under the auspices of Hockey WA.

**Protective Headgear** refers to a full goalkeeping helmet, not just a facemask.

**Protests and Disputes Tribunal** and **Protest Fee** have the meanings given to them in the Hockey WA Competition Rules.

**Qualifying Period** means more than sixty per cent (60%) of matches during the Qualifying Season of the Winter Season.

**Qualifying Season** is the round matches played prior to the Finals series.

**Regional Association** means a regional association whose objects include the fostering, promotion or management of the game of hockey and who apply to and are accepted by resolution of the Hockey WA Board as affiliates of Hockey WA.

**Regular Grade** is the Grade in which a player has played most of their matches in the current season at that point in time up to and including the last qualifying round. Where a player has played an equal number of matches in more than one Grade, his/her Regular Grade will be the higher of those grades.

**Rules of Hockey** means current edition of the FIH Rules of Hockey.

**Scholarship Holder** means a player holding a HAHPP Scholarship.

**Season Premier** refers to the Team in each Grade that finishes on top of the premiership table at the end of the Qualifying Season.

**State Replacement Player** is a Player who has met the criteria in rule 4.3.

**Team** means a number of players registered with a Club and designated by that Club to represent it in a scheduled match in the Competition.

**Technical Officials** may be appointed by Hockey WA to any match and have the functions and powers as outlined in the Hockey Australia Australian Championship Operations Manager.

**Umpiring Bye** is a Fixture Week in which one Team within a division does not have a scheduled match, and instead has been allocated umpiring duties.

**WA Player** refers to a Player who is not an Import Player or Scholarship Holder. Also, a Player who is employed by the Australian Defence Force ('ADF') and has been transferred by the ADF to reside in Western Australia for the purpose of their military service will be deemed to be a WA Player (a Club will be required to submit proof of the person's employment with the ADF and transfer by the ADF to Western Australia, to Hockey WA at least ten (10) days prior to their first game).

**Winter Season** means a Winter Season Competition run by Hockey WA or a Hockey WA affiliated Regional Association, including junior Competitions, the first day of which will be the date of the first match of the Competition and the last day of which will be the date of the grand final match of the Competition for that season.

## Appendix B: Promotion and relegation guideline

- (a) This guideline applies to all Masters Grades.
- (b) The lowest finishing Team in a Grade will be relegated, provided a Team from the Grade directly below is eligible for promotion.
- (c) A Team can be promoted by being the highest finishing Team in the top four of a Grade, subject to guideline (d).
- (d) A Team cannot be promoted into a Grade in which there is already a Team from the same Club.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, the time at which the 'same Club' rule in guideline (d) takes effect is the time of promotion. The effect of this is that if a Team from the same Club is relegated under guideline (b), there is a vacant position for the Team in the next lowest Grade from the same Club to be promoted into, should it be eligible.
- (f) If a Team is relegated into a Grade where there is another Team from the same Club, and that Team hasn't been promoted under guideline (e), that other Team will be relegated. This process continues until there is a Grade where there is no other Team from the same Club.
- (g) If the effect of a Team being relegated as a result of guideline (f) is that the division they were relegated from will have fewer Teams than required by rule 1 (h), then the Team that would otherwise have been relegated from that Grade due to being the lowest finishing Team will not be relegated.

<p><b>Special promotion and relegation guidelines</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To facilitate the splitting of Grades from one Masters division to the division immediately lower within the same age group, the two (2) lowest finishing Teams in the higher Masters division will be relegated provided a Team from each of the lower Masters Grades is eligible for promotion.</li> <li>2. A Team can be promoted from each of the lower Masters Grades to the higher Masters division by being the highest finishing Team in the top four of the Grade, subject to guideline (d).</li> <li>3. Guideline (e) applies to the lowest finishing two Teams in the higher Masters division.</li> <li>4. The promotion and relegation process for split Masters divisions will seek to align Teams based upon rule 1 (g), which deals with limiting travel time for all Teams within each grade.</li> </ol>
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