

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



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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**

The executive committee is elected as per Rules of the WGHA (refer Rule 26.2)

The following positions shall be nominated and elected at the AGM for the purpose of administering the competition and all decisions made by these representatives to be reported to the committee of management for ratification. (Refer Appendix A for nomination form)

- Umpires Convenor
- Match and Fixtures Officer
- Press & Publicity Officer
- Grounds & Equipment Officer
- (Players) Development Convenor -
- Hockey Victoria Delegate – this position to be filled by a member of the Executive Committee
- Canteen/Food Safety Officer

### **2. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR**

WGHA has adopted Hockey Victoria (HV) Codes of Behaviour which will be publicised to all players and clubs. Players and clubs must adhere to the Codes of Behaviour. WGHA puts the responsibility on all clubs to counsel their players, members and representatives in the correct Codes of Behaviour. 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.H 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 Hockeynet registration website.

**NB** Members not affiliated to a club are to register on the HV Hockeynet as a direct member of the association.

## **B. TRANSFERS:**

No player desiring to transfer from one Club to another shall play a match for their new Club until they have obtained a written clearance from their former Club and permission from the Committee (or Executive Committee). (Penalties apply - see [By-Law 10.H Penalties Code 21](#)).

- (a) The former club **can** withhold permission if there are outstanding fees owing by the player.
- (b) The former club **cannot** withhold permission when:
  - (i) the player has not played in the WGHA winter competition for 2 seasons **OR**
  - (ii) the player has only played at the Under 8 level.

## **C. PHOTO CONSENT:**

To obtain the consent of each player (or a parent/guardian of a player under 18) for his/her photo to be displayed on the WGHA website or other WGHA media. The names of all players for whom consent was given are to be passed on to the Association Secretary. As per WGHA Rule 9.1.

## **D. PLAYER UNIFORM:**

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) Shin-guards are compulsory.
- (d) Uniform socks are to be worn.
- (e) Mouth guards are strongly recommended.

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

## **E. COACHES IN JUNIOR MATCHES:**

- (a) U8 - One coach allowed on any part of the field at any time.
- (b) U10 - One coach allowed on the field at any time for the first 8 rounds but not inside either circle.
- (c) All Other Age Groups - No coach allowed on the field at any time.

## **F. UMPIRES:**

Clubs must supply umpires as rostered to umpire matches at the venues stipulated. For further details refer to [By-Law 8 'Umpiring'](#)

## **G. CLUB DUTY ON MATCH DAY:**

Clubs must supply personnel, when rostered as per playing season Match & Fixture schedule to prepare and set up clubrooms and field for game day including time keeping for all Junior games. They are also to assist in the kiosk throughout the whole day's competition, regardless if they have no scheduled games. A complete list of tasks will be advertised by the Committee at the start of each season.

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

## **4. TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

- (a) Provide an approved match ball (as per FIH Rule Book) when they are the first-named team.
- (b) Carry a basic First Aid Kit, WGHA Accident injury forms & Ice
- (c) Provide an official to man the Tech Bench

### **B. MATCH BOOK:**

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

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.

Player's first name and surname not clearly written on team sheets will be deemed as having not played and does not count towards finals eligibility.

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

### **C. PRESS REPORTS:**

Each team is responsible for completing their team's Press Report. It is to be emailed to the Press and Publicity officer ([reports@wgha.asn.au](mailto:reports@wgha.asn.au)) in a timely manner in the required format as determined by the WGHA committee.

## **5. WINTER COMPETITION**

### **A. AGE GRADING.**

- (a) Ages are taken from 1st January in each year. eg. 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 Committee (or Executive).**

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

### **B. TEAM COMPOSITION AND GAMES PLAYING**

- (a) Open Women (Women only - open age)
- (b) Open Men (Men only - open age)
- (c) Age Groups for the Junior Competition will be determined by the Committee from time to time.

- (d) Teams in Junior Competition are of mixed gender, with on-field gender requirements as follows:
  - (i) Under 8 - as this is a development program, no specific gender requirements shall apply
  - (ii) Under 10 - maximum of 7 of either gender on the field (maximum of 9 field players)
  - (iii) Under 12 and Under 14 - maximum of 8 of either gender on the field
  - (iv) Under 16 - no specific gender requirements

**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) No player may play in more than 2 matches in any one round.
- (f) A player receiving a red card during a WGHA match shall not be permitted to play a second match in the same round.
- (g) Players may only move up and down the grades in their own Club. Players may not move up or down more than one age group. However, where there is another Club which is short of players at the next higher age level, an individual player may play for that Club, subject to the approval of the Club to which they have Primary registration. Once having played for the second Club at the higher level they are no longer eligible to play for their Primary Club at that higher level for the remainder of the season. The Match & Fixture Officer is to be notified of any such arrangement.
- (h) Where there is no appropriate grade in their own Club, a senior team may apply for Executive permission to draw substitutes from another Club which has no senior team. Junior players may only fill in for one Club.
- (i) 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.
- (j) 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 Committee or Executive.
- (k) 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.
- (l) All matches shall be scheduled on the synthetic surface, except in exceptional circumstances, where the WGHA committee will decide on where to play.
- (m) "Double Up" Rule - to assist clubs who have too many players for a single team and want to develop a second team at the same age level, players may switch from one team to the other in subsequent rounds or play for both teams in the one round ("double up") subject to the following provisions:
  - (i) A player is only permitted to qualify for finals for one team, and qualifies for this team as per By Laws 5.B.(i) and 5.B.(n)
  - (ii) Where players "double up" in any round up to round 4, both matches count towards finals qualification, one for each team.
  - (iii) Players may only "double up" a maximum of 3 times during the regular season.
  - (iv) No "double up" is permitted in finals matches.
  - (v) A maximum of two (2) players can "double up" for each team in a single round.
  - (vi) Where "double up" players give the team more players than the opposition team, permission must be sought from the opposition captain or coach for "double up" players to participate. If permission is granted, the team sheet must be endorsed as such by the opposition captain or coach.
  - (vii) "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.
  - (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) If a player is recorded as having exceeded their limit of matches in bylaw 8.B.(m).(iii), then that team will have a forfeit recorded against them for that match.

Note: These provisions are to be applied in conjunction with the “Hockey Victoria Codes of Behaviour” 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.

- (n) No player shall take part in a final or semi-final match unless they are registered in the Match Book as having played in at least one third of matches played by their team in the current season OR they meet the parameters of By-Law 5.B.(o).
  - (i) Where there are cancellations, these would be counted as games played if the player played in the round that occurred immediately prior to the cancelled game.
  - (ii) In the case of a forfeit, players in the forfeiting team shall not have their names recorded as eligibility for finals. Players in the non-forfeiting team shall be recorded as qualifying for finals.
  - (iii) Any special cases are to be requested in writing to the Executive Committee five (5) days prior to Semi -finals. The Executive shall have the power to act.
- (o) 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 non-finals and semi-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 non-finals and semi-final 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 not only the opposition team contact, but also the WGHA Executive, the Umpires Convenor and the Match and Fixture Officer.

### **D. ON FIELD INJURIES**

- (a) In the event of an injury in non-finals and semi-finals when there is no provision for “time to be stopped”, one designated person (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. Where an interchange is required, the substitute player can accompany the Club Official to the spot where the injured player is and commence playing while the injured player is removed from the ground.

- (c) Treatment of bleeding players:
  - (i) All bleeding cuts and abrasions should be treated immediately, wearing disposable latex or vinyl gloves
  - (ii) If bleeding cannot be stopped the player must NOT continue playing. (for the benefit of all, co-operation on this point is expected).
  - (iii) Clothing and equipment contaminated with blood should be removed before resuming play.
  - (iv) Disposable towels should be used, where possible, to treat bleeding wounds, and be disposed of afterwards in a plastic bag. Bag to be marked as 'Blood product'
  - (v) Areas and equipment contaminated with blood should be cleaned and disinfected with hypochlorite solution (eg: 1:10 solution household bleach). Gloves should be worn during the cleaning process.
  - (vi) It is recommended that players and officials of contact sports be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
  - (vii) Any person who receives a penetrating injury of the skin, or has blood splashed onto their person should seek medical advice

#### **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:
- (c) 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.

- (d) 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.
- (e) 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 (eg. 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 Second & Third v Fourth
- (b) **Preliminary Final:** Winner of Third v Fourth plays Loser of First v Second
- (c) **Grand Final:** Winner of First v Second plays Winner of Preliminary Final

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**

- (a) Semi-Finals:

In the event of a drawn game, the match will be awarded to the team higher on the ladder, unless the scheduling of matches allows for extra time of two halves of 5 minutes each to be played. In the event of extra time being played, if the result is still a draw then the match shall be awarded to the team higher on the ladder.

Where a final series is reduced to just 2 rounds of finals due to exceptional circumstances, in the event of a drawn game in a semi-final, extra time of two halves of 5 minutes shall be played. If either team scores a goal during the extra time period, then the match shall be deemed at end and the team that scores the goal shall be declared the winner ("golden goal" provision). If the result is still a draw at the end of extra time then the match shall be awarded to the team higher on the ladder.

- (b) Preliminary Finals.

In the event of a drawn game, extra time of two halves of 5 minutes each shall be played. If the result is still a draw, the match will be awarded to the team higher on the ladder.

- (c) Grand Finals.

In the event of a drawn game at full time, after 3 minutes:

- (i) completion of the first period), unless
- (ii) either team scores a goal and then the match shall be deemed at end and the team that scores the goal shall be declared the winner.

NB: Extra Period means:

- Open-Age and Over-Age Matches: seven minutes and thirty seconds.
- Under-Age Matches:-five minutes.
- (iii) If the match is still drawn, the competition shall be decided as follows:
  - Under 10 & Under 12 - the team highest on the ladder at the end of the regular season shall be declared winner.
  - Remaining competitions - Penalty Shoot-outs, to be played according to the Rules of Hockey Victoria current at the time.

## **6. GROUNDS & GAME DAY**

- (a) In the event of dangerous playing conditions, the Grounds and Equipment Officer (in consultation with the WGHA Umpire's Convenor if available) shall be responsible for inspecting the field and making any recommendation to the Executive that the grounds are change ends and play two Extra Periods (with no interval except to swap ends at the Executive 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 Grounds and Equipment Officer, scheduled umpires, team captains and available Executive) shall be empowered to temporarily halt or totally abandon matches.
- (c) 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](#).
- (d) In the compilation of the WGHA Draw for the winter season, an “Extra” week is to be allotted after the Grand Final to allow for “cancelled or abandoned games”.
  - (i) Semi Final cancelled or abandoned matches:
    - a. to be re-scheduled for the following week and remaining finals to be put back a week.
    - b. In the event of further “cancelled or abandoned” Games, First shall play Fourth and Second shall play Third with the winners progressing to the Grand Final.
  - (ii) Preliminary Final cancelled or abandon matches:
    - a. If a spare week is available re-schedule the final to the following week.
    - b. If no spare week available call an Emergency Meeting of the Committee.
  - (iii) Grand Final cancelled or abandoned matches:
    - a. If a spare week is available re-schedule the final to the following week.
    - b. If no spare week available call an Emergency Meeting of the Committee.

## **7. GOALKEEPERS**

- (a) Each team (apart from Under 8) must have a goalkeeper on the field at all times during play. It is compulsory for goalkeepers 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 is highly recommended. Goalkeeping Helmets MUST NOT be worn in general play beyond the 23metre line.
- (b) It is recommended that goalkeepers in Men’s and Women’s matches to also wear full protective equipment.
- (c) It is compulsory for goalkeepers in all Junior matches (apart from Under 8) to 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.
- (d) An incapacitated or suspended goalkeeper must be replaced by another goalkeeper or field player acting as a goalkeeper. Play is to be stopped to replace the goalkeeper; time will not be stopped unless playing a Preliminary or Grand Final game.
- (e) During the suspension of a goalkeeper, the team concerned has one less field player.

## **8. UMPIRING**

- (a) Umpires must wear fluoro top or vest
- (b) In the event of a Club not fulfilling an umpiring commitment in accordance with the fixture, their Club will be penalised as specified. ([See By-Law 10.H Penalties Code 6 or 7](#))
- (c) In the situation of a rostered umpire arranging a substitute who fails to meet the commitment, penalty as per [By-Law 10. H Penalties Code 6 or 7](#) will be applied to the club of the rostered umpire.
- (d) Clubs may satisfy a scheduled umpiring commitment by organising for a substitute umpire from outside their Club provided that umpire is suitably badged and/or experienced. Clubs may choose to pay umpires provided they are suitably badged and/or experienced, subject to approval by the Umpires Convenor or WGHA Committee.
- (e) The umpire's decision is final and no discussions will take place on the field of play. The captains of the teams concerned must enforce this By-Law.
- (f) In all preliminary and grand finals, time will be kept by the umpires. Time will be stopped according to the Rules of Hockey eg: penalty strokes, substitution of goalkeepers, and where appropriate for serious injury, warnings, lost ball etc.

- (g) Any person umpiring finals should be of an appropriate standard at the discretion of the Umpires Convenor or WGHA Executive Committee

#### **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 Most valuable player, 2 votes to 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.
  - (i) 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).
  - (ii) A player who is suspended from WGHA competition for one or 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.
  - (iii) Suspensions arising from incidents in the finals will render that player ineligible for awards the following year.
- (e) In Junior Grades, excepting Under 8, 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.**

- (a) Representatives from each club, equivalent to the number of teams Under12 and higher) within the club, shall attend any official WGHA Umpiring Instruction session or course and sit any theoretical or practical test as and when arranged by the Umpires Convenor.
- (b) At least half of such Club representatives shall be senior men or women.

(See [By-Law 10. H Penalties Code 31](#))

### **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) 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.

- (c) 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.
- (d) 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)
- (f) 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.
- (g) The Secretary shall, in writing, inform all parties to the hearing of the decision of the Disputes Committee as soon as possible.
- (h) **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.
- (i) **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   |
|--|---|--|--|
| 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) |
| 6  | Non-supply of umpires as rostered – First Offence   | \$20   |  |
| 7  | Non-supply of umpires as rostered – Second and Subsequent Offence                                     | \$50   |  |
| 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              |  |  |
|  |   | <b>Suggested penalty</b>                         |  |
| 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.

## **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 Development Sub-Committee, with the power to co-opt additional selectors as considered appropriate and/or due to the unavailability of any member of the Development Sub-Committee.

## **13. PREGNANT PLAYERS**

Pregnant players are advised that there may be risks involved in playing when pregnant. Participants are encouraged to obtain and act on professional medical advice with regard to pregnancy and sport.

## **14. 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 under 8,10,12 & 14 matches and all grass matches.

## **15. UNDER 8 RULES**

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.
  - a. (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.

## **16. UNDER 10 RULES (Based on Hockey Victoria Half-Field Rules 2015)**

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.

**APPENDIX A**



West Gippsland Hockey Association Incorporated  
A004426X  
Position of Management Nomination Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

of \_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

being a member of the West Gippsland Hockey Association Incorporated A004426X, hereby  
nominate \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

on the Position of Management of the West Gippsland Hockey Association Incorporated A004426X

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
I, \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

of \_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

being a member of the West Gippsland Hockey Association Incorporated A004426X, hereby second  
the nomination above.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
I, \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

of \_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

being a member of the West Gippsland Hockey Association Incorporated A004426X, hereby accept  
the nomination above.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Official Use Only

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_