

Sydney Hockey



Competition Rules

2024 Winter Season

Adopted 12th March 2024

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Appendix 1. Reference

FIH General Tournament Regulations: Shoot-out Competition. Outdoor Competitions – May 2022

1 DEFINITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 In these Rules:

- (a) The definitions in Clause 1.2 of the Constitution will apply unless the contrary intention appears from the context;
- (b) The following words have the following meanings:

Association or Sydney Hockey mean Sydney Hockey Association Inc

Board means the board of Sydney Hockey

Chair of the Judiciary or **Chair** means the person appointed by the Board under Rule 17.1(a), and includes any acting Chair appointed under Rule 17.1(c)

Competition Committee means the Board will act as Competition Committee under Rule 2.1

Constitution means the constitution of SYDNEY HOCKEY, and **2014 Constitution** means the Constitution in force during the 2014 playing season

Executive Officer means the person appointed by the Board as Sydney Hockey executive officer under clause 17 of the Constitution

HNSW means Hockey NSW

Judiciary means the Chair of the Judiciary together with such other people as the Chair may appoint from time to time under Rule 17.1(b)

Officiating Committee means the committee appointed by the Board under Rule 2.12

Records Officer means the person appointed by the Board or the Competition Committee to collect and manage records of matches managed by Sydney Hockey

Revolutionise or **RevSport** means the competition's software program.

Rule means any of these Sydney Hockey Competition Rules

SL means Sydney League, which are the competition grades beneath Premier League as managed by Sydney Hockey

PL means Premier League, which are the highest graded level of competitions managed by Sydney Hockey

1.2 These Rules are intended to promote Sydney Hockey objectives as set out in the Constitution and comply with FIH Rules of Hockey where applicable

2 ROLES OF THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE AND THE OFFICIATING COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Board may appoint a Competition Committee to manage the hockey competitions that Sydney Hockey structures and administers. The Board retains ultimate responsibility for structuring its hockey competitions, and for decisions made in Sydney Hockey name.
- 2.2 The Competition Committee will:
- (a) meet at such times and by such means as it determines;
 - (b) appoint a chairman from its members;
 - (c) make decisions by majority vote and record them in its minutes; and
 - (d) make the minutes of its meetings available to the Board at all times.
- 2.3 The Board may amend or overrule any decision by the Competition Committee (including on an appeal under Rule 2.11). The Board must provide the Competition Committee (and any appellant under Rule 2.11, if applicable) with a written statement of its reasons for any amendment or overruling.
- 2.4 By playing in its competitions, all clubs and players agree that Sydney Hockey (directly or through the Competition Committee or Officiating Committee (as appropriate)) can investigate alleged breaches of any of its Rules and act on those breaches.
- 2.5 If a breach of a Rule is confirmed, the relevant parties agree to pay the penalties set out in these Rules, or such other greater or lesser penalties as Sydney Hockey (either directly or through the Competition Committee or the Officiating Committee) may impose. For the avoidance of doubt, penalties from the Competition Committee may include the loss of competition points, fines, forfeitures of matches and suspension from the competition.
- 2.6 If a club official is responsible for any breach of the Rules that undermines Sydney Hockey's objectives, the Competition Committee can direct the club to require that he or she be suspended from involvement with Sydney Hockey matches for such period as the Competition Committee specifies. During that period the club must not allow the official to be at any ground where an Sydney Hockey match is being played, or within its vicinity, or to participate as a spectator, player, coach or official in any such match.
- 2.7 A person or club can:
- (a) appeal to the Competition Committee against any decision of the Competition Committee affecting them (including an automatic suspension by Sydney Hockey under Rule 16, but not charges made by an umpire resulting in the issue of a red or yellow card); and
 - (b) lodge a complaint, charge, citation, or protest against any alleged breach of these Rules including a citation alleging the commission of an offence by a player that is capable of being dealt with by the Judiciary in accordance with Rules 18 and 19, but for which the player was not issued a red card (not including events for which an umpire issued a red or yellow card), by following the procedures in Rule 2.8.
- 2.8 An appeal, complaint, charge, citation or protest must be:
- (a) in writing;
 - (b) lodged with the Executive Officer within forty-eight hours of the relevant breach or decision being notified to them or the completion of the relevant match (if it related to events in a match), as the case may be; and

- (c) accompanied by evidence of a \$250 fee being paid by an electronic deposit to Sydney Hockey's nominated account as a fee for the specific appeal or protest.
- 2.9 The Competition Committee will endeavour to hear any appeal, complaint, charge, citation, or protest within the week following the alleged breach being notified or completion of the relevant match, as the case may be. If this is not achievable it must be heard at the earliest practicable later time.
- (a) Matters referred to the Competition committee may also be decided under terms of Section 18 'Processes for Judiciary'.
- 2.10 The Competition Committee will provide the person or club with a written summary of its decision and the reasons it was reached. The fee will be refunded unless the appeal is lost or declared frivolous by the Competition Committee.
- 2.11 If the Competition Committee rejects an application under Rule 2.7 the person or club can appeal to the Board by following the steps set out in Rule 2.8 (including payment of a further fee). The appeal to the Board will be heard as soon as practicable. The Board's decision on such an appeal is final and binding. The fee will be refunded only if the appeal is upheld.
- (a) Where the Competition Committee or Board may need to refer to an independent arbiter, the complaint, charge, citation or protest, would be referred to the Chairman of the Judiciary for a decision.
- 2.12 The Board will appoint an Officiating Committee to manage the appointment, development and performance of umpires and technical officials who officiate in matches in hockey competitions that SYDNEY HOCKEY structures and administers. The Board retains ultimate responsibility for all aspects of its hockey competitions, and for decisions made in Sydney Hockey's name.
- 2.13 The Officiating Committee will:
- (a) meet at such times and by such means as it determines;
 - (b) appoint a chairman from its members;
 - (c) make decisions by majority vote and record them in its minutes; and
 - (d) make the minutes of its meetings available to the Board at all times.
- 2.14 The Board may amend or overrule any decision by the Officiating Committee (including on an appeal under Rule 2.18). The Board must provide the Officiating Committee (and any appellant under Rule 2.18, if applicable) with a written statement of its reasons for any amendment or overruling.
- 2.15 A person or club can appeal to the Officiating Committee against any decision of the Officiating Committee affecting them (but not charges made by an umpire resulting in the issue of a red or yellow card). The appeal must be:
- (a) in writing;
 - (b) lodged with the Executive Officer within forty-eight hours of the relevant breach or decision being notified to them; and
 - (c) accompanied by evidence of a \$250 fee being paid by an electronic deposit to Sydney Hockey's nominated account as a fee for the specific appeal or protest.
- 2.16 The Officiating Committee will endeavour to hear any appeal within a week of the Executive Officer receiving the appeal. If this is not achievable it must be heard at the earliest practicable later time.

- 2.17 The Officiating Committee will provide the person or club with a written summary of its decision and the reasons it was reached. The fee will be refunded unless the appeal is lost or declared frivolous by the Officiating Committee.
- 2.18 If the Officiating Committee rejects an application under Rule 2.15 the person or club can appeal to the Board by following the steps set out in Rule 2.15(a), (b) and (c) (including payment of a further fee). The appeal to the Board will be heard as soon as practicable. The Board's decision on such an appeal is final and binding. The fee will be refunded only if the appeal is upheld.
- (a) Where the Competition Committee or Board may need to refer to an independent arbiter, the complaint, charge, citation or protest, would be referred to the Chairman of the Judiciary for a decision.

3 SUITABILITY OF GROUNDS USED FOR SYDNEY HOCKEY MATCHES

- 3.1 Sydney Hockey will not schedule matches at the home ground of any club until the club or other ground operator confirms to SYDNEY HOCKEY that it has:
- (a) clear instructions and procedures in place to deal with all medical emergencies and accidents or injuries during any matches;
 - (b) an AED/defibrillator on the ground; and
 - (c) ice available at the ground (even if it must be purchased).
- 3.2 Clubs with home grounds will take all reasonable steps to ensure that no-one enters the playing area while matches in Sydney Hockey competitions are underway (including the warm-up and break times) other than:
- (a) the players in the scheduled match,
 - (b) ball persons,
 - (c) officials,
 - (d) appropriately attired team support people; and
 - (e) medical officers if needed.
- 3.3 Sydney Hockey has the right to monitor all club grounds and facilities for matters relevant to player, official and spectator safety, including access, lighting lux, fencing, goals, dug outs, field wear and tear and amenities for players, officials and spectators. Sydney Hockey may audit grounds and facilities for these issues annually or as required and make recommendations to clubs on means to improve player, official and spectator safety.
- 3.4 Sydney Hockey reserves the right to move and or re-schedule matches to another venue depending on venue conditions and safety.

4 MATCH RULES AND SAFETY OF PLAYERS, COACHES, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS

- 4.1 The Rules of Hockey adopted by and issued under the authority of Hockey Australia will govern all matches played in competitions managed by Sydney Hockey, except to the extent that the Board or Competition Committee has:
- (a) varied, delayed, deleted or added to them; or
 - (b) issued its own competition rules and interpretations from time to time.
- 4.2 Hockey Australia and HNSW's Member Protection policies apply to all matches managed by Sydney Hockey, except to the extent that these Rules vary, delay, delete or add to them without infringing them.
- 4.3 All field players are recommended to wear shin, ankle and mouth protection whenever playing in a match managed by Sydney Hockey, and all goalkeepers must wear a complete goalkeeping outfit.
- (a) any player including a Goalkeeper, that under Umpires direction, requires 1st Aid assistance on field, must leave the field for a minimum of 2 minutes. Normal substitution rules apply.
- 4.4 Clubs must ensure that each of their teams have a suitably stocked first aid kit available during warm-ups and matches, including when playing at Sydney Olympic Park turfs.
- (a) Ideally a team member to have 1st aid Qualifications
 - (b) In addition, at SOP, SH will contract a company to provide 1st Aid services
- 4.5 Clubs must ensure that the only people in their playing dugout during the course of any match (including warm-up) are as per Clause 7.11. All teams to abide by the spirit of this rule, i.e. individuals who would usually be on the Match Card for that game, but are injured or otherwise ineligible to participate, should not be in the dugout.
- 4.6 Field players may only be coached from the dugout during matches.
- 4.7 A player must be at least 14 years old on 1 January in the year of the current season in order to play in a match managed by Sydney Hockey.
- 4.8 Clubs are to encourage all players, coaches, managers and spectators to respect umpiring and Technical Official's decisions.
- (a) No videoing of the match is to be effected from the teams dugout
- 4.9 Clubs must provide mentoring to players who frequently receive temporary suspensions during matches. Clubs must also comply with any instructions issued by the Competition Committee when the Competition Committee believes those instructions will reduce or remove unacceptable risks to players, officials or spectators at SYDNEY HOCKEY matches.
- 4.10 Sydney Hockey's *Lightning Safety Code* applies to all matches conducted by SYDNEY HOCKEY. From 1 January 2015 it requires that:
- (a) matches are to be stopped as soon as thunder is heard 30 seconds or less after lightning is seen; and
 - (b) matches can recommence no sooner than 30 minutes after the last lightning strike was seen or thunder heard, or at such other time as the appointed officials and team captains may agree based on their local knowledge and their duty to consider the safety of all concerned.

- 4.11 Sydney Hockey can at any time amend Rule 4.10 by adopting a new *Lightning Safety Code* (including without prior member approval) or adopting other safety codes in accordance with any recommendations made by relevant experts or authorities. It will notify all clubs when it makes a change or adopts a new code.

5 REGISTRATION OF CLUBS, TEAMS AND PLAYERS

- 5.1 A club seeking to enter a team in a competition managed by Sydney Hockey must be a member club of one of the six HNSW member associations based in Sydney.
- 5.2 Clubs with teams playing in SYDNEY HOCKEY managed competitions must:
- (a) register their full playing uniform (shirts, shorts and socks) with SYDNEY HOCKEY when they first enter Sydney Hockey's competitions;
 - (b) register an alternate uniform if so directed by SYDNEY HOCKEY on the basis their uniform creates a possible conflict of colours with another club
 - (c) ensure all their field players wear their registered uniform in all matches (subject to (d));
 - (d) ensure all their field players wear their alternate uniform if they are the team listed as the AWAY team and they are playing the club with whose uniforms there is a conflict; and
 - (e) seek and receive Sydney Hockey approval in advance for any change to their uniform or alternate uniform.
 - (f) Players in PL1-3 grades to have the same unique numbered shirt ideally limited to two digits, details to be notified to Sydney Hockey throughout the season
- 5.3 The colour of a goalkeeper's smock must not be similar to the colour of the opposing team's playing shirts.
- 5.4 Clubs must:
- (a) ensure all players and non-playing officials are registered with HNSW. Non-playing officials include managers and coaches
 - (b) ensure all players nominated to play in Sydney Hockey matches have met all their financial obligations to their previous Sydney Hockey Club. All Sydney Hockey Clubs are to provide a list of their Unfinancial Players each year to Sydney Hockey Executive Officer (on a date to be determined by the Board) for distribution to all Club Secretaries. This can include unfinancial players from previous years. Once a player has rectified their liability to a Club, the Club must, as soon as is practicably possible, notify the Executive Officer so that the name will be removed from this list. Any breach of this rule will lead to a forfeit for every game in which an Unfinancial Player has participated.
 - (c) provide Sydney Hockey through Revolutionise software a list of their Player Names, Date of Birth, National Hockey ID number, a passport size photo, and whether a player is identified under Clause 6.8, by a date determined by Sydney Hockey; and
 - (d) obtain Competition Committee approval in advance if a player wishes to transfer from one club to another after 1 July in any year and play in any Sydney Hockey managed matches during the balance of that season.
 - (e) The Competition Committee may penalise a club by not awarding match points or deeming games to be forfeited if it is subsequently found that players were not properly registered with HNSW.

- 5.5 Team lists are to be supplied to Sydney Hockey on the following basis:
- (a) clubs should assist SYDNEY HOCKEY create a fair competition by grading players generally according to their skills, and by seeking to ensure SYDNEY HOCKEY grades their teams based on their overall skills relative to teams in the same SYDNEY HOCKEY grade, in light of Sydney Hockey's overall objectives;
- 5.6 Each club's teams list must be:
- (a) listed as per the template in RevSport
 - (b) show the club's name and be clearly dated on the first page;
 - (c) show each full team and its Sydney Hockey grade for the season;
 - (d) show all the club's players in their nominated regular grades (as specified from time to time);
 - (f) have a minimum of 11 players per team registered in the Teams listed in Revolutionise software except the club's lowest two teams; and
 - (g) not have any player in more than one team.
- 5.7 Sydney Hockey and the Competition Committee have the right to:
- (a) review all player nominations and all player and team gradings;
 - (b) request additional information from clubs about team lists in any matches played or scheduled, including match cards and player histories;
 - (c) reject any request for players or teams to be in a particular team or grade;
 - (d) refuse to allow any player or official to participate in its competitions or any grades of its competitions; and
 - (e) take such other actions as it believes appropriate, when it believes such actions are in the interests of the competitions as a whole.
- 5.8 Team lists are to be supplied and may be updated as follows:
- (a) clubs are to follow issued procedures in uploading players to teams in "Revolutionise" software
 - (b) confirmed team lists for every grade must be provided to Sydney Hockey prior to Round 3 of the Premier League competition in that season;
 - (c) where revisions to team lists are required, they are to be provided to Sydney Hockey prior to the commencement of Round 10 of the Premier League competition in that season.
- 5.9 A player who joins a club after the start of the season and is properly registered is entitled to play in Sydney Hockey competitions even if he is not yet included in a club's team lists as provided to Sydney Hockey, but the club must upload the player's details to a team in the "revolutionise software", in order to be included in a team.

6 COMPETITION STRUCTURE AND WEEKLY TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 Sydney Hockey's competitions will be divided into such grades as Sydney Hockey determines from time to time.
- 6.2 In structuring grades
- (a) In Sydney Leagues; Promotion and relegation between grades at any time will be determined by the Board in its discretion.

- (b) In Premier League grades Clubs & Teams competing will be determined by Grading structure arrangements in place, ie 3 teams /3 grades
- 6.3 A club that withdraws a team from the competition.
- (a) A club that withdraws a team from the competition after the first initial draw for the season has been published is subject to the penalty set out in Rule 21. The team withdrawn MUST be from the lowest grade that the Club had nominated a team in for that season
- (b) In Premier League grades, no withdrawal of teams is allowed following publishing of the season draw
- 6.4 In matches in Sydney Hockey's top five grades, being PL1-3 and SL 1-2:
- (a) All PL1 clubs are to nominate nine players who are to be quarantined to play only in PL1 for the duration of the season. Permission for these players to play outside of PL1 must be sought from the permits committee no later than 48 hours before the designated game start time
- (b) Only one player who is noted as a listed/graded Player in PL3, SL1 and SL2, can play in that Club's next lowest grade for that Round;
- (c) no team can have more than five (5) players on the match card who play in a higher or lower grade in that round of the competition;
- (d) If a Premier League Club team has a bye for a particular Sydney Hockey Round the players who were in the starting line-up for the round previous to the bye, are ineligible to play in any lower grade team for that bye round
- 6.5 In matches in Sydney Hockey's lowest five grades, being SL3-7:
- (a) any player listed/graded in a higher grade can play in his Club's next lowest grade in a Round. No player can play more than 2 grades lower than where listed/graded. Only one Player from the team above the fourth lowest grade can play in the next lowest graded team for that Club (as per Rule 6.4(c)).
- (b) No team can have more that five (5) players on the match card who are listed/graded in a higher or lower grade in any round of the competition. (as per Rule 5.5 & 5.6)
- 6.6 No player can play in more than two (2) competition matches in any one competition round, regardless of grade, except for:
- (a) a goalkeeper who is asked to play because another goalkeeper is injured or cannot otherwise play; and
- (b) any player otherwise approved to play by the Competition Committee.
- 6.7 No team on a match card can have more than seven players who meet ALL THREE of the following criteria:
- (a) they live outside the area defined as Sydney in the 2014 Constitution: and
- (b) they are regular players in a men's outdoor hockey competition that is not managed by Sydney Hockey or any of the six hockey HNSW member associations in Sydney: and
- (c) at the most recent NSW Men's Open State Championship they played for a hockey association other than Sydney Hockey or (for events after 2014) any of those six hockey associations.
- 6.8 No player under suspension from any hockey competition within Australia will be eligible to participate in any Sydney Hockey Competition match until his suspension has been served.

- (a) Any game in which he has played will be deemed to be a forfeit;
 - (b) 'Suspension being served' Sydney Hockey will be deemed as the weekend after they served the final match of their suspension.
 - (c) Where SH are officially notified of a suspension to a player from an association or Club, the suspension will be made known to SH participating clubs. Likewise should a SH participating club be advised directly of a suspension by an association, they will advise SH of such suspension.
- 6.9 The penalty for a breach of Rules 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7 or 6.8 will be:
- (a) the forfeit of games (depending on which Rule is breached, this could be for multiple teams at the discretion of the Competition Committee) in which the relevant player or players were named on the match card; and
 - (b) the inability of any player playing in breach of these Rules to use any games that round in assessing their eligibility to play in any finals series matches,
 - (c) and such other alternative or additional penalties as the Competition Committee determines.

7 MATCH SCHEDULING, START TIMES AND PLAYING TIMES AND TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1 Sydney Hockey will develop a draw for its competitions using a home and away approach to distribute matches fairly. Sydney Hockey will use reasonable endeavours to accommodate club requests for club days and other initiatives in the draw if it believes they will assist clubs to develop themselves and the sport. SYDNEY HOCKEY will publish its draw as early as practicable in the year.
- 7.2 All matches will be played on grounds and at times scheduled by Sydney Hockey. The Competition Committee may vary the time, date or place of any match in the draw if this is in Sydney Hockey interests. The Executive Officer will advise all clubs concerned as early as practicable of any such changes. SH will take into consideration advice from Government authorities regarding public safety concerns.
- 7.3 Teams must be at the appointed ground at the scheduled start time for every match unless the Executive Officer has provided a written confirmation that the match can be delayed or deferred.
- 7.4 Teams will have a maximum of sixteen (16) players, subject to the right to replace or substitute for an injured goalkeeper. Substitution of players is permitted at any time in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.
- 7.5 Match balls are to be provided on the following basis:
- (a) the designated home team for all matches will provide four (4) clean balls of a kind approved by Hockey Australia for each match.
 - (b) a Standard Kookaburra dimple ball is the SYDNEY HOCKEY minimum required; and
 - (c) the match cards must note if the home team fails to supply these balls. The Competition Committee may impose a fine for one or more failures to do this.
- 7.6 Each Premier League team (PL1, PL2 & PL3) will have a manager who will liaise with the ground marshall and other technical officials at the team's matches. The manager will also be responsible for the behaviour of his or her club's people in the dugout. The Competition Committee may impose a fine for one or more failures to do this.

- 7.7 The home teams in all PL1 matches must provide a minimum of two suitably attired ball persons. (if Match is Live Streamed; 2 Ball persons per team) Those ball persons must have enclosed footwear, and if they are juniors, they must also wear shin pads and mouth guards. All ball persons must be registered with HNSW as players or non-playing officials so that they are covered by HNSW's insurance policies. The Competition Committee may impose a fine for one or more failures to do this.
- 7.8 A time of 90 minutes is allocated for all round matches in all grades. The time begins at the scheduled start time and consists of:
- (a) 10 minutes warm up;
 - (b) In all grades, 4x17 minute quarters with no time stopped for penalty corner setup.
 - (c) First and Third quarter time breaks are for 2 mins each, where players must stay on the field and be ready to re-commence play at the end of the quarter break.
 - (d) a 5-minute half time break; and
 - (e) Time-outs for injury are not allowed except in PL1 matches.
- 7.9 Matches must start within 10 minutes after the scheduled start time. If both captains and both umpires agree, a match may commence at any time during that 10-minute warm up period.
- 7.10 Except in PL1, a match that starts more than 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time must still finish five (5) minutes before the scheduled start time of the next match, even if this reduces the overall match time. Neither the umpires nor any other officials for these matches are permitted to extend such a match's time if this would affect a subsequent match. Umpires and officials for PL1 matches can use their discretion about the match finishing time depending on circumstances.
- 7.11 In all matches including the matches in finals series, the only people permitted in the dugouts must be registered with Hockey NSW and be:
- (a) Players and reserves for that game, as listed on the Match Card.
 - (b) Team Coach and Assistant Coach
 - (c) Team Manager; (PL1,2&3 must have a Non -Playing Manager)
 - (d) Team Physio/Doctor (if applicable) - qualifications to be verified by Officials

8 APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES

- 8.1 The Officiating Committee will manage the appointment, development, performance management and other issues related to umpires and technical officials for Sydney Hockey's matches.
- 8.2 Each club will appoint one (1) qualified umpire for each match in which it is playing unless the Officiating Committee or Sydney Hockey has indicated it will arrange umpires for that match. The penalty set out in Rule 21 will apply for any breach.
- 8.3 If Sydney Hockey had indicated that two umpires would be provided for a match, but only one umpire attends, the clubs must assist by each providing an umpire for half the match, unless the appointed umpire agrees to a different arrangement. (if only one umpire, in the first instance, the Home or first named team to provide)

- 8.4 If the Officiating Committee or Sydney Hockey had indicated that umpires would be provided for a match, but one or both umpires fail to attend, the clubs involved in the match must:
- (a) note this on the match card; and
 - (b) notify the Sydney Hockey Chair of the Officiating Committee or such other person nominated by the Officiating Committee that the appointed umpire or umpires were not in attendance.
- 8.5 If umpires fail to appear or are not appointed the person/persons who perform the umpire duties are to sign and print their full name and club on the Match Card. If those person/s are not registered with Sydney Hockey Officiating, their Club will be refunded the umpire expense equal to the normal rate charged for that grade.

9 USE OF MATCH CARDS, RECORDING OF MATCH RESULTS AND COLLECTION OF MATCH CARDS

- 9.1 SYDNEY HOCKEY will publish a form of Match Card. Each team must use the most recent such form.
- 9.2 Each team's Match Card for each match must list the names of its players in capital letters.
- 9.3 The team's appointed official is to update the team list in "revolutionise software", prior to the match starting. Before a match starts, each team official is to hand its 'paper based' match card showing all players and shirt numbers to any umpires or technical officials appointed for that match, unless the umpires and officials are not present at that time
- 9.4 Both Match Cards must be completed at the end of the match. This means:
- (a) the scores, scorers and other required information (including player suspensions, any failure to supply game balls, the non-attendance of an appointed umpire) must be recorded on each match card;
 - (b) the names of any player who did not take to the field in the match must be struck out;
 - (c) the Cards must be signed by the umpires and/or other officials appointed for the game, or if they were not appointed or not present, by the teams' captains; and
 - (d) every strike out and alteration on either Match Card must be initialled by the people signing the cards.
- 9.5 Match Cards for matches which are forfeited or incomplete are to be completed as follows:
- (a) the result is to be shown as "Forfeit claimed by (Club)" or "Incomplete" as appropriate; and
 - (b) If a match is forfeited in advance of the players going to a venue, the match cards are to be signed by the teams' captains.
 - (c) Match Cards are not required for matches which are scheduled but then deferred under Rule 10.1 or 10.2 until the match is actually played or deemed a draw.
- 9.6 Scores for matches will be as shown on the Match Cards except that:
- (a) teams winning on a forfeit will be awarded five (5) goals and the losers no goals;
 - (b) If a match is deemed a draw under these Rules, or if both teams are deemed to have forfeited, no goals will be awarded to either team.
- 9.7 All clubs must update the initial uploaded match day team list in the "Revolutionise software", the Result, Goalscorers, Penalty Cards and B&F points of each of their matches immediately following the completion of the match, and at the latest by 5pm on the Sunday in that round of matches, or such other time as Sydney Hockey specifies. This means:

- (a) results of matches played on a Sunday are due that day; and
 - (b) results are required even for matches declared a forfeit or which are incomplete
 - (c) Team Officials are to review match metrics and lodge a 'dispute' if wrong information has been recorded
- 9.8 Each team must upload to the website its Match Card to the Records Officer by 5pm on the Sunday after the match.
- (a) Match Cards can be scanned and uploaded to the “Revolutionise Software” as a pdf (but not .jpg or .tif) or alternatively sent by post or delivered in person.
 - (b) Penalties for failing to provide results or Match Cards by the specified time are as set out in Rule 20. Sydney Hockey may issue warnings to clubs but is not required to do so.
 - (c) Sydney Hockey has the right to check all team lists, Match Cards and player registrations to ensure compliance with these Rules
- 9.9 Based solely on the Match Cards provided and entries in RevSport (but subject to the result of any protest or patent error, and to any scores directed by these Rules), the Records Officers will:
- (a) Verify the recording of the results for all matches, the scores by each team and the points awarded; and
 - (b) maintain a register of all temporary and permanent player suspensions, utilising the records entered in the Revolutionise software
- 9.10 Competition points will be awarded on the result of each competition match as follows:
- (a) for a win or a win on forfeit, three (3) points;
 - (b) for a draw, one (1) point;
 - (c) for a loss or a loss on forfeit, nil (0) points; and
 - (d) for a bye, as determined by the Competition Committee to ensure a fair competition, subject to the Competition Committee’s discretion to moderate the points to create a fairer outcome in competitions in which teams have unequal numbers of scheduled matches.
- 9.11 Clubs must retain a copy of all Match Cards until the end of the season. Sydney Hockey will make copies of all match cards for the current season available for inspection by all clubs by such a method as it determines.

10 DEFERRED AND INCOMPLETE MATCHES

- 10.1 The teams in any scheduled match (except the finals) can agree to defer that match by notifying the Executive Officer of that agreement at any time up to 48 hours before the scheduled start time for the match. Such a match will be recorded as a 0-0 draw (subject to Rule 10.8) unless the deferred match is played:
- (a) within three weeks of the originally scheduled date or, if the finals matches are four weeks or less away, by the last weekend before the finals series are scheduled to start;
 - (b) at a venue and time the clubs agree and arrange themselves; and
 - (c) with umpires the clubs appoint and pay themselves.
- 10.2 A match will be deferred if any of the ground marshalls, the technical officer or the umpires jointly (or in their absence, the captains jointly) deem a venue, including the playing surface, to be unfit for play.

- 10.3 If a match is deferred under Rule 10.2 and or Rule 7.2 Sydney Hockey will be responsible for arranging an alternative time and venue for the match that is acceptable to both clubs. If the match is not able to be played a week or more before the finals series the match will be deemed a 0-0 draw, subject to Rule 10.8.
- 10.4 A match may be abandoned and declared incomplete (subject to 10.5) during its course if the ground marshalls, technical officer or appointed umpires (or in their absence, the captains jointly) agree it is not able to be completed for any reason, including because of damage to the field, lightning, weather, failure of lights or serious player injury.
- 10.5 A match will not be regarded as incomplete solely because the umpires end it ahead of the scheduled time. If game time reached to the end of 3rd quarter time and it is stopped by the TO, Umpires or agreement of the Captains the score at that time will be recorded as the final score.
- 10.6 The Executive Officer must be notified of an incomplete match within 24 hours of the scheduled completion time. Neither team will receive competition points for the game if this is not done
- 10.7 Sydney Hockey will seek to arrange a new time and venue for an incomplete match to be replayed unless both clubs confirm a match was substantially completed and the result was unlikely to change. If the match is not able to be replayed a week or more before the finals series the match will be deemed a 0-0 draw, subject to Rule 10.8.
- 10.8 The Competition Committee can decide that a club has forfeited a match that Sydney Hockey or two clubs were seeking to reschedule after it was deferred or declared incomplete if:
- (a) the Executive Officer or the other club provide evidence that they tried repeatedly to reschedule the game at grounds and times that were reasonable in the circumstances; and
 - (b) The Competition Committee believes the club was not genuinely seeking to facilitate a rescheduling, including by putting the club's own interests ahead of the interests of the competition as a whole.
- 10.9 Except for suspensions, player eligibility for deferred matches is determined by the requirements for the round in which the match was initially scheduled, and not by the round in which it is eventually played, so:
- (a) a player who would have been ineligible to play in the match as initially scheduled because of Rule 6.7 is ineligible to play in the deferred match, regardless of matches played at the time of rescheduling;
 - (b) a player who would have been eligible to play in the match as initially scheduled (including under Rule 6.7) is eligible to play in the deferred match, regardless of matches played at the date of rescheduling;
 - (c) a player who was suspended on the date initially scheduled for the match, but who completes his suspension (see rule 6.8) before the deferred match is played, is eligible to play in the deferred match; and
 - (d) a player who is suspended (see rule 6.8) at the time the deferred match is played cannot play but can count the rescheduled game as part of that suspension assuming he would otherwise have been on the match card for the match.

11 FORFEITED MATCHES

11.1 A team forfeits a match if:

- (a) it does not take to the field within 20 minutes of the time listed by Sydney Hockey as the start time for the match;
- (b) it takes the field with fewer than seven (7) players;
- (c) any of its players is unregistered, incorrectly registered or from a different Sydney Hockey club (unless otherwise permitted by the Rules);
- (d) an unauthorised player from a higher-grade plays in the match;
- (e) it has more than 16 players (excluding goalkeepers who substitute for an injured goalkeeper);
- (f) it has more players from outside Sydney than the number permitted by these Rules;
- (g) except as allowed by Rule 10.9 (b), a player plays in that match and two or more other Sydney Hockey competition matches in that round, and it is the highest graded of those three or more games;
- (h) it is a finals match and a player is not qualified to play in that finals series; or
- (i) the Board or Competition Committee (acting reasonably) resolve that a team be deemed to have forfeited the match.

11.2 Notification of an intended Forfeit

- (a) A team can notify Sydney Hockey at any time that it will forfeit, or agrees that it has forfeited, a match
- (b) If a club advises it is forfeiting a game, the club must forfeit the lowest grade game. This applies to PL1 to PL3 and as a separate rule for SL1 to SL7

11.3 A team that wishes to claim a forfeit must within forty eight (48) hours of the scheduled completion time for match:

- (a) make the claim in writing;
- (b) set out the reasons (including relevant Rules) that it believes the other team should be required to forfeit the match;
- (c) attach a copy of the relevant match card;
- (d) submit the claim to the Executive Officer; and
- (e) send a copy of the claim to the other club concerned.

11.4 The claim for a forfeit will be heard by the Competition Committee within the week following the match, or if this is not achievable by the earliest possible later time. The Competition Committee may reject any claim for a forfeit:

- (a) if the team claiming the forfeit knew in advance of the issue underlying the claim but failed to show good sportsmanship by drawing the issue to the other team's attention in advance, particularly if it knew the other team was not, or was unlikely to be, aware of the issue;
- (b) if the actions or inactions underlying behind the claim were reasonable at the time based on the relevant team's understanding of the facts and/or its reasonable interpretation of the Rules;
- (c) if the claim, even if technically accurate, would lead to an apparently unfair result, and the Competition Committee decides that upholding it would not be in the interests of the competition as a whole; or
- (d) on such other grounds as it deems appropriate.

- 11.5 Any match that is determined to be a forfeit by one team will be recorded as a 5-0 win to the non-forfeiting team. If both teams would be regarded as forfeiting the match it will be deemed a 0-0 draw but with neither team receiving any competition points.
- 11.6 The team that forfeits a match will also incur a fine equal to half the total costs for that match (including venue hire fees, umpire fees and any other match costs incurred by Sydney Hockey. Sydney Hockey will then credit that fine to the opposing team so that neither Sydney Hockey nor the opposing team bears any match costs for the forfeited match.

12 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS SERIES MATCHES

- 12.1 Sydney Hockey intends that all finals will be played between teams that fairly represent the players that played throughout the competition rounds, and that finals teams are not unfairly strengthened by the inclusion of higher-graded players.
- 12.2 A player may play in a finals game if he played in more than half of the team's competition round matches during that season, including at least four of the last eight matches of the season, provided:
- (a) a player may count only one game per round in assessing finals eligibility (including matches won by forfeit);
 - (b) a player must be listed on the match card and play in the relevant matches;
 - (c) a match will not count if the player was playing in breach of any Rule on player eligibility.
 - (d) if a player is listed for or plays in two different grades in any round, only the higher graded match in which the player participated counts towards finals eligibility; If the number of higher graded matches exceeds 50% of scheduled matches, the player will not be eligible for the lower graded finals.
 - (e) a listed/graded player will be deemed to have been on the match card and played in a match if the opponents forfeited a match; and
 - (f) if a club forfeits a game its players cannot count that game towards finals eligibility.
 - (g) Rounds where the team has a bye do not count as potentially eligible matches for finals qualification
- 12.3 A player who does not qualify for a finals series under Rule 12.2 because he has not played in at least four of the team's last eight matches will still be eligible to play in the finals for that team if:
- (a) the player has played the majority of his matches over that season in that team (based only on matches that count under Rule 12.2 towards finals eligibility) ;
 - (b) the player's club provides evidence to the Executive Officer that the player met the above requirements in accordance with the time requirements for requests under Rule 12.6; and
 - (c) the Competition Committee confirms that it does not believe the player should be required to play only in a higher grade based on the grades he has played in during the season, particularly in the later parts of the season.
- 12.4 A player who would qualify under Rule 12.2 for a finals series in any grade (regardless of whether his team qualified) may play for his club in a finals series in any higher grade.
- 12.5 A player who does not qualify for a finals series under Rules 12.2 or 12.4 may request Competition Committee permission to play in a finals series:

- (a) on the basis that his failure to play in some or all of the relevant missed matches was due to factors other than him playing in a higher grade or in higher level hockey in a different competition, with evidence provided to support this; or
 - (b) on such other basis as it may wish to claim.
- 12.6 Where a request is made for a player who is presently a member of the current Hockey Australia “Kookaburra” squad, the Competition Committee would expect that the player has played in at least 3 competition rounds for his Club in that season, to be granted a finals permit under this clause.
- 12.7 All requests for permission to play in finals matches must be received no later than 5:00pm on the Monday of the week that the finals commence; submissions should include completed documentation supporting the request. This may include but is not limited to, Dr’s certificates, work schedules, travel itineraries and other necessary supporting proofs
- (a) Supporting information will be accepted for any application no later than 5:00pm on the Monday of the week that the finals commence. Requests made without satisfactory supporting information will be considered incomplete and will not be evaluated
 - (b) Late requests may be accepted by the Competition Committee in its absolute discretion.
 - (c) During the season, when known long term injuries may impact on Finals eligibility please advise Sydney Hockey at that time.

13 FINALS

- 13.1 At the end of the competition rounds the teams in each grade will be ranked on the following basis:
- (a) the highest number of their competition points; then
 - (b) If teams have equal points, the largest positive goal difference; then
 - (c) If teams have equal goal differences, the largest number of goals scored; then
 - (d) If teams scored equal number of goals, the winner when the teams last met in competition rounds; then
 - (e) If the teams drew that last round game, the winner when the teams met in the immediately previous competition round; and then
 - (f) If the teams drew that game as well, the toss of a coin with both captains present.
- 13.2 The top six ranked teams in Grades PL 1 - 3 will play in the finals. Their finals will be structured as:
- (a) Week 1 - one Major Semi-Final being 1 v 2, and two Elimination Finals being 3 v 6 and 4 v 5. The losing teams from the two Elimination Finals will not progress to Week 2.
 - (b) Week 2 – two Grand Final Qualifiers. One Grand Final Qualifier will be played between the winning team from the Major Semi-Final and the lowest ranked winning team from the Elimination Finals. The other Grand Final Qualifier will be played between the losing team from the Major Semi- Final and the highest ranked winner from the Elimination Finals.
 - (c) Week 3 – the Grand Final. The winners of the two Grand Final Qualifiers will play the Grand Final.

13.3 In all Sydney League Divisions the top 4 ranked teams will play in the finals. Their finals will be structured as:

- (a) Week 1 - two Semi Finals. They will be 1 v 2 (the Major Semi-Final) and 3 v 4 (the Minor Semi-Final).
- (b) Week 2 – one Preliminary Final. The winner of the Minor Semi-Final will play the loser of the Major Semi-Final
- (c) Week 3 – the Grand Final. The winner of the Major Semi- Final will play the winner of the Preliminary Final.

13.4 Sydney Hockey normal playing rules apply to all matches in all finals (including grand finals) except that:

Premier League Grades:

- (a) if the score is even at the end of normal time, a 5-minute break will be taken, teams will change ends and play will continue until one side scores a goal (upon which it will be declared the winner) or until 10 minutes expire, whichever occurs first;
- (b) in the first five minutes of this additional period only nine (9) players per team may take the field (less any suspensions in place at the end of the match regular time); and
- (c) teams will change ends again after those first 5 minutes (with no break), and for the balance of time only seven (7) players per team may take the field (less any suspensions in place

Sydney League Grades

- (d) In SL finals Series, If the normal time result is a Draw, extra time will be played (2 x 5 min half's) with drop-offs, starting with 9 players then 7 in the second half, (less any suspensions in place), Golden Goal rule applies. If the result is a draw at the end of extra time the team finishing higher on the ladder will advance.
- (e) In PL & SL finals matches in Week 3, i.e. Grand Finals, in the event of a Draw a penalty shootout will be held to determine the winner.
- (f) In both PL & SL grades, Time outs for injuries in Finals matches will be allowed.

13.5 If neither team scores in the extra 10 minutes of play under Rule 13.4, for all elimination finals in PL1, PL2 & PL3 a penalty shootout will determine the winner to progress to the following week's matches (for finals matches in Weeks 1 and 2).

- (a) **Exception:** in PL1, PL2 & PL3 matches where Position 1 Plays Position 2 in the first week of finals. No additional time to be played, the highest ranked team progresses as does the other team, in the event of a draw in ordinary time.
- (b) The shootout will be done as 1 v 1 attacks starting from the 23, with each attack to be made by a different field player. Teams will take turns at attacking, with the team going first being determined by the umpire's coin toss.
- (c) The team with the most goals after both teams have had 5 attacks will be the winner
- (d) If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs: a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to the conditions specified in FIH Rules Appendix 12 ; the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first. When one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot-outs, that team is the winner.

14 SUSPENSION OF A PLAYER BY AN UMPIRE

- 14.1 An umpire of a Sydney Hockey match may temporarily suspend a player from the match by awarding a green or a yellow card and may permanently suspend a player from the match by awarding a red card.
- (a) A green card carries a 2-minute temporary suspension.
 - (b) A yellow card may carry either a 5 minute or a 10-minute temporary suspension, as determined by the umpire.
 - (c) A person receiving a Red card must promptly leave the venue(s) until their suspension is finalised
- 14.2 If a player is temporarily suspended the umpire must indicate to or tell the player and (where applicable) the ground marshal, Technical Officer, the duration of any suspension, and all suspensions (including time periods for yellow cards and reasons for red cards) must be marked on the match cards at the end of the game.
- 14.3 If a player is permanently suspended from a match by receiving a red card, the umpire awarding the card must:
- (a) at the conclusion of the match, advise the suspended player or a representative of the suspended player's club of the reason for the suspension, including the specific charge against the player which has been entered on the match card;
 - (b) by 5:00pm on the Monday immediately after the match, report the suspension (by telephone or email) to the Executive Officer and the Chair of the Judiciary; and
 - (c) by 5:00pm on the Monday immediately after the match, submit a written report on the incident to the Executive Officer (with a copy to the Chair of the Judiciary).
- 14.4 The umpire's written report under Rule 14.3(c) must include:
- (a) the suspended player's name, club and grade and the name of the opposing team,
 - (b) the date and place of the suspension.
 - (c) the reason for the suspension, including the rule invoked.
 - (d) an adequate description of the events leading up to the suspension; and
 - (e) any other matter that the umpire considers relevant to the suspension.
- 14.5 If a Sydney Hockey appointed umpire fails to meet the requirements of Rule 14.3 the Executive Officer and Chair of the Judiciary will determine whether the umpire should be directed to forfeit any fee for the relevant match. If the umpire was not appointed by SYDNEY HOCKEY the Executive Officer and Chair of the Judiciary will determine whether there should be any further action in relation to the suspension.

15 SUSPENSION OF A PLAYER BY SYDNEY HOCKEY

- 15.1 A player who receives two or more yellow cards in its matches during a single season, including finals, may be suspended by Sydney Hockey automatically, even if the player was playing in different grades or for different clubs when the yellow cards were issued.
- 15.2 Automatic suspensions will be determined on the following basis (but subject to Rule 15.3):
- (a) a player accrues five (5) demerit points when he receives a yellow card with a 5-minute suspension and seven (7) demerit points when he receives a yellow card with a 10-minute suspension;
 - (b) when the aggregate demerit points accrued by a player in any season reaches or first exceeds 14, the player will automatically be suspended for the next round or finals match;

- (c) when the aggregate demerit points accrued by a player in any season reaches or first exceeds 24, the player will automatically be suspended again for the next round or finals match;
 - (d) when the aggregate demerit points accrued by a player in any season reaches or first exceeds 28, the player will automatically be suspended yet again for the next round or finals match; and
 - (e) after any suspension under (d), for every further five demerit points accrued by a player in any season, the player will automatically be suspended for the next round or finals match (or matches) after the award of that further yellow card or cards, provided that if a player reaches or exceeds two or more of the thresholds set out above at the same time, the suspensions will be added together. He may therefore immediately be suspended for two or more consecutive matches.
- 15.3 The suspensions in Rule 15.2 will be varied as follows:
- (a) a player with 13 or fewer demerit points before the start of a finals series will have those points ignored for the purposes of assessing suspensions based on yellow cards awarded in the finals; and
 - (b) the Competition Committee or the Board can increase any suspension for continual offenders in accordance with Rule 15.7.
- 15.4 In accordance with Rule 4.9, clubs must provide mentoring for players who frequently receive temporary or other suspensions during matches. The Competition Committee or Board may take action to suspend players for periods longer than those set out in Rule 15.2 or Rule 21 if it believes a player's record of such suspensions over several years shows the player's conduct is detrimental to the game.
- 15.5 SYDNEY HOCKEY will notify all club secretaries of every automatic suspension, but a player or his club cannot delay an automatic suspension solely because that notice has not yet been received by them.
- 15.6 An automatic suspension will disqualify that player from participating in any game to be played in the round or rounds following notification, including any finals series match or the first round or rounds of the next season.
- 15.7 A player or club may appeal against an automatic suspension using the process set out in Rule 2.8. The Competition Committee will consider the appeal as soon as practicable and make a final and binding decision.
- 15.8 A player issued with a red card is automatically suspended from playing in Sydney Hockey matches until the Judiciary begins hearing the case against him (including any early guilty plea), unless:
- (a) the Chair of the Judiciary grants approval to play under Rule 18.1; or
 - (b) before the Chair of the Judiciary can begin any hearing, the Chair of the Competition Committee grants approval to play under Rule 15.9.
- 15.9 Approval to play ahead of a Judiciary hearing can only be sought and granted by the Chair of the Competition Committee when:
- (a) the hearing will not commence in the week after the day the red card was awarded.

- (b) the player or his club lodge a written application with the Executive Officer seeking approval from the Chair of the Competition Committee to play in some or all matches taking place before the Chair of the Judiciary has the opportunity to make any decision;
- (c) the Chair of the Competition Committee believes the delay in commencing the hearing is not substantially attributable to the player concerned.
- (d) if two or more matches might elapse before the Judiciary hearing commences, and if the Chair of the Competition Committee believes that a material part of that delay is attributable to the player, the Chair of the Competition Committee may permit the player to play in some but not all the intervening matches; and
- (e) the Chair of the Competition Committee believes that granting approval to play is in accordance with Sydney Hockey's objectives.

The Chair of the Competition Committee may consult with the Chair of the Judiciary (if he or she is available) on any request made to him for approval to play prior to a hearing.

16 SUSPENSION OF A PLAYER BY THE JUDICIARY

- 16.1 A player who is issued with a red card will appear before the Judiciary unless he exercises the right to enter an early guilty plea (if available) or the Chair of the Judiciary determines under Rule 18.2 that the charge should not proceed.
- 16.2 The Chair of the Judiciary will impose penalties for early guilty pleas in accordance with Rule 18.3.
- 16.3 A player who appears before the Judiciary may be suspended by the Judiciary for such a period as the Judiciary determines in accordance with its powers as set out in Rule 19.

17 JUDICIARY'S APPOINTMENT AND OBJECTIVES, AND CLUB AND PLAYER CO-OPERATION

- 17.1 The Judiciary will be established as follows:
 - (a) The Board will appoint a Chair of the Judiciary. The person must be independent of the Board and have appropriate legal skills, judiciary or tribunal experience and if possible hockey or other sporting knowledge. The Chair of the Judiciary will appoint an appropriate number of other people, at their discretion to sit with them as the Judiciary when any matter is to be heard. Those appointees should collectively have a range of the attributes listed in Rule 17.1(a).
 - (b) The Chair of the Judiciary may appoint a person independent of the Board to be the acting Chair for any hearing in which they are unable to act for any reason, including conflict. The person should have appropriate legal skills, judiciary or tribunal experience and if possible hockey or other sporting knowledge.
 - (c) An acting Chair will have all the powers of the Chair for the hearing for which they appointed.

- 17.2 The objectives of the Judiciary are:
- (a) investigative, in that in all cases, it should seek to ascertain the truth for the purposes of achieving its disciplinary and protective objectives;
 - (b) disciplinary, in that, in all cases, it should seek to impose such suspensions on persons found guilty of offences as are fair, appropriate and proportionate; and
 - (c) protective, in that in all cases, it should seek to advance the interests of the sport of hockey and the interests of Sydney Hockey, including its players and umpires.
- 17.3 The Judiciary must have regard to these objectives in the exercise of any powers or functions under these Rules.
- 17.4 All clubs, players, coaches, umpires, officials and anyone charged with an offence must cooperate with and assist the Judiciary. This includes attending hearings and giving evidence when required.

18 PROCESSES FOR JUDICIARY HEARINGS

- 18.1 In or before any hearing, the Chair of the Judiciary may:
- (a) decide all matters of procedure not explicitly provided for in these Rules;
 - (b) in any appropriate case, dispense with any procedural requirement of these Rules;
 - (c) permit a player to play whilst a charge is pending, but only to the extent the delay in completing the hearing within a week of the card being issued is not attributable to the player; and
 - (d) dismiss any charge at any time if proceeding with it would in their opinion be unfair or lack utility.
- 18.2 The Chair of the Judiciary will consider each report submitted by an umpire for any red card and:
- (a) determine if a hearing should be held in relation to the umpire's charge;
 - (b) if the umpire does not specify a charge, or if the Chair of the Judiciary believes the specified charge is inappropriate, specify the charge that they consider most appropriate, including specifying that no charges should be made and that no hearing should be held; and
 - (c) accept any early guilty plea offered by a player, and impose a penalty without a hearing, when such a plea is permitted under Rules 18.3 and 18.4.
- 18.3 Subject to clause 18.4, a player may make an early guilty plea to any charge made against them and accept the penalty determined by the Chair of the Judiciary without there being a hearing.
- 18.4 A player cannot make an early guilty plea if:
- (a) it is the second time in the same season that the same charge has been laid against them;
 - (b) it is the second time in a career that the player has been charged with striking at another player with a hockey stick or striking at another player with something other than a hockey stick;
 - (c) the charge is assaulting an umpire, deliberately striking another player with a hockey stick.
 - (d) the Chair of the Judiciary considers that the matter should be the subject of a hearing.
- 18.5 If charges are to be heard the Chair of the Judiciary will arrange a Judiciary hearing within the week following the issue of the red card, or otherwise as soon as practicable. Sydney Hockey will advise all clubs of the time and place of each Judiciary hearing.

- 18.6 A player against whom a charge has been made and who does not make an early guilty plea has the right to:
- (a) appear before the Judiciary at the hearing;
 - (b) to present their own evidence;
 - (c) to call others to give evidence; and
 - (d) to question others.
- 18.7 Notwithstanding Rule 18.6 the Judiciary may, at its discretion, accept the suspending umpire's report instead of requiring the umpire to attend a hearing.
- 18.8 A player who fails to attend a Judiciary hearing or apply for a postponement must abide by the Judiciary's decisions unless neither they nor their club were notified in advance that he was required to attend the hearing.
- 18.9 The Chair of the Judiciary will begin a hearing by reading out and explaining to all parties, in the presence of each other, the full text of the charge, protest or appeal to be considered.
- 18.10 The parties to the hearing will be heard by the Judiciary in the presence of each other in the following order:
- (a) those supporting a charge will be the first to give evidence, call witnesses, be questioned by those defending a charge or protest and be questioned by the Judiciary, and then
 - (b) those defending a charge, protest or appeal will then give evidence, call witnesses and be questioned by the Judiciary, and then
 - (c) Those supporting a charge will then answer evidence given under (b) and be questioned by the Judiciary.
- 18.11 The Chair of the Judiciary:
- (a) has the right to determine questions of order;
 - (b) will sum up the evidence to the Judiciary;
 - (c) will advise the Judiciary during its consideration of the evidence;
 - (d) may recommend that the Judiciary reduce the charge to one carrying a lesser penalty, or find a player has no case to answer and should be found not guilty, although the Judiciary is not bound to follow any recommendations; and
 - (e) may direct that one or more other people be charged if there is evidence to suggest that this should be done, but only on the basis that those people are then given a fair opportunity to answer any such charge.
- 18.12 The Judiciary may:
- (a) request that any other person appear to give evidence and to answer any questions put by a member of the Judiciary;
 - (b) at any time resolve to reduce a charge to one carrying a lesser penalty, or determine the player has no case to answer; and
 - (c) adjourn a hearing at any time, in which case the Chair may in his discretion permit a player to play in matches pending its final decision provided the need for an adjournment was not substantially attributable to the player.
- 18.13 The parties to the hearing will retire while the Judiciary considers its findings, although the Judiciary can call any or all of them, individually or together, to amplify or clarify any evidence.
- 18.14 The Judiciary will make its findings by majority vote and record them as a written resolution signed by all members of the Judiciary, including the Chair. In its findings it may:

- (a) reduce a charge to one carrying a lesser penalty.
- (b) recommend to the Chair of the Judiciary that one (1) week of any minimum penalty and/or any penalty additional to the recommended minimum be imposed but made conditional on the player not being found guilty of the same charge again that season;
- (c) recommend to the Chair that leniency be, or not be, considered in his application of the penalty;
- (d) require a re-hearing; and/or
- (e) dismiss a charge.
- (f) The Judiciary's decision is final.

19 PENALTIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE JUDICIARY

19.1 The Chair of the Judiciary will determine:

- (a) the penalty to be imposed if a player is found guilty of any charge in light of Rules 18.14(b), 19.2 and 19.3;
- (b) when a suspension commences (including by backdating the commencement of a suspension to allow for any matches already missed); and
- (c) when a suspension ends by specifying a date.

19.2 The minimum penalties recommended by Sydney Hockey (which should not be reduced except for an early guilty plea or unless there are exceptional circumstances) are:

Minimum Recommended Penalties	
Finding	Suspension
Disputing an Umpire's decision	3 matches
Persistent and deliberate breaches of the rules of hockey	3 matches
Abusive conduct whilst a spectator	3 matches
Acts detrimental to SYDNEY HOCKEY	3 matches
Inappropriate physical play	3 matches
Striking at another player with other than a hockey stick	6 matches
Abuse of an umpire	4 matches, or 6 matches if it is a second offence within 3 calendar years
Deliberately striking another player with other than a hockey stick	6 matches
Striking at another player with a hockey stick	8 matches
Deliberately striking another player with a hockey stick	16 matches, or a lifetime ban if it is a second offence
Assault of an umpire	2 year ban, or a lifetime ban if it is a second offence

- 19.3 The period of suspension of a player who is found guilty of any charge will be increased if he made an early guilty plea to any charge in the previous 24 months. The increase will be equal to the difference between the recommended minimum penalty for that earlier offence and the actual penalty imposed on the player after that early guilty plea was made.
- 19.4 Suspensions will apply until the date by which the player will have been suspended from playing for the required number of matches. In assessing match numbers:
- (a) the only matches relevant are the winter competition outdoor matches managed by Sydney Hockey;
 - (b) finals matches are included provided the player's team is playing in those finals and the player is otherwise eligible to play
 - (c) only one game is to be counted towards a suspension in any round of matches; and
 - (d) suspensions may extend into a subsequent Sydney Hockey season if necessary to reach the required number of matches.
- 19.5 All suspensions will be notified to HNSW and the player or person's own Association on the basis that they have the right to determine their own additional penalties if they so wish.
- 19.6 A spectator, coach or official who is suspended must not:
- (a) participate as a spectator, player, coach or official in any Sydney Hockey match during the suspension; or
 - (b) be at any ground where a Sydney Hockey match is being played, or within the vicinity, during that time.

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20 FINES FOR RULE BREACHES

The fines which clubs or players must pay to SYDNEY HOCKEY for breaches of these Rules, and other penalties that SYDNEY HOCKEY may impose, are as set out below:

By Law and Breach	Penalty for Breach
6.3 - Withdrawing a team following publication of Draw	\$1000 per team + loss of 4 competition points for club teams in PL or SL as applies
7.5,6&7 Match & Team management	1 st time in season - \$50 2 nd time in season -\$50 3 rd and subsequent times - \$100
8.1 - Failing to provide an Umpire (per team)	\$50 per match
9 - Failing to complete a Match Card correctly (by team)	1 st time in season - \$25 2 nd time in season -\$25 3 rd and subsequent times - \$50
9.7 - Failing to provide results by deadline (by team)	1 st time in season - \$25 2 nd time in season -\$25 3 rd and subsequent times - \$50
9.8 - Failing to get Match Card to Records Officer by deadline (by team)	1 st time in round matches -\$25 2 nd time in round matches -\$25 3 rd and subsequent times - \$50 Finals -\$50 per game
11.6 - Forfeiting game.	Forfeiting team will be fined an amount equal to opposing team's match costs Opposing team to receive a refund of all its match costs

Rule Addendum - Live Streaming Matches 2023

There are some small changes that will apply to all Live Streamed games. The changes can be summarised as follows for the **Live Streamed teams**:

- A completed **Live Steaming, Team List Template** is be forwarded to the Executive Officer Sydney Hockey by **Midday Friday prior to the match**. (Purpose is to have time in preparing graphics for the broadcast & commentators to review notes).
- Attendance marked for all team members participating in the match must be entered into **SH RevSport** site prior to the match as per Rules 9.3 and 9.7. This includes additions to the team list including 'fill-in' players. Entering of Results, Penalty cards and Fairest and Best Points immediately following the game.
- Changes to the Live Steaming, Team List Template must be provided to the Technical Official at the earliest opportunity on game day and no later than the designated start time for the game.
- For the PL1 match **each team is to provide two ball persons in the age range of 12 to 18**. The Ball Persons are to be presented to the Technical Official no later than 15 minutes before the Scheduled start time for the PL1 game. The Clubs are to collect their Ball Persons from the Technical Official at the end of the PL1 game.
- **Ball persons** will be provided with a Ball Person's Tee at their first live streaming appointment. This Tee is to be retained and worn at the second and subsequent appearances.
- The home team is to provide five new Kookaburra balls for the match.
- Technical Officials on all PL1 and PL2 games will be required to enter into Assignor, the Match Reports within 15 minutes of the completion the match.

Reminder: Team Managers - at the end of all PL1 and PL2 games team managers are to upload their results into Revolutionise immediately following the game. (Rule 9.7)

Appendix 1

Shootout rules FIH General Tournament Regulations Outdoor Competitions (appendix 12) – May 2022