

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

Boys and Girls 15 Years & Under Hockey Championships

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Section A – Championship Overview

- A - 1.** These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia Policies, Championship Protocols and the Hockey Championship Organisational Manual.
- A - 2.** The Championships shall follow the rules laid down by Hockey Australia (HA) unless specified.
- A - 3.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a current Memorandum of Understanding between School Sport Australia and Hockey Australia.

A - 4. Championship Length

The staging of the Championship shall be restricted to two (2) consecutive weekends and the five (5) working days between, with no play on the first Saturday of the Championship and an championship team experience/rest day must be included.

A - 5. Eligibility

Qualifications for selection in the team of the affiliated organisation to compete in the School Sport Australia Hockey Championships shall be:

- A - 5.1** Students to be 15 Years and Under as of the 31 December in the year of competition.

Rule A – 5.2 removed July 2021

A - 6. Age Dispensation

Age Dispensation may be granted to a State or Territory for these Championships as allowed through the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

A - 7. Team Size

- A - 7.1** A maximum of sixteen (16) players per team may be entered by each member body.

A - 8. Attendance at Championships

All students who participate in the School Sport Australia Hockey Championships must remain at the Championship location throughout the duration of the Championships and be bound by all Championship arrangements, except in exceptional circumstances as per School Sport Australia policy.

Section B – Competition Structure

B - 1. Program / Schedule

The date of the Australian Championships shall be within or as close as possible to the second week in August, bearing in mind the Hockey Australia junior program dates. The only variation to the timing of the Championship as described is in the case of Hockey being included in the Pacific School Games (PSG).

B - 2. Draw

B - 2.1 The draw formats for different number of competing teams outlined below should be used by the National Hockey Advisor when compiling the program of matches. Where a five-game day is to be played, this will be done on the day prior to the Championship Team Experience /Rest Day. When the number of teams varies from the seven-team draw, the following procedures should be implemented:

B - 2.1.1 Four Teams

The draw is to be two rounds of round robin matches with up to two games per day. Finals to be played 1 v 2 and 3 v 4 after the round robin stage.

B - 2.1.2 Five Teams

B - 2.1.2.1 Encourage the use of an invitational team to participate to maintain an even draw.

B - 2.1.2.2 Program two rounds of round robin matches. Finals to be played 1 v 2 and 3 v 4 after the round robin stage. Team 5 has a bye on the final day.

B - 2.1.2.3 Ensure teams play matches with at least one game break as 'double headers' may be necessary.

B - 2.1.3 Six Teams

When six teams are competing, a round robin shall be played over four (4) days.

Day 5 (Friday) semi-finals (1v4, 2v3, 5v6)

Day 6 (Saturday) finals:

Gold (Winner 1v4 V Winner 2v3)

Bronze (Loser 1v3 V Loser 2v3)

Place 5 v 6

B - 2.1.4 Seven Teams

B - 2.1.4.1 All games are to be scheduled with a minimum of 1hr 35minutes between the start of each game. This will be dependent upon available turf time from the host State / Territory and the local association commitments, especially on the weekends.

B - 2.1.4.2 Teams are ranked from the previous year from 1 to 7 and placed in the following seeded draw for the Championships. Final finishing places can be obtained from the previous championship report.

B - 2.1.4.3 When boys' and girls' teams receive the same final rankings in the previous year, game times may be adjusted by the National Hockey Advisor in an attempt to allow teams from the same member body to support each other.

* - Denotes the team with the double header on that day.

Day 1 Sunday Tth August

Game 1 1 v 2
 Opening Ceremony
 Game 2 3 v 4
 Game 3 5 v 6
 Game 4 7 v 2*

Day 2 Monday Uth August

Game 1 3 v 1
 Game 2 5 v 4
 Game 3 6 v 2
 Game 4 7 v 1*

Day 3 Tuesday Vth August

Game 1 6 v 7
 Game 2 5 v 2
 Game 3 4 v 1
 Game 4 6* v 3
 Game 5 5* v 7*
 Officials Function

Day 4 Wednesday Wth August

Rest Day – Championship Team Experience

Day 5 Thursday Xth August

Game 1 7 v 3
 Game 2 6 v 1
 Game 3 2 v 4
 Game 4 5 v 3*

Day 6 Friday Yth August

Game 1 4 v 7
 Game 2 2 v 3
 Game 3 1 v 5
 Game 4 4* v 6

Day 7 Saturday Zth August

7th team has a bye on the finals day

Game 1 5th v 6th
 Game 2 3rd v 4th
 Game 3 1st v 2nd

Closing Ceremony and presentations to follow the final.
 All teams travel home today.

B - 2.1.5 Eight Teams

On the 8 team round robin format (in a dual championship) host states consider two (2) championship team experience dates.

Sunday	Round 1	1 v 3	Thursday	Round 5	1 v 6
	Round 1	2 v 4		Round 5	5 v 7
	Round 1	8 v 5		Round 5	4 v 8
	Round 1	7 v 6		Round 5	3 v 2
Monday	Round 2	1 v 2	Friday	Round 6	1 v 5
	Round 2	8 v 3		Round 6	4 v 6
	Round 2	7 v 4		Round 6	3 v 7
	Round 2	6 v 5		Round 6	2 v 8
	Round 3	1 v 8		Round 7	1 v 4
	Round 3	7 v 2		Round 7	3 v 5
Tuesday	Round 3	6 v 3	Saturday	Round 7	2 v 6
	Round 3	5 v 4		Round 7	8 v 7
	Round 4	1 v 7		FINAL 7 th v 8 th	
	Round 4	6 v 8		FINAL 5 th v 6 th	
	Round 4	4 v 3		FINAL 3 rd v 4 th	
	Round 4	5 v 2		FINAL 1 st v 2 nd	
	Round 4	2			
Wednesday	Championship team experience				

B - 2.2 That convening member bodies consider moving games to the afternoon and evening, should the managing association feel it possible

B - 3. Duration of matches

B - 3.1 Match times shall follow Hockey Australia guidelines for underage teams' championships operating at the time. The Championship Convenor in conjunction with the National Hockey Advisor shall have the power to vary the duration of matches when a double round robin is played.

B - 3.2 Where possible the host member body will operate match conditions under the same procedures used by Hockey Australia in conducting their national championship.

B - 3.3 There should be time off for injury at the discretion of the umpires. In the event of serious injury all players of both teams should return to their respective dugout/change room. Play shall be suspended whilst the player is dealt with safely. If the match is not able to be resumed before the time of commencement of any subsequent match, then the National Hockey Advisor (or their delegate) and/or Championship Convenor are to meet with all coaches of the teams that are impacted to discuss the rescheduling of the times/duration and/or location of matches. This is to ensure that each team is given the opportunity to play their full quota of matches.

B - 4. Game Protocols / Specific Rules / Results

B - 4.1 Interchange

Championship teams shall be permitted to interchange players in each match provided that no more than sixteen (16) players take part in any match. The Team Manager is to submit a team list to the Tech Bench prior to the commencement of the match.

B - 4.2 Admissions to field during play

B - 4.2.1 No one except the players and the umpires properly engaged in a given match may enter the field of play during the match unless they are invited to do so by an umpire or has obtained prior authorisation from an umpire. The rule is compulsory even in the event of injury to a player or to an umpire.

B - 4.2.2 Each team engaged in a given match may have up to eight (8) persons on the team bench, namely the Team Manager (for whom it is compulsory to sit there), five interchange players, the coach of the team and one other official accredited by the member body (to be ratified at the Pre-Championship Meeting). The Team Manager is responsible for the conduct of all persons occupying the bench.

B - 4.3 Failure to Play - Scratching:

B - 4.3.1 If, during the course of a match, a team declines to continue the game or to take it up where it left off, or if at any time during the match the number of its players is less than seven (7), this team shall have lost the match and the opposing team shall have won the match with the score standing at that time.

B - 4.3.2 If a team scratches from competition, all pool matches it had played up till then, shall be considered as not having been played not only by the scratching team but also by all the teams it had played. This classification shall be corrected accordingly.

B - 4.3.3 A team refusing to play a match entered on its program shall be considered as scratching from the competition.

B - 5. Points Allocation

B - 5.1 The following points will be awarded for each match:

B - 5.1.1 Three (3) points to the winner

B - 5.1.2 One (1) point to each team in the event of a draw

B - 5.1.3 No points to the loser.

B - 6. Method of Determining a Winner

If at the conclusion of the series of matches two teams have obtained the same number of points, the ranking shall be decided in the following sequence until the final ranking is established:

- B - 6.1.1** comparison of goal difference;
- B - 6.1.2** comparison of goals for;
- B - 6.1.3** result(s) of the match(es) played between only those teams involved;
- B - 6.1.4** shoot out competition between the teams;
- B - 6.1.5** should there still remain equality between three or more teams, then each team will play a shoot-out competition against the other teams in the same sequence of matches as per the Championship draw.

Refer to HA Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Appendix 5 for conduct of shoot-out competition.

- B - 6.1.6** A ranking will then be established based upon the results of each set of five (5) one-on-one shoot outs between two teams as follows:
 - B - 6.1.6.1** Three (3) points to the team scoring the highest number of goals.
 - B - 6.1.6.2** One (1) point to each team scoring an equal number of goals.
 - B - 6.1.6.3** No points to the team scoring the lowest number of goals.
- B - 6.1.7** If equality remains, then teams having an equal number of points shall be ranked according to rules B - 6.1.1, B - 6.1.2, B - 6.1.3 and B - 6.1.4 as applied to goals recorded during the shoot-out competition. If an equal position of three (or more) teams still remains thereafter, then the same procedure shall be repeated until the teams can be ranked. A draw shall take place to establish each sequence of play if such further rounds of shoot outs are required.

B - 6.2 Playoffs for Minor Placings

If the score at full time in the playoff match is a draw, the final ranking shall be determined by the position at the end of the Round Robin.

B - 6.3 Playoffs for First and Second

If the scores are level at the end of regulation time, a shootout shall be used to determine the final placings.

Section C – Facilities / Equipment

- C - 1.** The School Sport Australia host member body of the Hockey Championships shall ensure that the appointed venue can provide two (2) water based artificial playing surfaces.

C - 2. Host member body to supply match balls from championship budget.

Section D – Uniform and Player Equipment

D - 1. Also refer to Hockey Australia Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Rules, 8.3, 8.4, 8.6, 8.7, 8.9, 8.14, 8.18.1.

D - 1.1 Each team will wear the colours of its State/Territory. If the colours of two opposing teams might lead to confusion, one of the teams will have to change its colours or at the least, socks. The colours to be worn will be determined at the Pre-Championship Meeting.

D - 1.2 The Captain of the team will wear a distinctive identifying marker on the sleeve or sock, supplied by each state/territory.

D - 1.3 Any additional items of clothing worn by a player during a match, e.g. compression garments, headbands, etc. must be beige/white/black or of the same colour as the adjoining piece of clothing as specified below. It is mandatory that teams coordinate the colour of their additional under/compression garments, the right to enforce this requirement is at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

ACT – Royal Blue

NSW – Sky Blue

QLD – Maroon

SA – Red

TAS – Bottle Green

VIC – Navy Blue

WA – Yellow/Black

(Hockey Australia Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Rule 8.3)

For clarity, all players of a team choosing to wear compression garments must be wearing compression garments of the same approved colour (i.e. all players wearing white) (Hockey Australia Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Rule 8.4)

Players should all be numbered. Each field player's number:

- must appear in distinctive filled (not outlined) figure(s);
- must be in a contrasting colour to the uniform colour for clear identification;
- must be not less than 16 cm and not more than 20 cm in height on the back of the player's shirt;
- must remain the same for the duration of the championship as nominated on the team registration form;

(Hockey Australia Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Rule 8.6)

Each goalkeeper's number:

- must appear in distinctive filled (not outlined) figure(s);
- must be not less than 16 cm and not more than 20 cm in height on the back of the goalkeeper's shirt;
- must be not less than 7 cm and not more than 20 cm in height on the front of the goalkeeper's shirt

(Hockey Australia Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Rule 8.7)

Goalkeeper's shirts should be a different colour to the shirts of players in their own team and the opposition team. (Hockey Australia Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Rule 8.18.1)

- D - 1.4** Each team involved in a match must have available with it at the bench two spare sets of players clothing without number plus suitable material for numbering in an emergency such as replacement of blood-stained clothing (Hockey Australia Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Rule 8.9)
- D - 1.5** A player on the field of play must not use or be equipped with any device to receive communication (Hockey Australia Championships Operations Manual Attachment C Rule 8.14)

Section E – Injury Management

- E - 1.** Refer to rule B - 3.3 for the process to be followed during games for the management of injuries.
- E - 2.** Teams and Officials should follow the Hockey Australia Concussion Protocols in the absence of any specific SSA Concussion or host State/Territory Education Department protocols.
- E - 3.** Refer to School Sport Australia General Policy for the management of injuries. This policy will override any sport specific injury management Protocols.
[School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf \(schoolsportaustralia.edu.au\)](https://schoolsportaustralia.edu.au/School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf)

New Policy Dec 2023

Section F – Officials

F - 1. Championship Convenor

The Host Member Body appoints this person – they should have a good knowledge of hockey in general; it would be an advantage if they have previously been involved in a Championship. This person is responsible for the running of the Championship, maintaining daily cumulative tally of results and general trouble shooting.

F - 2. Tournament Director

This person should be appointed after consultation between the Host Member Body and the State/Territory Hockey Association. The Tournament Director should hold appropriate Hockey Australia Technical Official qualifications (TO Level 3 is the standard). The Tournament Director will ensure that the Championship follows the rules laid down by Hockey Australia, as well as compiling tallies for player penalty points for suspended players and presenting players before the Judiciary, if required.

F - 3. Technical Officials

Appointed by the Host Member body and/or the State/Territory Hockey Association, Technical Officials are directly responsible for ensuring that the matches are played in accordance with the current Rules of Hockey. A good knowledge of the rules and their application are essential for this role and a Technical Official qualification is highly desirable.

F - 4. Umpire's Managers

- F - 4.1** The host member body, in consultation with their State Hockey Association, is to appoint accredited Umpire Managers to mentor and provide feedback to umpires on their performance during the Championship.
- F - 4.2** The Umpires' Managers will convene a meeting with all umpires prior to the commencement of matches.

F - 5. Umpires

- F - 5.1** All competing member bodies should endeavour to select a minimum of one umpire to officiate as part of an umpire's panel. Umpires should be included as part of the member body's team structure. Individual umpires are responsible for their costs. **The minimum standard of umpire should be Hockey Australia Foundation Lead Umpire Accreditation and have competency to officiate at the Under 14 Hockey Australia Championship.** Whenever possible, the umpire's pool is to be drawn from a combination of senior and student umpires.
- F - 5.2** It is the Umpire Manager's responsibility to roster umpires and the host member body is to decide upon suitable payment for adult umpires (where applicable).
- F - 5.3** **Umpire's shirts should be provided by the host member body as part of the Championship levy.**

Section G – Protests / Appeals / Suspensions

- G - 1.** If a team wishes to lodge a protest at the end of the match, its Team Manager must do so in writing and hand the protest to the judge on duty within twenty (20) minutes from the conclusion of the match, having declared his/her intention to do so under the signature on the match sheet.
- G - 2.** Protests will only be considered for a serious and significant breach of the championship rules that clearly had a material effect on the outcome of the match. A protest will not be considered if it related to a disciplinary decision where a person has been warned or sent off the field of play (i.e. temporarily suspended) by a match official, or any decision of an umpire made during a match.
- G - 3.** The protest shall be heard by the Appeals Committee (H - 2) as soon as possible. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be handed down in writing within an hour of the conclusion of the hearing.

Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary

H - 1. Judiciary

- H - 1.1** A Judiciary shall be confirmed at the Pre-Championship Meeting to deal with matters involving suspension and disciplinary matters.
- H - 1.2** The Judiciary shall consist of three members, the Championship Convenor, the Tournament Director and the National Hockey Advisor (or delegate).

- H - 1.3** A penalty points system for cards issued will operate. Cards will attract the following penalties:
- H - 1.3.1** Green card 0 points
 - H - 1.3.2** Yellow card 4 points
 - H - 1.3.3** Red card 10 points
- H - 1.4** The Judiciary may suspend players for one or more matches of the Championship:
- H - 1.4.1** Any player who has accumulated ten or more demerit points during one or more matches of the Championship.
 - H - 1.4.2** Any player, reserve player or team official who has misbehaved before, during or after any match of the Championship.
- H - 1.5** For the purpose of sub clause H - 1.3 herein, demerit points shall accumulate at the rate specified in H - 1.3 and will be administered by the Tournament Director of the Championship.
- H - 1.6** Pursuant to sub clause H - 1.4 should a player receive any further demerit points following a suspension they should immediately appear before the Judiciary.
- H - 1.7** In reaching its decision the Judiciary shall have the power to call before it to give information any player, reserve player, team official, match official, umpire or championship official. If such person fails to attend as requested, the Judiciary shall have the right to continue its deliberations without requested information. Written submissions may be accepted by the Judiciary.
- H - 1.8** The player, reserve player or team official whose suspension is the subject of the Judiciary shall have the right to address the Committee. They may be accompanied by a team official who may be given permission by the Judiciary to make a submission.
- H - 1.9** The player or reserve player who is to be suspended pursuant to sub-clause H - 1.3 herein shall not be permitted to play in any championship match whilst the suspension is in force. They will be permitted to occupy the team bench during their suspension.
- H - 1.10** In respect of the otherwise automatic suspension arising the operation of sub-clause H - 1.3 herein, the judiciary may refrain from imposing such suspension in order to avoid an obvious miscarriage of justice.

H - 2. Appeals Committee

- H - 2.1** An Appeals Committee shall be confirmed at the Opening Conference to deal with appeals for clarification of any matter not under the jurisdiction of the umpire that may arise in connection with any of the matches played during the Championship.

H - 2.2 The Appeals Committee shall consist of three members, the Championship Convenor, the Tournament Director and the National Hockey Advisor (or delegate).

H - 2.3 The Championship Convenor shall chair the Appeals Committee.

Section I – Trophies / Awards / Medals

I - 1. Player of the Series (boy/girl) –this player is to be determined by the All Australian Team Selectors. This person should be an exemplar of the criteria set in the Selection of the All Australian Team Rule 0. The medals are organised by the SSA Office and costs are to be included in the championship budget.

I - 2. All members of the All Australian Team (I - 5) will receive an SSA All Australian Team Plaque supplied by the SSA Office. The costs of the plaques should be included in the Championship budget.

I - 3. A suitable memento should be awarded to the umpires of the final.

I - 4. The Fair Play Award

I - 4.1 The Fair Play Award shall be awarded as a perpetual trophy to each team, both boys and girls, who represent the highest standards of on field conduct. The winner is determined on the basis of aggregating two aspects of the Championship, Cards issued by the umpires and points allocated by the Technical Officials using the HA Play the Whistle points allocation. In allocating points the Play the Whistle rule allocates positive points to each team after the conclusion of each fixture. The points are allocated and collated by the Championship Tournament Director. In the issuing of Cards, the following negative points apply: Yellow Card – 5 points, Red Card – 10 points. Points finish at the end of the round matches.

I - 4.2 The boys' award is named in honour of Peter Chatman and the girls' award is named in honour of Melissa Winks, recognising their commitment to SSA hockey.

I - 5. All Australian Team / Touring Teams / Selection Procedure

I - 5.1 A Selection Committee will be nominated prior to the start of the championship and appointed at the Pre-Championship meeting to select any Australian Team. If the team is to compete in a School Sport Australia tour, the Tour Coach should be an automatic selector and two other selectors elected from the coaches and managers of the member bodies. Selectors should be from different States / Territories. The Selection Committee may include invited Hockey Australia representatives. The National Hockey Advisor or their representative is to chair the Selection Committee. Where the team is not scheduled to tour, the host member body may choose to appoint local selectors if available.

I - 5.2 Duties of Selectors:

I - 5.2.1 The Selection Committee must watch at least three matches for each member body.

- I - 5.2.2 There must be at least one selector present for the duration of the entire match of all other games.
- I - 5.2.3 The selectors must submit the names of the All Australian Team to the National Hockey Advisor prior to the Closing Ceremony.

I - 5.3 The criteria for selection of players in an Australian Team should follow these general guidelines:

I - 5.3.1 Eighteen (18) players who participated in the School Sport Australia Championships in the year of selection shall be selected in the All Australian Team, two of whom should be goalkeepers.

I - 5.3.2 These players will have been those who have performed at their highest standard in the areas of individual and team skills, field play, understanding of the game and performance in the game situation.

I - 5.3.3 The final team selected should have a balance of forwards and backs with a view to coverage of all positions in a hockey team (i.e. strikers, mid-fielders, defenders and goalkeepers).

I - 5.3.4 Players selected must display a high degree of sportsmanship and exemplary behaviour both on and off the field.