



AGE POLICY

Current Version	1.0
Last reviewed:	March 2024
Next Review Date:	March 2025
Approved By:	At the first Permits meeting of 2024 and endorsed by the P&S on March 6 2024

Junior Age Groups

For the purposes of determining player eligibility the following age groups apply for the local competition, and all HAW Representative commitments:

HookIn2Hockey/U10	Born 2014 or after
U12	Born 2012 or after
U14	Born 2010 & 2011
U16	Born 2008 & 2009 *
U18	Born 2006 & 2007

*for rules around players born in 2007 playing in the local competition, see Local U16 section below

Local Under 16's Competition Rules

In the interest of player participation and not club performance HAW junior competitions are in line with national age groups. At HAW we do not have a capacity to run U18 age groups as well as the other 3 age groups so our focus for junior participation is on the younger ages to maintain teams, players, and interest in the junior age groups.

HAW allows the incorporation of age permits to help clubs field a side in the U16 age group. However, age permits should only be used in exceptional circumstances. Age permit players should not make up majority of any team list.

Players born in 2007 that fall into the following categories may apply for a permit to play in this age group:

1. New to sport and not able to play seniors. This will be listed as a rookie permit.
2. Player with experience, not playing senior hockey. Needed to ensure team has numbers to field a side.
3. Players with experience playing senior hockey excluding Capital League and Division One.
4. Experienced field player (Capital League or Division one included) willing to play as a fully kitted goalkeeper ONLY with NO prior goal keeping experience . These players will never play on the field or partake in any penalty strokes or one on one as an attacker.

Clubs will be restricted to a maximum of 3 age permits for experienced players per team as per 2,3,4 above for 2024. Permits are only available if clubs can document the need is necessary to field a side.

Note: a player born in 2008 is not excluded from playing in their junior age group if they play Capital League or Division One, as they are not a player on an age permit.

Any approved age permits are not guaranteed for the entire season, Permits will be regularly reviewed by members of the permit committee to ensure that no teams gains a perceived unfair advantage.

Permit players that are issued in game disciplinary action will be reviewed immediately.

Senior Age Groups

In the interest of player safety, senior player experience and wellbeing, the minimum age has been set for a senior competition within HACT competition.

HAW have set the following restrictions to juniors in a Senior competition.

- -For Division 3 or lower a child must be at the minimum age of 12 years on the 1st of January in that year of competition.
- -For Division 2 or higher a child must be at a minimum entry age of 13 years on the 1st of January in the year of competition.

All clubs are reminded that this decision has not been made to disadvantage junior players, HAW believe juniors have numerous age groups and representative experiences to extend their hockey development.

A senior competition is for the purpose of Senior players and that this includes ensuring senior players are in an environment where they feel that they can play to their fullest level.

HAW Senior Representative & Capital League Age Group

In line with the Senior Age group details above the following restriction apply to Juniors in HAW Senior Representative and Capital League competition.

- -For Senior Representative and Capital League competition or higher a child must be at a minimum entry age of 14 years on the 1st of January in the year of competition.

Roles and Responsibilities

Director of Competitions	Risk management
Director of Competitions / Director of Junior Representative / Director of Senior Representative	Accountability
Board	Decision
All members	Responsible for reporting information