



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS OPERATIONS MANUAL

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Hockey NSW State Championship Manual, applies to the following:
 - 1.1.1. Men's Championships
 - 1.1.2. Women's Championships
 - 1.1.3. Underage Boy's Championships
 - 1.1.4. Underage Girl's Championships
- 1.2. This manual does not apply to any Masters men's or women's field hockey state championships.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS OPERATION MANUAL

- 2.1. The purpose of this Manual is to ensure that all Hockey NSW Field State Championships under the control of Hockey NSW are conducted in a consistent and efficient manner from year to year in accordance with the Constitution and Rules.
- 2.2. The Manual clearly outlines the requirements and responsibilities for each of the following groups associated with the State Championships:
 - 2.2.1. Hockey New South Wales
 - 2.2.2. Affiliated Associations
 - 2.2.3. Organising Committees
 - 2.2.4. Championship Officials
 - 2.2.5. Competing Teams
- 2.3. The current "Rules of Hockey" authorised by FIH and published by Hockey Australia, together with any additions and modifications specifically authorised by Hockey Australia and Hockey NSW for that year or Championship will be adopted by Hockey NSW for the Championships.
- 2.4. This Operation Manual is subject to alternations and amendments by Hockey NSW

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETING TEAMS

3.1. ENTRY OF TEAMS

- 3.1.1. Associations may enter as many teams as they desire as long as all rules and regulations are met. Hockey NSW has the right to refuse entry of any team at all State Championships. An explanation will be provided at the time of refusal.
- 3.1.2. Nominations are subject to the following conditions;
 - 3.1.2.1. The nominations of each association's teams shall be completed by registering their Team Nomination through the revolutioniseSport console
 - 3.1.2.2. The prescribed team entry fee shall be paid in the manner described on the "Instruction Guide, Due Date Planner and Fee Schedule"
 - 3.1.2.3. Nominations must be received by the date stipulated in the "Instruction Guide, Due Date Planner and Fee Schedule". Should nominations be received after this date a fine of \$150 may apply.
 - 3.1.2.4. Any association wishing to withdraw a nomination to compete shall notify Hockey

NSW as soon as practicable. Refund of any part of the team entry fee shall be at the discretion of the Hockey NSW. However, if the withdrawal is after the draw is issued, a fine of \$275 (inc. GST) will be imposed and the association may be charged for a share of the ground hire costs. The full team entry fee will be forfeited.

- 3.1.2.5. Where an association's nominated team fails to attend a state championship without notifying Hockey NSW a fine of \$550 (inc. GST) will be imposed and the association may also be charged for the share of ground hire costs. The full team entry fee will also be forfeited.
- 3.1.2.6. No more than 16 players may be nominated for a field state championship per team.
- 3.1.2.7. Once approved by the Chief Executive Officer, mixed gender teams may be entered any state championship.
- 3.1.2.8. Each team participating in the championship is required to register the Team Details List in revolutioniseSport by the specified due date.
- 3.1.2.9. Each association nominating a team in an U14 or U16 field state championship, is to provide an umpire in line with the information contained in **3.7**. This umpire must not be a player at the championship. Associations should ensure that the umpire is capable of umpiring games at this level of event. All costs associated with umpires at these championships are to be met by the nominating association. Failure to supply an umpire at the championship will incur a \$1,000 (inc. GST) fine for the association unless extenuating circumstances can be proven.
- 3.1.2.10. Each player is to sign and have countersigned by a parent or guardian if under 18 years of age, the Player and Team Official Code of Conduct form.
- 3.1.2.11. Hockey NSW reserves the right to add additional teams or cancel the nomination of any teams for draw structure purposes and to ensure maximum team numbers are not exceeded.

3.2. TEAM OFFICIALS

- 3.2.1. All teams must have at least one adult non-playing supervisor (coach and/or manager). A women's team must have an adult female official on the bench at all times.
- 3.2.2. Where a female player is given permission to play in junior boys teams in accordance with Clause 5.1.3.7, an adult female supervisor must be included as a team manager or chaperone. A female team official must be on the bench during each match.
- 3.2.3. Each team official is to sign, and have countersigned by a parent or guardian if under 18 years of age, the Code of Conduct- Player and Team Official form.

3.3. MANAGERS MEETING

- 3.3.1. Hockey NSW conduct a Managers Meeting via ZOOM on the Tuesday evening of the same week as the Championships. This meeting will commence at 7:00pm and a link will be sent via Revolutionise.
- 3.3.2. Managers will also be able to contact the Tournament Director prior to each morning of play.

3.4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MANAGERS

- 3.4.1. Attend Managers' Meeting held prior to the commencement of the championships and any additional Managers' meetings.

- 3.4.2. Be responsible for behaviour of all members of their team (players and officials) at all times, including when on the Team Bench.
- 3.4.3. Ensure that all players, team officials and Judges appointed to the Technical Bench are wearing covered in shoes.
- 3.4.4. Ensure that whoever is organising to warm up the GK at half time is wearing covered in shoes and is not the judge appointed for the game.
- 3.4.5. Ensure that the team on the left on the draw sits on the bench that is left of the Tech Bench when looking out towards the field.
- 3.4.6. Collect and return completed team sheet to the Technical Bench at half time of the game prior to their game
- 3.4.7. Ensure that the correct starting line up is listed, all subs listed, all team officials listed, Captains indicated in the appropriate places on the team sheet.
- 3.4.8. Ensure that the Captain has a captain band or ribbon attached to their uniform or around their sock. Tape around the arm can also be used.
- 3.4.9. Ensure that their GK does not wear a smock that is the same colour as their team members, or the same colour as the opposing team.
- 3.4.10. Ensure that players remove any plastic wrist bands or cover with sweat bands.
- 3.4.11. Must remain on the team bench at all times throughout the game.
- 3.4.12. Sit on the end of the team bench closest to the Technical Bench at all times during the game.
- 3.4.13. Ensure that neither the Coach nor Assistant Coach enter the field at any time during the game.
- 3.4.14. Ensure that team players are wearing mouthguards and shin pads when taking the field and that players do not share face masks.
- 3.4.15. Ensure that players substitute within the designated area.
- 3.4.16. Ensure that either the Manager or the substitutions not listed in the starting line up advise the bench prior to taking the field. This is only required on the first occasion that they sub another player.
- 3.4.17. Ensure that the player being substituted has come off before the substitute player enters the field.
- 3.4.18. Ensure that umpires, players and technical officials are not abused by team officials or players.
- 3.4.19. Ensure that all piercings are removed or covered with tape and all other jewellery is removed.
- 3.4.20. Check that there is ice (for injuries) and water available for their team.
- 3.4.21. Attend to all team injuries if team officials do not include a Physio or Doctor.
- 3.4.22. Ensure that all injuries to players and team officials are noted on either the back of the match sheet or on the injury sheet.
- 3.4.23. Ensure that the match sheet details are correct and sign the match sheet immediately after the game and prior to leaving the field area.
- 3.4.24. Ensure team bench is left clean, dry and tidy.
- 3.4.25. Ensure all injuries before and after the game are reported to the TD. If a player has received a head injury, they must receive a medical clearance from a doctor to resume play.

3.5. JUDGE

- 3.5.1. Each competing team must provide a judge for duties at the championship as allocated by the tournament director.

3.6. UNIFORM

- 3.6.1. Teams must play in the uniform currently registered with Hockey NSW as the association's uniform. Any changes to an association's uniform must be approved by Hockey NSW.
- 3.6.2. Each association team is to have an alternative playing uniform (minimum of shirt and socks) for use in the event of a clash of uniform colours. The TD shall have the power to direct whether the team is to wear the alternative uniforms. The team named first on the draw will have the right to retain their uniform. Teams unable to provide an alternative uniform option will be fined \$150 per game in which they have been requested to change. This will be payable to Hockey NSW upon the receiving of the invoice.
- 3.6.3. Identification numbers must be worn, as per the Team Details List, on the back of the playing shirt. Sleeve numbers are optional. Goalkeeper's numbers must be visible. The number allocated to each player shall not change or be reallocated to any other player, after the commencement of the championship.
- 3.6.4. Alternate shirts are to have numbers corresponding to main shirts
- 3.6.5. The captain of each team shall wear a contrasting coloured armband, or ribbon attached to the shirt.
- 3.6.6. Field players must wear, at all times during a match in which they participate, shin pads and mouth guards.
- 3.6.7. Shin pads must be worn inside socks. Socks must be up at all times during play.
- 3.6.8. Compression garments of any length may be worn. It is desirable (not compulsory) that these compression garments are of similar colour to the uniform being worn.
- 3.6.9. Goalkeepers and substitute goalkeepers shall wear, at all times during a match which they participate:
 - 3.6.9.1. At U14, U16, and U18 Championships, protective equipment, including leg guards and kickers, groin and chest protectors, hand protectors, a face mask and helmet or helmet incorporating fixed full faced protection;
 - 3.6.9.2. At Open Championship, protective equipment, including leg guards and kickers, groin and chest protectors, hand protectors, a face mask and helmet or helmet incorporating fixed full face protection; or if the team has chosen the option, only protective head gear.
 - 3.6.9.3. Except that the head gear and hand protectors may be removed when taking a penalty stroke
- 3.6.10. Players contravening any uniform rule will not be permitted to take the field unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- 3.6.11. Each Association uniform is permitted to have sponsorship paraphernalia visible. Sponsorship logos of alcohol, cigarettes, hotels and other institutions that may hinder the current contracts of Hockey NSW's sponsorship contracts will not be allowed on Association representative uniforms.
- 3.6.12. Players are permitted to wear shorts, skirt as bottoms as long as they match the uniform and colours of their uniform. All players do not need to be in the same clothing as long as they are all matching colours.

3.7. UMPIRE

3.7.1. Umpires for the

- U14 Field, U16 Field
- All Indoor State Championships

State Championships are provided by the competing associations.

3.7.1 (a) Associations will be required to nominate the following number of umpires for each of the Championships mentioned above	Number of Umpires
Number of Teams Competing	
1	1
2	1
3 or more teams	2

3.7.2. In the instance of combined Indoor Championships these requirements are for each individual tournament, e.g. Boy & Girls, not for the combined event.

3.7.3. It is the responsibility of each entering association when nominating an umpire for a championship, to ensure that the umpire is capable of umpiring at the required level and meets the requirements as set out below.

These umpires should be selected based on

- the opportunity to gain development through umpiring at this Championship
- The umpire has been active in their local association
- The association deems this Championship apart of the umpires pathway

3.7.4. Umpire nominations will NOT BE ACCEPTED if an associations umpire is deemed to not be at an appropriate development stage for the Championship.

3.7.4.1. Umpire nominations for U14 Championships will not be accepted if the Umpire has previously umpired at a Hockey NSW U18 Championship.

3.7.4.2. Umpire nominations for U16 Championships will not be accepted if the Umpire has previously umpired at a Hockey NSW Opens Championship.

3.7.5. It is recommended that Umpires only attend a maximum of 2 Championships per season, including Masters tournaments, to avoid burnout of the umpire and to provide the most development opportunities for all umpires within associations.

Umpires must not be already playing or participating (as a team or tournament official) in the championship for which they are nominating as an umpire. If an association has a playing umpire they feel would benefit from umpiring at a Championship, they can seek nomination for a second umpire as per Regulation 5.8.5.

3.7.6. (a) An umpire will only be accepted as a suitable nomination for 1 association per Championship. If an umpire is nominated by multiple associations, the umpire nomination will be accepted from the umpire's home association, as per registration, and the other association will be notified and required to find a suitable replacement.

3.7.7. Associations, who cannot provide a suitably qualified umpire that they believe is capable of handling the particular championship, can seek approval from Hockey NSW for a non- accredited umpire to attend the championship with a recommendation from a Hockey NSW approved Umpire Coach. To do this they must contact Hockey NSW prior to the due date of the Umpire

Nomination Form with the recommendation.

- 3.7.8. Associations may be permitted to nominate a second umpire of suitable standard at their discretion and with the approval of Hockey NSW for that championship. A written request must be submitted HNSW Umpire & Officials Development Manager via email.
- 3.7.9. Where possible, all umpires will be assessed and coached throughout the championship. The Umpire Managers are requested to write a brief report on each umpire's performance. This report will be sent to the umpire and the home association following the Championship.
- 3.7.10. If your nominated umpire can no longer attend the championship, notification to change your umpire must be sent to Hockey NSW. An amended Umpire Nomination Form must be completed through the revolutioniseSport console, as soon as possible after the withdrawal of the nominated umpire. Failure to supply the nominated umpire at the championship will incur a \$1,000 (incl GST) fine for the association to be paid to Hockey NSW unless extenuating circumstances can be proven.
- 3.7.11. All umpires at Hockey NSW State Championships will attend a compulsory umpires' briefing at the championship venue, 60 minutes before the first round is due to commence on the first day of the championship. This will include a roll-call, rules briefing, umpire allocations and each umpire will receive a Hockey NSW umpire shirt to wear for the duration of the championship (shirts must be returned). All umpires are required to attend this meeting, this meeting may take place on the evening prior at the discretion of the Umpires Manager.
- 3.7.12. Umpires are the responsibility of their association and association officials must ensure that the umpires attend the umpire briefing. If umpires are under the age of 18, all team officials must sign a Volunteer/Student Declaration as part of the working with children check.
- 3.7.13. All umpires must wear correct uniform whilst umpiring at the championships. This consists of dedicated umpire shirt (loaned by Hockey NSW) black skirt/tailored straight legged black trousers (plain black shorts may be accepted for Indoor Championships) and black socks. Black Leggings will be permitted as long as they are worn under a skirt or shorts. Plain black trackpants may also be worn.
- 3.7.14. Umpires will be allocated to matches at the discretion of the Umpire Manager
- 3.7.15. Associations are asked to nominate developing umpires (see table) to U14 and U16 Championship. These championships provide ideal conditions for coaching and development of our young umpires.

Championship	Recommended Hockey NSW Accreditation Level (badge)	Preferred Umpire Age Range
U14	Community	14-20
U16	Junior 1	15-25
U18	Junior 2	16-30
Open	State C	18+
Masters	Community	18+

- 3.7.16. Each umpire provided by the team has signed the appropriate Code of Conduct form and

Personal Medical History form to be retained by the nominating Team Manager for the duration of the Championship.

3.8 ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

3.8.1. It is the responsibility of each competing association to book their accommodation, local transport and travel.

3.9 MISCONDUCT

3.9.1 Any misconduct on the bench by any team official may result in the official being asked to leave the bench and not return, until permission from the TD has been granted.

3.9.2 Breaches of misconduct by any team member or team official off the field may result in the person being asked to leave the venue and not return. The TD can suspend the team from taking any further part in the tournament

3.9.3 Any misconduct by any spectator may result in that person being asked to leave the venue and not return, until permission from the TD has been granted

3.9.4 There will be no abuse of umpires from team members, officials or spectators at any time. You will be asked to leave the venue and not return until permission from the TD has been granted.

4. PLAYER REGISTRATION

4.1. PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

4.1.1. Persons eligible to play in any championship shall be:

4.1.1.1. Currently registered with Hockey NSW via revolutioniseSport; and

4.1.1.2. A member of a financial association; and

4.1.1.3. A person who is not under suspension or disqualification by any association or any state association affiliated with Hockey Australia.

4.1.2. All players participating in an underage championship must be under the age as of the 1st January in the year the championship is being played

4.1.3. The minimum player age and team eligibility to participate in a championship is detailed in the following schedule:

MINIMUM PLAYER AGE AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY SCHEDULE

Age Division	Eligible years of birth
Under 14	2010, 2011, 2012
Under 16	2008, 2009
Under 18	2006, 2007
Open	2005 and older

4.1.4. A player born after the appropriate date in 4.1.3 may apply to participate in a championship by submitting a Hockey NSW State Championship Age Eligibility Waiver. This form must be signed by the player and, where the player is under 18 years of age, by the player's parent or legal guardian, and by an authorised representative of the association with which the player is seeking to play.

4.1.5. A player shall be registered with one team only. If an association has more than one team entered in the tournament, no player from one team may play any part of a match with any other team.

- Hockey NSW may provide consent to do upon receiving a formal request from the Association
- 4.1.6. All players participating must be registered members of Hockey NSW via revolutioniseSport and also registered for the championships as per the Team Details List entered into revolutioniseSport two (2) weeks prior to the championship or the Amended Team Details Form.
 - 4.1.7. It is the responsibility of each team manager to update the Team Details List on revolutioniseSport up to 72 hours prior to the championship. In the case of extenuating circumstances, an Amended Team Details Form may be submitted to the TD at the managers meeting before the commencement of the first match of the tournament if there are changes within the 24 hours of the Championship. No amendment of this Team Details List may be made after the Championship commences.
 - 4.1.8. A player must play in at least one pool, or preliminary match to be eligible to play in any semi-final, final or ranking match.
 - 4.1.9. If, in a championship, a player plays in any match in which they are ineligible to play, the player's team shall be deemed to have forfeited every match in which such ineligible player has taken part.

4.2. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 4.2.1. The State Championship Eligibility Policy has been developed according to the following guiding principle;
 - a.) Participants play representative hockey where they play club hockey.
- 4.2.2. A player must only play for his or her **HOME** Association or **ORIGIN** Association at a State Championship, unless the **HOME** Association grants a player release.
- 4.2.3. In any given season, every player belongs to a **HOME** Association which is affiliated with Hockey NSW. A player's **HOME** Association is determined based upon the Club registration under which the player first pays the Hockey NSW registration fee. A player's **HOME** Association may change from season to season as it is determined by the Club which the player first registers with in the relevant season.
- 4.2.4. A player may also have an **ORIGIN** Association affiliated with Hockey NSW. The Association under which the player first started playing hockey will be considered the **ORIGIN** Association. A player will only have one (1) **ORIGIN** Association.
 - a.) Proof of origin must be provided if so required by the **HOME** Association.
 - b.) It is the responsibility of the player to source and provide proof of origin.
 - c.) A player will be required to complete the Player Clearance Form (SC14) and forward it to Hockey NSW two weeks prior to the relevant State championship.
- 4.2.5. The following exceptions apply in respect to a State Championship:
 - a.) A player, who has stood for selection for his or her **HOME** association but is not selected in any team, may represent any other association subject to the following;
 - i.) The Player Clearance Form (SC 14) is completed, signed and forwarded to Hockey NSW, two weeks prior to the relevant State Championship; and
 - ii.) The player has complied with all relevant representative selection trial policies of the **HOME** Association.
 - b.) A player who has registered with more than one Association is eligible to represent the other Association they are registered with subject to the following;
 - i.) The Player Clearance Form (SC 14) is completed, signed and forwarded to Hockey NSW,

two weeks prior to the relevant State Championship.

c.) If a player's **HOME** Association is not participating in a State Championship the player is eligible to represent any other Association subject to a Player Clearance Form (SC 14) being completed, signed and forwarded to Hockey NSW, two weeks prior to the relevant State Championship.

- 4.2.6. At least two weeks prior to the commencement date of any State Championship, each participating Association shall complete the player selection process as detailed in the Field State Championship Operations Manual.
- 4.2.7. All players participating must register for the State Championship in accordance with the Team Details List/Amended Details form. A player can be registered with one team only.
- 4.2.8. Should a player be registered with a team and then be unavailable, another player may be substituted. Such substitution must be advised to the tournament director prior to the commencement of the State Championship.

4.3. COMPOSITION OF A TEAM

- 4.3.1. Each association may change the composition of its team from one match to another on condition that only those players whose names appear on the Team Details List may participate.
- 4.3.2. Team managers must submit a team list to the Technical Official at the field prior to the start of each match. The team list will indicate the 11 players who will be on the field of play at the commencement of the match and up to five more players who will sit on the bench (excluding any player who has been suspended from playing in the match by the TD).
- 4.3.3. Each team is permitted to interchange up to five players during the match (refer to Rules of Hockey for interchange rules). All interchange players shall be chosen from amongst the players whose names appear in the Team Details List registered in revolutioniseSport. No interchange shall be permitted for a suspended player.
- 4.3.4. At no time shall there be on the field more than one goalkeeper in each team.
- 4.3.5. In the case of a goalkeeper's tournament ending in injury, competing teams will be able to utilise a goalkeeper from a lower ranked team or division/pool and or from another association team where a clearance will not be needed. This will be dependent on whether teams have a second goalkeeper at the event. Once a goalkeeper has been replaced the original goalkeeper will not be able to participate any further in the championship.
- 4.3.6. At all U14s, U16s and U18s Championships teams are required to have a fully padded GK for the duration of all matches. Under no circumstances must a team withdraw their GK. Teams at Opens Championships are able to remove their GK at any time and play with 11 field players. This must be completed in consultation with the TO on that game.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

5.1. CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

- 5.1.1. Hockey NSW will produce and arrange distribution of a draw for each championship showing the dates and times of matches. Subject to the following rules, Hockey NSW will have full discretion as to the arrangement of matches
- 5.1.2. The draw will provide for:
 - 5.1.2.1. No team to play more than three matches on any one day at field state championship.

- 5.1.2.2. Teams to have a two (2) game break as a minimum between each match
- 5.1.2.3. Teams to play a full round of matches within each pool, or within the division if not divided into pools.
- 5.1.2.4. If semi-final and ranking matches are played, the allocation of match times is such that, as far as practicable, no team is given an unfair advantage over any other team by reason of match times.
- 5.1.2.5. The allocation of match times for finals is such that, as far as practicable, no team is given an unfair advantage over any other team by reason of match times.
- 5.1.3. The Tournament Director may alter the draw after the commencement of the championship if:
 - 5.1.3.1. A team withdraws from the championship; or
 - 5.1.3.2. Ground or weather conditions prevent use of fields or impose conditions detrimental to competitive hockey or dangerous to players.
- 5.1.4. The alterations will be advised to all team managers as soon as practicable.

5.2. DIVISIONS AND POOLS

- 5.2.1. Participating teams shall be divided into divisions which may be further divided into pools
- 5.2.2. Should there be an uneven number of teams nominated for any division; Hockey NSW may invite additional team.
- 5.2.3. The Opens and U18 Field State Championships will comprise a maximum of 26 teams. Associations will be able to field a minimum of 1 (one) team per Age Group and Gender.
- 5.2.4. Once team nominations close, based on the previous year's rankings, pools if used will be determined on the below table. This method will ensure equality between teams and ensure a level playing field between divisions.

POOL A	POOL B
1 ST	2 ND
4 th	3 rd
5 th	6 th
8 th	7 th
9 th	10 th

- 5.2.5. An association cannot have two teams in the same pool or more than 2 teams in each division. Changes to pools will be made at the discretion of Hockey NSW if this occurs.
- 5.2.6. Alternate division and pool formats may be required at the discretion of the Hockey NSW.
- 5.2.7. Divisions will be referred to as division 1, 2, 3 etc.
- 5.2.8. Hockey New South Wales reserves the right to exercise an unfettered discretion to re-arrange the composition of the pools prior to beginning of the Championships.

5.3. DURATION OF MATCHES

- 5.3.1. Duration of Matches will be at the discretion of Hockey NSW. All efforts will be made to provide suitable playing time for all teams.
- 5.3.2. The start and finish of each period will be indicated by an official siren/hooter. All matches shall start, and resume on the umpire's whistle. Each period will end on the siren/hooter.
- 5.3.3. No additional time will be added to the game for penalty strokes or for injury. Where practicable,

injured players are to be removed from the field of play to allow the match to continue and, if necessary, be subject to medical advice.

- 5.3.4. Penalty corners and penalty strokes awarded prior to the conclusion of each quarter shall be played out. The period will end on the umpires whistle.
- 5.3.5. Teams finishing the match must vacate the fields immediately, and the next teams should take the fields ready to commence play at the scheduled time.
- 5.3.6. If a match is interrupted (eg. because of weather conditions), and the decision of the TD is that it be resumed (not necessarily on the same pitch), the score on the resumption will be that at the time the interruption took place.
- 5.3.7. If it is not possible to resume the match, and:
 - 5.3.7.1. Match stopped before half time, a 0-0 draw will be recorded
 - 5.3.7.2. Match stopped during or after half time, the score standing at the interruption will be the result of the match.

5.4. SEMI-FINAL

- 5.4.1. Where time permits, there may be semi-finals prior to the final. This shall be determined for each division prior to the championship and be clearly indicated in the draw.
- 5.4.2. If semi-finals are played in division with two pools, they will be:
 - 5.4.2.1. The team finishing first in Pool A shall play the team finishing second in Pool B. This will be known as the first semi-final.
 - 5.4.2.2. The team finishing first in Pool B shall play the team finishing second in Pool A. This will be known as the second semi-final.
- 5.4.3. If semi-finals are played in division not divided into pools, they will be:
 - 5.4.3.1. The team finishing first in the division will play the team finishing fourth in the division. This will be known as the first semi-final.
 - 5.4.3.2. The team finishing second in the division will play the team finishing third in the division. This will be known as the second semi-final.
- 5.4.4. In the event of a draw in a semi-final, the team ranked higher after the round games will progress through to the final. This will be determined by your final ranking in your nominated pool.

5.5. FINAL MATCHES

- 5.5.1. If there are no semi-finals then the top two teams will play in the final. Where the teams in any one division are divided into two pools, the top team from each pool will play in the final.
- 5.5.2. If semi-finals are played, the final shall be played between the two winners of the semi-final matches.
- 5.5.3. If at the conclusion of any final matches the score is equal a shoot out competition between the teams shall be conducted, with each team having 5 shoot-outs for the first sequence followed by sudden death as per FIH regulations. There will be no shoot-outs at the Under 14s State Championships, Joint winners will be crowned.
- 5.5.4. In the event of unforeseen circumstances not allowing the finals match to be played, the rankings will be decided in the following sequence
 - 5.5.4.1. The total points accumulated at the conclusion of the last round of preliminary matches
 - 5.5.4.2. The number of matches won
 - 5.5.4.3. The goal difference; i.e. the number of goals scored minus the number of goals conceded;

5.5.4.4. The goals awarded to each team

5.5.4.5. If teams are still equal, the ranking of each team prior to the Championships will determine final placing.

5.6. CLASSIFICATION MATCHES

5.6.1. Classification (ranking) matches will only be played in divisions divided into pools and if time permits.

5.6.2. The team finishing 3rd (and 4th or 5th in pools with 4 or 5 respectively) in Pool A shall play the team finishing 3rd (and 4th, 5th in pools with 4 or 5 teams respectively) in Pool B to determine 5th and 6th (and 7th and 8th or 9th and 10th) placing.

5.6.3. Should goals be equal at full time, the ranking will be decided in the following sequence

5.6.3.1. The total points accumulated at the conclusion of the last round of preliminary matches

5.6.3.2. The number of matches won

5.6.3.3. The goal difference; i.e. the number of goals scored minus the number of goals conceded;

5.6.3.4. The goals awarded to each team

5.6.3.5. If teams are still equal, the ranking of each team prior to the Championships will determine final placing.

5.6.4. The team finishing lowest in pool A shall play the team finishing lowest in Pool B to determine 7th and 8th (or 9th and 10th or 11th and 12th, as the case may require) placing and relegation.

5.6.5. Should goals be equal at full time, the ranking will be decided in the following sequence:

5.6.5.1. The total points accumulated at the conclusion of the last round of preliminary matches

5.6.5.2. The number of matches won

5.6.5.3. The goal difference; i.e. the number of goals scored minus the number of goals conceded;

5.6.5.4. The goals awarded to each team

5.6.5.5. If teams are still equal, the ranking of each team prior to the Championships will determine final placing.

5.7. RANKING OF LOSING SEMI FINALISTS

5.7.1. The team losing the semi finals will be ranked in the following sequence:

5.7.1.1. The total points accumulated at the conclusion of the last round of preliminary matches

5.7.1.2. The number of matches won

5.7.1.3. The goal difference; i.e. the number of goals scored minus the number of goals conceded;

5.7.1.4. The goals awarded to each team

5.7.1.5. If teams are still equal, the ranking of each team prior to the Championships will determine final placing.

5.8. SHOOT OUT COMPETITION

In a shoot-out competition, five players from each team take a one-on-one shoot-out alternately against a defender from the other team as set out in this Regulation. The shoot-out competition comprises all series of shoot-outs required to determine a result. The following sets out both the playing Rules and the procedures to be followed

5.8.1 If the shoot-out competition takes place after the end of a match, the first shoot-out should take place within four (4) minutes of the end of regulation playing time.

5.8.2 The respective Team Managers provide five players to take and one player to defend the shoot-

outs from those on the Match Report except as excluded below. A player nominated to defend the shootouts can also be nominated to take a shoot-out. No substitutions / replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition other than as specified below.

- 5.8.3 A player who is still serving a disciplinary suspension by the Technical Delegate at the time the shootout competition takes place or has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition, cannot take part in that shoot-out competition. A player who has been warned (green card) or temporarily suspended (yellow card) may take part in the shout-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match.
- 5.8.4 A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot out.
- 5.8.5 All persons listed on the Match Report other than any player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition are permitted to enter the field of play on the half-way line.
- 5.8.6 The goalkeeper / defending player of the team taking a shoot-out shall wait on the back-line outside the circle.
- 5.8.7 A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.
- 5.8.8 Players taking a shoot-out and also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents are allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put back on their protective equipment.
- 5.8.9 Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper / defending player of the other team making a total of 10 shoot-outs.
 - 5.8.9.1 Taking a shoot-out:
 - 5.8.9.2 the goalkeeper / defending player starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts;
 - 5.8.9.3 the ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;
 - 5.8.9.4 an attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;
 - 5.8.9.5 the Umpire blows the whistle to start time;
 - 5.8.9.6 an official at the technical table starts the clock;
 - 5.8.9.7 the attacker and the goalkeeper / defending player may then move in any direction;
 - 5.8.9.8 the shoot-out is completed when:
 - 5.8.9.8.1 8 seconds has elapsed since the starting signal;
 - 5.8.9.8.2 a goal is scored;
 - 5.8.9.8.3 the attacker commits an offence;
 - 5.8.9.8.4 the goalkeeper / defending player commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle in which case the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper / defending player;
 - 5.8.9.8.5 the goalkeeper / defending player commits an intentional offence inside or outside the circle,
 - 5.8.9.8.8 in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;

- 5.8.9.8.9 the ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper / defending player intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.
- 5.8.10 If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above, it can be taken and defended by any eligible player on the Match Report subject to the provisions of Articles 17, 18 and 19 of this Appendix.
- 5.8.11 The team scoring the most goals (or ahead by more goals than the other team has untaken shoot-outs available) is the winner.
- 5.8.12 A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot-out competition.
- 5.8.13 If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:
 - 5.8.13.1 that player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper / defending player, cannot be replaced;
 - 5.8.13.2 the replacement for a suspended goalkeeper / defending player can only come from the five players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition:
 - 5.8.13.2.1 the replacement goalkeeper / defending player is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper / defending player they are replacing was wearing;
 - 5.8.13.2.2 for taking their own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
 - 5.8.13.3 any shoot-out due to be taken by a suspended player is forfeited; any goals scored by this player before being suspended count as a goal.
- 5.8.14 If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper / defending player is incapacitated:
 - 5.8.14.1 that goalkeeper / defending player may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded in this Appendix or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition;
 - 5.8.14.2 the replacement goalkeeper:
 - 5.8.14.2.1 is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper / defending player was wearing;
 - 5.8.14.2.2 if this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
- 5.8.15 If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded above or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition.
- 5.8.16 If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs:
 - 5.8.16.1 a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to

- the conditions specified in this Appendix;
- 5.8.16.2 the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;
- 5.8.16.3 the team whose player took the first shoot-out in a series defends the first shoot-out of the next series;
- 5.8.16.4 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.
- 5.8.17 If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, additional series of shoot-outs are taken with the same players subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix:
- 5.8.17.1 the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;
- 5.8.17.2 the team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.

5.9 TOMAHAWK (REVERSE EDGE OF STICK) SHOT AT GOAL

- 5.9.1 The shot at goal which results from hitting the ball with the reverse edge of the stick is played at all State Championships. This shot is commonly referred to as the “tomahawk shot”.

5.10 PROMOTION, RELEGATION AND SEEDING

- 5.10.1 The team winning each division shall be promoted to the next higher division, up through to division one, and seeded in the lowest position in that division for the following year. The team finishing last in each division shall be relegated to the next lower division, through to the lowest division competing in the championship, and seeded in first position in that lower division for the following year. Should an association be unable to move to the next highest division due to already have the maximum number of teams, the team with the next highest ranking will be promoted.
- 5.10.2 Promotion from each division to the next higher division, up to division one, shall be automatic. Relegation from each division to the next lower division, through to the lowest division in the championship, shall be automatic.
- 5.10.3 For the purpose of determining promotion, relegation and seeding, all calculations shall be made at the conclusion of all matches played at the championship
- 5.10.4 In the event of an association with a seed team not entering the team in the championship, all teams seeded below that team will be advanced.
- 5.10.5 All unseeded teams entered in a championship will be ranked below the lowest seeded team. This ranking will be determined by the officer appointed to produce the championship draw.
- 5.10.6 For the Under 14s Championships Joint Winners will be automatically promoted to the next highest division. Relegation from the above division will be the 2 lowest place finishers. This will be automatic.

5.11 FAILURE TO PLAY, WITHDRAW OR FORFIETS

- 5.11.1 The minimum number of players required to be on the field of play for a match is **seven (7)**, including a fully padded up goalkeeper for underage championships, and any team unable to meet this requirement within 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time shall forfeit the match.
- 5.11.2 A team that is more than 10 minutes late in taking the field shall be deemed to have forfeited the

match.

- 5.11.3 The team receiving a forfeit shall be deemed to have won the match by a score of 3-0
- 5.11.4 If, during the course of a match, a team declines to continue the match or to take it up where it left off, this team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and the opposing team to have won the match with the score standing at that time or by a score of 3-0 whichever is greater having regard to goal balance.
- 5.11.5 Any team that forfeits a match during the championship will be deemed to have withdrawn from the championship, unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- 5.11.6 If a team withdraws from the championship before the completion of the pool rounds (or preliminary rounds), all matches it had played up till then shall be considered as not having been played, not only by the team withdrawing but also by all the teams it had played, and pool ranking and classifications will be corrected accordingly.
- 5.11.7 Where promotion and relegation applies, a team withdrawing from a championship after the draw has been published shall be ranked in last position in the lowest division.

5.12 ADMISSION TO FIELD OF PLAY

- 5.12.1 No one except the players and the umpire properly engaged in a given match may enter the field of play during the match unless 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. Under no circumstance is the coach permitted to enter the field of play during the match.
- 5.12.2 No player may be admitted to the field of play during a match unless wearing the team's approved uniform with designated shirt number.
- 5.12.3 If team benches are provided, each team engaged in a given match may have up to ten persons on the bench, namely, the team manager (for whom it is compulsory to sit there), five substitute players, the coach, the assistant coach, masseur and the physiotherapist.
- 5.12.4 The team manager is responsible for the proper conduct of all persons occupying the bench.

5.13 POINTS

- 5.13.1 The following points shall be awarded for each match:
 - 5.13.1.1 3 points for the winning team
 - 5.13.1.2 1 point to each team in the event of a draw
 - 5.13.1.3 0 points for the loser
- 5.13.2 Total points accumulated at the end of the series of preliminary matches shall determine the placing in pools or in divisions that are not divided into pools. If, at the conclusion of the series of preliminary matches, two or more teams have obtained the same number of points, the ranking shall be decided in the following sequence until a final ranking is established:
 - 5.13.2.1 Number of matches won;
 - 5.13.2.2 Comparison of goal difference;
 - 5.13.2.3 Comparison of goals for;
 - 5.13.2.4 Result(s) of the match(es) played between only those teams involved;
 - 5.13.2.5 Higher ranked team prior to the Championships will be placed on the highest ranking

5.14 CARDS/SUSPENSIONS

5.14.1 A penalty points system for cards issued will operate. Cards will attract the following point penalties:

5.14.1.1	Green Card	1 point
5.14.1.2	Minor Yellow – 5 mins	4 points
5.14.1.3	Major Yellow – 10 mins	6 points
5.14.1.4	Red Card	10 points

5.14.2 The TD may suspend for one or more matches of the competition:

- 5.14.2.1 Any player who has accumulated 10 or more demerit points during the championship.
- 5.14.2.2 Any player, reserve player, or team official who commits a Code of Conduct breach, during or after any match of the championship.

5.14.3 Following the serving of a suspension, a player's penalty points total shall revert to five points.

5.14.4 The tournament director may refrain from imposing an automatic suspension in order to avoid any obvious miscarriage of justice.

5.15 PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

5.15.1 Where a team wishes to lodge a protest over matters relating to a match the team manager must indicate the intention to do so under their signature on the match report. Decisions by umpires and championship officials (TD, DTD or TO) will not be disputed.

5.15.2 Any protest, complaints or inquiries must be lodged in writing to the TD within 10 minutes of the completion of the match and be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00. Failure to do so will indicate no protest is registered. The TD will advise the outcome within two hours of the match concluding. However, any protest that requires an urgent decision to be, made can be lodged with the TD who shall adjudicate on the matter accordingly.

5.15.3 In dealing with a protest or complaint, the TD should refer to the wording or intent of any relevant rule. Each team/official shall be given equal opportunity to present their case. The fee will be refunded where a protest is upheld or the TD determines that special circumstances apply and a refund is warranted. Money not refunded is deposited with Hockey NSW. A receipt may be issued upon request of the Association in writing at the conclusion of the championship.

5.16 MEDICAL

5.16.1 Sharing of towels, face washers, drink containers, face masks, mouth guards etc. must not occur.

5.16.2 Where bleeding occurs as a result of any injury, all contaminated clothing and equipment must be replaced prior to the player being allowed to resume play. If bleeding should re-occur the above procedures must be repeated. If bleeding cannot be controlled even if the wound is securely covered, then the player must not continue in the game.

5.16.3 Jewellery, will need to be removed if deemed by umpires to be dangerous to other players.

5.16.4 All players must remove or cover any plastic wrist bands.

6 STOPPAGES AND INTERRUPTION TO PLAY

6.1 WET WEATHER

- 6.1.1 Where a Championship is affected by weather, including but not restricted to rain, hail, storms, lightning, floods, field conditions etc, stoppages or cancellations of the game, games or the Championships shall be at the discretion of the TD and in accordance with the relevant Hockey NSW policy.
- 6.1.2 The TD shall take advice from the Deputy Tournament Director, Umpire Manager, Deputy Umpire Manager, Hockey NSW Staff Member, Ground officials and Local officials with knowledge of weather patterns, drying out etc. The TD shall primarily exercise a Duty of Care to players, umpires and officials and shall also give due consideration to care and preservation of playing fields
- 6.1.3 The TD may consider the following options:
 - 6.1.3.1 Wait and see if weather or conditions clear and the grounds become playable. No more than fifteen (15) minutes waiting time apply to any one game.
 - 6.1.3.2 If a match is interrupted and the decision of the TD is that it be resumed (not necessarily on the same pitch) the score on the resumption will be that's at the time the interruption took place.
 - 6.1.3.3 If it is not possible to resume the match, and;
 - 6.1.3.4 Match stopped before half time, a 0-0 draw will be recorded
 - 6.1.3.5 Match stopped during or after half time, the score standing at the interruption will be the result of the match.

6.2 ABANDONMENT OR DEFERMENT OF CHAMPIONSHIP

- 6.2.1 The host association shall contact the Chief Executive Officer of Hockey NSW by telephone, no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the championship should doubt exist as to whether the championship can proceed as scheduled.
- 6.2.2 The championship, once commenced, shall be completed unless conditions, unless deemed unsafe in the opinion of the TD.
- 6.2.3 Should a division of the championship be called off due to the closure of grounds by the host association's local council, the board shall determine if that division should be played at a later date at the same or another venue.

6.3 UNFORESEEN EVENTS

- 6.3.1 Should circumstances arise which are not provided for in the State Championship Manual, they shall be dealt with by the TD and where required liaise with Hockey NSW.