



WAIKATO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Junior Division

(including Secondary, Intermediate and Primary School/Club competitions)
By Laws- competitions and playing conditions for 2025 season

Preface

Waikato Hockey Association's ('WHA') mission is "*To provide an environment for the enjoyment, growth and development of hockey for all in the Waikato region.*" The WHA Junior Division Committee ('JD') is responsible for organizing hockey for players from new entrants through to and including year 13 students and to facilitate WHA's mission for each and every young person wanting to play hockey in the Waikato region.

These bylaws

- Are provided to facilitate an enjoyable and fair playing environment for all players and teams regardless of skill level.
- Cover teams from all types of schools including home schooled.
- children and young people and any clubs entering the junior competition.
- Each team's coach/manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with the by-laws.
- The JD will consider appropriate dispensation of, or exemption from, these bylaws if required at any time.
- If known in advance dispensation should always be sought via email prior to the event/game day.
- In urgent situations, dispensations can be granted after the fact, the JD will support sensible decisions made by coaches/managers where prior approval is unable to be obtained.

1. Introduction

1.1 These rules shall override any previous rules.

2 Code of Conduct

2.1 CODE OF CONDUCT / CARD SYSTEM / SUSPENSIONS

The WHA – JD is determined to maintain high standards of on field behavior and has instructed umpires to deal firmly with all cases where players and team officials; -

- a) swear, spontaneously or otherwise
- b) strike other players, whether it be with stick, fist or foot
- c) indulge in umpire abuse or displays of dissent, this covers the period following the match also
- d) any unseemly or un-sportsperson like behavior.

Refer to the WHA Judicial System document and Hockey New Zealand Code of Conduct for guidelines. Please note that officials and supporters are subject to these Rules and Regulations. T

The Hockey New Zealand Code of Conduct will apply to all hockey within the WHA.

3 Control and Jurisdiction

3.1 All games shall be under the control of the JD with power of appeal and jurisdiction with the WHA.

3.2 JD, in conjunction with WHA, shall decide dates, times and grounds for all games in the “local” competitions.

3.3 WHA shall have the power to suspend any team that may be in arrears with any fees.

4 Fees

4.1 Annual entry fees for the local competition shall be set by WHA prior to the commencement of the season. There will be no refund of fees for teams that withdraw after the commencement of the season.

4.2 Please note that schools playing in external competitions (e.g., Midlands Intercity Secondary Schools Competition (MISSC)) may be required to pay additional entry fees.

5 Duration of Games

5.1 The duration of games will vary depending on the format of the games (e.g. 11-a-side or half field) and the level of the games (e.g., Primary, Intermediate or Secondary). Umpires will ensure that games finish at the scheduled time irrespective of the time a game is started.

6 Eligibility

6.1 Students attending a school that enters team(s) in the JD competition shall play for a team from their school.

6.2 Where a team is entered through a hockey club, that team shall not include players from schools that have entered a team or teams into the JD competition.

6.3 Where a school does not have sufficient players to enter a team that school may:

- (1) combine with another school to form a team for the JD competition, or
- (2) agree to release those students from playing for another school or club on condition that written approval is received by WHA from the principals of both schools concerned.

6.4 Home-schooled students and students from a school that does not provide hockey may apply to a local school or club to play in a team of appropriate age and gender. The school must then apply to JD for ratification. Such students will be eligible to trial for Waikato representative teams.

7 Team Entries

7.1 All team entries must be received no later than 5.00pm on the date advised by the respective newsletter (i.e. Primary, Intermediate or Secondary newsletters).

8 Age Limits

8.1 Players for the Secondary competition:

- (1) Must be enrolled in at least year 9 or 13 years of age as of 1 January; and
- (2) Under the appropriate age as of 1st January 2023 e.g. u15 or u18.

8.2 Players for the Intermediate grades must be enrolled in Years 7 and 8 or equivalent age.

8.3 Players for the Primary grades must be enrolled in Years 1 to 6 or equivalent age.

9 Player registrations

9.1 All schools/clubs must submit their player registrations via the PlayHQ app no later than 5pm on the date advised by WHA-JD. This information will then be found on the WHA/Play HQ database.

9.2 Each school/club must supply a weekday and after hours contact person and their contact details.

9.3 New player registration will be accepted throughout the season 10 Squad registrations (intermediate and secondary only)

10. Squad Registration (Intermediate & Secondary)

10.1 Squad registrations are required via PlayHQ for each intermediate and secondary team entering in a JD competition and are required for any new additions

10.2 Each squad must have an adult in charge as either manager or coach and must supply a weekday and after-hours contact person and their contact details.

10.3 At the time of competition entry, all squads must be registered prior to commencement of

competition for all schools/clubs. Teams must be ranked from highest to lowest, particularly where more than one team is registered.

10.4 Each 11 a side squad must contain at least 13 named players.

10.5 Each 6 a side squad must contain at least 7 named players.

10.5 No player may be named/nominated in more than 1 squad.

10.6 Any player may play for a squad that is playing in a higher grade than the squad in which he/she is registered as playing in but may not play for a squad that plays in lower grade. *I.e. a player registered in a squad playing in the B Grade may play for a squad playing in the A Grade, but the same player may not play for a squad that is playing in the C Grade.*

- (1) Where a school has more than one squad playing in the same grade, players cannot move between those squads.
- (2) A goalkeeper may play down a grade but only as a field player and not as goalkeeper.
- (3) Where a school has only two teams, dispensation will be available to ensure the lower ranked team is able to field a full team. (Prior notice required by WHA – JD)

10.7 JD reserves the right to re-grade any player.

10.8 All squad registrations are at the discretion of the WHA-JD.

10.9 Players may be added to the squad at any time within the competition with the exclusion of the last 3 weeks prior to the semifinals (or finals where there is no semifinal) of the championship round via PlayHQ

10.10 Match points may be altered retrospectively by the JD if squad registration rules are deemed to be breached.

10.11 Where schools register teams in the SD (senior division) competition, those teams shall be deemed the top ranked school teams for JD competition rule purposes.

10.12 Primary hockey, team registrations may or may not be required. WHA to determine if this is required, prior to start of competition. [Please note that player registrations are still required under Section 9.]

11 Withdrawal from the competition (secondary only)

11.1 If a team is withdrawn from the competition after the draw has been competed for the round; then the withdrawing team will be deemed to have defaulted on the games for the rest of the round.

12 Transferring players

12.1 Where a player is transferring during the season to another school/club within the WHA, notification in writing must be provided to WHA by an authorized person from each of the affected schools/clubs.

12.2 No player shall play for more than one club and/or school entered in the JD

championship competitions, in any one season.

13 Grading

13.1 Schools may nominate a grade for a team to play in, however; the JD committee shall determine the grade in which each team shall compete.

13.2 JD committee shall decide the number of teams within each grade

13.3 JD retains the right to re-grade any team.

13.4 Grades for teams will be advised when the entries have been finalized.

14 Promotion/relegation

14.1 JD may at its discretion promote or relegate any team.

15 Match Ball

15.1 Each team must provide one hockey ball which conforms to the Rules of Hockey, information available to read at www.hockeynz.co.nz.

16 Uniforms- Secondary

16.1 All School/club uniforms shall be registered on PlayHQ and any changes must also be advised to JD. All players taking the field must wear the registered uniform.

16.2 Secondary 'A' grade teams must wear player numbers as recorded on the scorecard.

16.3 All teams are required to have an alternative strip (or alternative

colored bibs) to be used if there is a clash of colors. If such a situation occurs the team listed first on the draw (left side) is required to wear the alternative strip / bibs.

16.4 Secondary 'A' grade teams should ensure that player numbers are visible on the alternate strip and that numbers for each player on the alternative strip correspond with those listed on the scorecard.

16.5 Captains should wear a distinctive armband or ribbon. If the captain is substituted or suspended the armband or ribbon must be transferred to another member of the team on the field.

INTERMEDIATE AND PRIMARY

16.6 All teams must wear a distinctive uniform, bibs should be worn when there is a clash of colors.

17 Points (Secondary only)

17.1 Points shall be awarded as follows:

3 points for a win

1 point for a draw

0 points for a loss

18 Score recording and result notification (Intermediate and secondary only)

18.1 WHA uses PlayHQ to record scores, WHA competitions Manager will direct timeframes scores are to be submitted prior to the start of the season.

19 Competition rules

19.1 All games will be in accordance with the rules of the Games of Hockey and regulations of Hockey New Zealand available at www.hockeynz.co.nz

19.2 Rules for primary and intermediate modules will be displayed on the WHA website.

19.3 For secondary competitions only, placing in any round robin will be determined using the following criteria in the specified order:

1. number of points
2. number of matches won
3. goal difference
4. goals for
5. if one team has defeated another
6. penalty shootout competition

20 Championship round rules.

20.1 Where a semifinal or final of a game is tied at the end of regulation time a penalty shootout played to official Hockey New Zealand rules will be held to determine the winner.

21 Player eligibility for finals and semifinals (Secondary only)

21.1 In the Championship round, a player may not play for a team in the semi-final and final of that round, unless they have also played at least 40% of round robin games of the Championship round as a member of that team (i.e. they are a genuine member of the team). Dispensation can be applied for from JD for registered players returning from injury/illness or lower grade players from the same school/club required to be used in the semi-finals and or finals.

22 Defaults/deferments (Secondary only)

22.1 Defaults must be notified to WHA in writing and a score of 5-0 will be awarded to the non defaulting team.

22.2 Defaults under By-Law 22.1 may result in the defaulting team paying \$50 to the WHA, who shall credit the non-defaulting team.

22.3 Teams may NOT request deferments.

22.4 JD will try to accommodate teams that are not able to play on certain dates due to other school hockey commitments, e.g. inter- school fixtures, provided the JD is notified of those school hockey commitments prior to the start of the relevant round.

23 Numbers for a game to commence.

Intermediate and Secondary

23.1 11-a-side teams must have at least 8 players including a goalkeeper for a game to commence. **(Note: Subject to 23.3, teams for all 11-a-side grades must always field a goalie wearing full protective clothing i.e. a game cannot commence without a goalie or with another player filling in as goalie without the appropriate protective clothing).**

23.2 Half-field teams must have at least 5 players for a game to commence. (Note: Teams that are entered in the half field with goalkeeper must have a fully kitted goalie.

23.3 **Secondary Schools 'A' Grade teams only may remove the goalie from the field of play, at the team's discretion. The goalie may be replaced by a field player. If, after the goalie of a team has been removed from the field of play, a penalty corner is awarded against that team, one of the field players defending the goal must wear a protective helmet. If a stroke is awarded against that team, the field player defending the goal must wear a protective helmet.**

23.4 If for any reason play has not commenced within 5 minutes of the scheduled start time, the team unwilling or unable to proceed will be deemed by the umpires to have defaulted on the match and a score of 5-0 will be awarded to the non-defaulting team.

24 Cancellations

24.1 Cancellations will be posted on the WHA website and on the PlayHQ app.

25 Interruptions to games

25.1 Umpires may interrupt a match due to extenuating circumstances such as weather or serious injury.

25.2 For 11-a-side games

(1) If there is less than 15 minutes remaining in the match, the result at the time of the umpire's decision to cancel play shall be final.

(2) If the stoppage occurs before 10 minutes into the second period of play, the game must be completed at the earliest opportunity as decided by the Competitions Committee under the following conditions (unless mutually agreed by both teams that the score will stand):

- The game must be completed by regulation time i.e. if the game was cancelled at 10 minutes into the second half, then only 15 minutes of play is required to complete the game.
- The game commences with the score starting as per the score at the cancellation of play.
- All players registered at the time of the interrupted/cancelled game are eligible to play. Any players registered after the date of the cancelled game are not eligible to play.
- Any penalty points / cards awarded still apply.

25.3 For half field games, due to the length of the games, the result will be the half time result. If the game is started and interrupted before half time, the result will be a draw.

26 Health and safety

26.1 It is compulsory for participants to wear a mouth guard, shin pads and suitable footwear. Umpires will remove from the field of play any player not wearing either item.

26.2 The wearing of hard peaked caps is prohibited.

26.3 Players must leave the turf if bleeding and may only return to the game with the wound covered and uniform free of exposed blood.

26.4 All teams are responsible for their own first aid (including having ice on hand for injuries). Where there are any serious injuries, assistance should be sought first from a First Aid person or if any registered medical professional is available on the turf.

26.5 In the instance of concussion or suspected concussion coaches and managers should be guided by the Hockey New Zealand concussion awareness policy available at www.hockeynz.co.nz

27 Misconduct

27.1 In accordance with WHA Judiciary Committee Procedures and Policies all reports on misconduct by players, managers, coaches and spectators should be notified in writing (including email) to the WHA office for the attention of the Judicial Secretary within 48 hours. In the case of any match played on a Friday or Saturday then the report

must be notified to the Judicial Secretary by 4 pm on the Monday following the match.

28 Protest

28.1 If a school wishes to lodge a protest at the end of the match or the end of a shootout competition, disputes are to be registered in PlayHQ card or via an email to WHA by the Team Manager with an explanation for WHA Competitions Manager to review.

28.2 A protest must be lodged within 4 hours of the end of the match or of the penalty shootout to the WHA Competitions Manager.

28.3 WHA will convene a meeting as soon as practicable to consider the protest. WHA's decision shall be given in writing to the school within 24 hours of the conclusion of the meeting.