

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY

COMPETITION RULES.

**These competition rules are supplementary to and do not replace the
Constitution or Regulations of the Club.**

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

CONTENTS

1.	Hockey Competitions	3
2.	Registration of Players	3
3.	Substitutes Reserves & Floaters	4
4.	Grading of Teams	5
5.	Grading of Individuals	5
6.	Competition Grades	5
7.	Uniforms	6
8.	Match Play	7
9.	Postponement of Matches	8
10.	Competition Points	8
11.	Declaration of Winners	9
12.	Finals	9
13.	Finals Series Eligibility	10
14.	Codes of Behaviour	11
15.	Team Responsibilities	11
16.	Umpires	12
17.	Umpires Examinations	13
18.	Player Disciplinary Code	13
19.	Judiciary Matters	14
20.	Process for Judiciary Matters	15
21.	Protests and Appeals	16
22.	Selection Committee	17
23.	Representative Teams	18
24.	Club Activity & Competitions	19
25.	Special Circumstances	19
26.	Men's Competition	19

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

1. HOCKEY COMPETITIONS.

1.1 Outdoor and Indoor hockey competitions shall be run in grades and shall be played in rounds. The number of grades and rounds to be played shall be determined by the Committee at the commencement of the season, but this number may be reduced at any time if, in the opinion of the Committee, insufficient time remains in which to complete the rounds.

2. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS.

2.1 Every team must have a minimum number of registered players to take part in the competition; this minimum number is 11 for teams in the outdoor competition and 6 for teams in the indoor competition.

Special consideration will be given to junior teams, to accept team nomination and help find more players.

When a player has played one competition game with a team or club, they are automatically registered with that team or club. That team then becomes responsible for fees of all players who have played from the first competition game.

2.2 Any player desiring to play with a team or club other than the one with which they are registered, shall first obtain a clearance from the former team or club before they can be registered as a member of the second team.

2.3 No team or club shall refuse clearance to a player to play with another team or club unless that player is unfinancial or has not returned property belonging to that team or club.

2.4 Any players desiring to play with another team or club as under clause 2.2 shall also obtain the approval of the Committee to the change. If insufficient grounds for the change are shown, the Committee may, at its discretion, refuse the approval.

2.5 Having played 3 competition games no player shall be permitted to change teams or clubs during the season except at the discretion of the **Committee**.

2.6 Any player playing under another player's name will be fined \$20, and will be automatically suspended for four (4) matches, the suspension to carry from one season to the next, and the offending team to be fined \$50. If there is any dispute, the Appeals & Protest Committee will handle this matter

3. SUBSTITUTES, NOMINATED RESERVES & FLOATERS.

3.1 Teams can complement their team of registered players by utilising subs & floaters during the season.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

3.2 Once a player has played three (3) competition games in any grade higher than the one that they registered in, they must remain in that grade for the rest of the season (except floaters). Permission may be sought from the Committee to drop a player to a lower grade when they have been replaced on form.

3.3 Substitutes & floaters are to be clearly identified as such on the game card with letters (s) or (f) beside their name i.e. (s) Substitute, (f) Floater

3.4 Substitute Players:

- i) Substitutes are to be from a LOWER grade. The lowest grade may seek substitutes from within the same grade.
- ii) OUTDOOR – A minimum of eight (8) players (not including floaters) registered for that team are allowed before any substitutes are permitted on the field. In the case of subs being used, then a maximum of three (3) subs are allowed (i.e. 8 registered team members + 3 subs). A team can only use subs to make no more than eleven (11) players.
- iii) INDOOR – Subs are not allowed unless a maximum of four (4) players registered for that team are present. Only two (2) subs are allowed to be used i.e. to make six (6) players.

3.5 If a club has two (2) teams in the one grade and only one team in the next grade below in which that club is entered, they may have six (6) nominated floaters from the lower graded team to play in the higher grade teams: of those six (6) players a maximum of three (3) players are allowed to play in one team only, with no interchanging.

3.6 Floaters:

- i) The intent of having floaters is to give junior players experience in a higher grade; it is not intended that they play every game in the higher grade in lieu of available registered players in the team in that higher grade.
- ii) A higher grade team may nominate a maximum of six (6) floating players from a lower grade team. These floating players are allowed to play more than three (3) games in a higher grade (unlimited) while still being a member of a lower graded team. Only three (3) floaters can float per team per competition round.
- iii) Floating players can play in any team but must nominate for 1 team and this is the team they play for in the finals.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

iv) Floaters MUST wear the same uniform/colour as the higher grade team when they are playing with them.

v) Floating players must have played six (6) regular competition matches with their own team in which they are registered, as well as four (4) regular competition matches in the higher grade team in which they are nominated before they are eligible to take part in semi-finals, finals or grand-finals for the higher grade team.

vi) Removed

4. GRADING OF TEAMS.

At the commencement of the season, the Committee shall grade teams. A grading day may be held before the commencement of the season to inform this process.

5. GRADING OF INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS.

A grading sub-committee is to be formed by the Committee when required, to consist of one representative from each team in that grade and the President, ex-officio. The function of this grading sub-committee is to consider the skills and experience of individual players when there is any question about which grade he/she should be playing in.

Players or their representatives may apply to the Committee for temporary/seasonal exemptions from the grading rules on the grounds of disability, concern for personal safety or other reasons deemed legitimate by the Committee

The player in question and a representative from the team in question (if not already present on that Committee) may be present when the grading committee is considering its decision.

6. COMPETITION GRADES.

6.1 OUTDOOR HOCKEY

i) Hook in 2 Hockey: 4-8 years. Developing hockey skills in specially structured game.

ii) Juniors: 6 years – Year 2. Teams may be mixed and played on a quarter or half of a field. Numbers will depend on player numbers.

iii) C Grade: Players must be in primary school as at the beginning of the year. For the purpose of this rule, primary school is defined as Year 3 and above. Teams may be mixed with a maximum of six (6) boys on the field at any one time. Any deviation to this rule must have approval from the Committee and teams involved.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

iv) B Grade: Teams may be mixed with a maximum of six (6) boys on the field at any one time. Boys must be under the age of 15 as at the first of January in the year of competition. Girls must be under the age of 16 as at the first of January in the year of competition.

v) A Reserve and A Grade – Open Women: Decision regarding the playing of A reserve grade will be made after the receiving of all team nominations and prior to the commencement of competition games.

vi) Men – Open Men

Any deviation to these rules must have approval from the Committee following a written application from the player / team or their representative. An assessment will be made by the grading sub-committee who will consider the player's / team's skill and experience in the game of hockey and then make a recommendation to the Committee. Under no circumstances will boys remain in B grade following the completion of the season in which they turn 17.

6.2 INDOOR HOCKEY

i) C Grade - Must be of school age at the beginning of that year. Any deviation to this rule must have approval from the Committee.

ii) B Grade - Must be Under 15 at the start of the year. If there is no C Grade formed then the minimum limits apply, i.e. players must be in at least Year 3. Any deviation to this rule must have approval from the Committee.

iii) A Grade and A Reserve - Open but at the discretion of the grading sub-committee and/or Committee.

7. UNIFORMS.

7.1 i) When registering, teams or clubs are to submit details of uniform – top and socks, must be the same colour for the approval of the Committee. Jumper to be the same colour as shirt. No team or club affiliated with the Club should at any time play in a uniform other than the one approved by the Club.

ii) Goalies must wear an alternate shirt to opposition colours or their own team colour.

7.2 No uniform will be finalised without the prior approval of the Committee.

7.3 All players shall be dressed in the uniform approved by the Committee for their respective teams. Full uniform must be worn by the third game of each competition/season.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

7.4 Players must be in full uniform to take the field.

If a player not in uniform refuses to leave the field then, as per rule 8.3, after 5 minutes the other team will be awarded one (1) penalty goal and after 10 (10) minutes it will be deemed a forfeit.

7.5 The wearing of shin pads is strongly recommended for all field players. Shin pads should be worn under socks.

7.6 NO jewellery to be worn during play. Any jewellery that cannot be removed is to be taped.

7.7 Mouth guards are strongly recommended to be worn at all times for all field players.

7.8 Footwear must be worn and must be acceptable sporting shoes i.e. joggers, hockey boots etc. No metal sprigs allowed. Shoes for indoor must be of non-marking type.

8 MATCH PLAY.

8.1 Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Hockey, as set out by the Federation of International Hockey and/or as directed by Hockey Australia and/or Hockey NSW.

8.2 Fields should be of regulation size, according to the umpires rule book and clearly marked.

Where there is a fixed obstacle on the back line or sideline, e.g. football goal posts, any ball striking the obstacle will be considered OUT OF PLAY.

8.3 Teams must be ready on the ground to commence matches at the time set down by the committee. If a team is more than five (5) minutes late to take the field then the other team will be awarded one (1) penalty goal. If that team is more than ten (10) minutes late a forfeit will take place.

8.4 Where a player takes the field late during the game they must first report to the umpire and ensure that they have their name recorded on the scorecard.

8.5 Early matches must finish in time for later matches to commence at their programmed time. Match times will begin as indicated on the draw. There will be NO 'time out' for injuries or other events which may delay play.

8.6 In every competition match each team shall provide a correct match ball.

8.7 Any player who holds up the progress of the match unnecessarily may, at the discretion of the umpire, be prohibited from taking further part in the match.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

8.8 Any team forfeiting a match shall notify their opponents, the umpires, and the Competition secretary of their intention to forfeit, before 9.00am on the day of the match. Every effort shall be made to avoid unnecessary travelling in forfeited matches. They shall forfeit for such matches to their opponents. Points for such matches are in accordance with clause 10.2

8.9 A team needs a minimum of eight (8) registered players (not including floaters or subs) to start a game. Otherwise the game will be considered a forfeit. For Indoor, a team must have a minimum of four (4) registered players to start a game.

8.10 Indoor A grade, A Reserve and B grade must have no more than four (4) of any gender on the field at any time - this includes the goalkeeper.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES.

9.1 In the event of weather conditions being unfavourable the President, in consultation with the executive shall decide if play is to take place on the day and each team contact will be notified.

9.2 If a round is postponed due to wet weather the game will be played as soon as possible on a date set by the Committee and Competition Secretary. If a suitable alternative date cannot be arranged then any games missed shall be treated as a draw.

9.3 If a team has four (4) or more players absent from competition due to Association, Zone or Regional Representative commitments, then that team may be granted a deferment of their match. School commitments may also be considered. For a deferment to be arranged, the Committee must be given a **minimum** of two weeks notice in writing. If a convenient time cannot be mutually arranged then the Committee will set a date and time with no deviation.

10. COMPETITION POINTS.

10.1 A win shall count three (3) points

A draw shall count two (2) points

A loss shall count one (1) point

A forfeit shall count zero (0) points

10.2 Any team forfeiting a match shall not accrue any points for that game and their opponents score full win points. The team gaining the forfeit shall be awarded three (3) goals to nil (0).

10.3 Any team playing an illegal player will lose any points for the match in which the illegal player participated. The game will be considered a forfeit and points and goals will be awarded as in clause 10.2.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

10.4 No points will be awarded for a bye or wet weather cancellations.

11. DECLARATION OF COMPETITION WINNERS.

At the completion of the predetermined number of rounds, the winners shall be the team which shall have scored the greatest number of points in the competition, provided that, if two or more teams tie for the greatest number of points, positions will be determined by the best goal average. Average determined as follows: - goals for minus goals against divided by games actually played. This team will be called the Minor Premiers.

12. FINALS.

12.1 i) Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals will be played between the first four teams in each grade.

ii) If only 4 teams nominate for a grade the committee shall determine the structure of the finals series. This shall be determined at the commencement of the competition.

iii) C grade – finals may be played. Discussion with Executive and C grade coaches at the commencement of the competition as to finals format.

12.2 Outdoor Hockey

i) Semi-finals will be played 1st vs 2nd and 3rd vs 4th. The winner of 1st vs 2nd will proceed automatically to the Grand Finals. The loser of 3rd vs 4th will drop from the finals series.

ii) Finals will be played between the loser of 1st vs 2nd and the winner of 3rd vs 4th. The winner of this match will proceed to the Grand Final.

iii) If at the conclusion of any final matches the score is equal then the duration of the match shall be extended.

iv) After a break of five minutes, the umpires shall toss a coin with the captains and the winner shall have the choice of ends or possession of the ball to restart the match.

v) The extension of time shall consist of two periods of ten (10) minutes each way "sudden death", with no break other than the change of ends, with the number of players reducing.

vi) For the first ten (10) minutes, each team will nominate 9 players, including a goalkeeper, to take the field.

vii) For the second period of ten (10) minutes, only seven players each, including a goalkeeper, will take the field.

viii) The extra time shall cease once a goal is scored.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

12.3 Indoor Hockey

- i) Semi finals will be played 1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd with the winner of each match proceeding through to the Grand Final. At the discretion of the Committee, depending on time available.
- ii) If at the conclusion of any final matches the score is equal then the duration of the match shall be extended.
- iii) After a break of two minutes, the umpires shall toss a coin with the captains and the winner shall have the choice of ends or possession of the ball to restart the match.
- iv) The extension of time shall consist of two periods of five (5) minutes each way "sudden death", with no break other than the change of ends, with the number of players reducing.
- v) For the first five (5) minutes, each team will nominate four (4) players, including a goalkeeper, to take the field.
- vi) For the second period of five (5) minutes, only three (3) players each, including a goalkeeper, will take the field.
- vii) The extra time shall cease once a goal is scored.

12.4 Draw

- i) In the event of a draw at the end of extra time in any of the finals series games then a penalty shoot-out will take place of five (5) shots for each team.
- ii) If still drawn then sudden death commencing in the same order as the original five (5) players will take place consisting of five (5) shots if required.
- iii) If still drawn then five (5) new players will contest penalty shoot out in sudden death, each team having equal number shots at goal.
- iv) Penalty shoot out will be 8 seconds one on one with the goalie starting from the 25 meter line. For Indoor, the attacking player will start from the halfway line.

12.5 The Umpire Convenor, shall decide umpires for the finals and will submit them to the Committee for final approval. The Umpire Convenor may at any time seek direction from the Committee. All umpires for finals series shall be badged where possible.

13. FINALS SERIES ELIGIBILITY.

13.1 A player must play a minimum of six (6) regular competition matches during the season with that team before they are eligible to take part in semi-finals, finals or grand finals. In the case of Indoor, three (3) games must have been played with that team.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

13.2 If players are away for representative hockey, that game counts towards qualifying for finals.

13.3 Floating players – Floating players must have played six (6) regular competition matches with their own team in which they are registered, as well as four (4) regular competition matches in the higher-grade team in which they are nominated before they are eligible to take part in semi-finals, finals or grand finals.

13.4 Any team which forfeits ANY of the last five (5) matches of the competition may be excluded from the finals series at the discretion of the Committee. The Committee will consider the impact on ladder position and the reason for the forfeit when making a decision.

13.5 If a team forfeits three competition matches during the season, they will be automatically excluded from the final series.

13.6 In the event of a team reaching the semi-final, finals or grand final and being unable to field a full team (11 for outdoor & 6 for indoor) subs may be used as per Substitute rule 3.4.

14. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR.

14.1 Players, officials, volunteers and spectators must conduct themselves in a proper manner both on the field during matches and off the field until they have left the ground. Inappropriate behaviour includes bad language by players, umpires, volunteers and spectators. The offending parties may be requested to leave the grounds. Any reported infringements will be directed to the Committee, where a suspension may be enforced by the committee.

14.2 No player or umpire is allowed to take the field under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

14.3 No mistreatment of gear will be tolerated. A penalty of \$50 will be charged to the offending persons or parents and must be paid prior to the offender taking the field for the next game. If the gear is broken it must be replaced at the offender's expense.

15. TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES.

15.1 At least two (2) members or representatives of each indoor/outdoor team or club registered in the current season must attend each of the three (3) compulsory Club meetings per competition/season or any other compulsory meeting the Club may hold. Compulsory meeting attendance includes the Annual General Meeting, the first meeting prior to the commencement of the first competition game and the meeting immediately prior to commencement of the finals series.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

15.2 Each senior team is to nominate one (1) player representative to the Committee. This representative may attend committee meetings as held. This representative **MUST** attend a meeting of the Committee in full as requested. If the nominated representative is unable to attend they must advise the Committee of a replacement representative.

15.3 Each team will be allocated match duties and umpiring duty during the season to assist with and/or support the running of the hockey competition.

15.4 Three strike ruling.

Failure of team to fulfil any of the meeting, competition, roster, umpire or scoring duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Regulations, competition rules, umpire and duty sheets and any compulsory event set down by the Committee will result in the loss of two (2) competition points for each offence. Each offence will also incur a "strike". The accumulation of three (3) strikes will enable the team to remain in the competition with all games points for and against being recorded as per competition however the team will be ineligible to participate in the finals.

Each team or club will receive an updated duty and umpire sheet at the commencement of each season.

15.5 It is the responsibility of all teams to provide umpires when rostered to do so. Failure to supply umpires will result in 3 points being deducted from the team the designated umpire was representing.

Umpires will not use their mobile phones or talk to spectators when carrying out umpiring duties, failure to undertake these duties correctly will also result in 3 points being lost, at the committee's discretion.

15.6 It is each Team or Club representative/contact person's responsibility to be available to take place in Sub-committee matters (Outlined in By-Law 8) when called upon by the Committee.

15.7 It is the players and teams responsibility to make sure that umpires note injuries on the card during or at the end of the game.

16. UMPIRES.

16.1 All matches shall be played under the direction and control of two (2) umpires. Two umpires will be appointed for each match and each umpire shall have control of one half of the field for the entire match.

16.2 Where matches are played away from Bega, the home team and the team visiting from Bega will each supply an umpire unless otherwise arranged by the Umpires Convenor. Visiting teams shall notify the home team prior to the match if they are unable to supply an umpire.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

16.3 The umpires at each match are required to:

- i) Check that the players listed on the match card are present and actually take the field during the match; where a player arrives late, he/she must present to the umpire to ensure that their name is added to the match card.
- ii) Record on the match card any goals scored and tallying these at the end of the game.
- iii) Record on the match card details of any warnings/penalty cards issued to individual players, noting the player's name, the colour of the card issued and the reason for the penalty.
- iv) Record on the match card details of any injuries sustained by individual players, noting the name of the injured player, general nature of the injury and whether the player needed to leave the field of play.
- v) The umpires must ensure that the captains of each team sign the match card together, as confirmation that they are satisfied that it is a true record of the game.
- vi) Record their three (3) nominations for best and fairest players of the match, in order of priority with three (3) points being awarded to the best player.

16.4 When the umpire permanently suspends a player or players during a match (red card), the umpire shall report the circumstances of the suspension within three (3) days of the incident to the Committee in writing. Such player/s shall meet the Judiciary to defend their case.

17. UMPIRES EXAMINATIONS.

17.1 Each team from B Grade up must provide a minimum of three (3) candidates to sit for a reputable Umpires Exam Theory paper. These candidates are to be persons interested in developing their knowledge and skills for umpiring. Practical badge holders are not required to sit the Exam.

17.2 Failure to meet the requirements of clause 17.1 will result in a loss of three (3) competition points.

17.3 The Club will reimburse those who obtain a higher level umpires badge the cost of the Badge.

18. PLAYER DISCIPLINARY CODE.

18.1 In the event that a warning card is issued to a player during a match, umpires are required to record the colour and nature of the offence on the match card.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

An umpire suspending a player with the issue of a yellow or red card is to advise the player and the captains of both teams of the reason for the suspension. The umpire's decision during a game is final and no discussion will be entered into during the match.

18.2 Should a player be issued with a red card, or accumulate 3 yellow cards, the matter will be referred to a Judiciary.

18.3 The function of the judiciary hearing is to determine a match suspension for the player appropriate to the severity of the infringement/history of infringements. The judiciary should be mindful that the Club has a duty of care to minimise on-field misconduct, and its decisions must clearly communicate to players, spectators and officials that verbal and physical violence will not be tolerated in the game.

18.4 In the event that a judiciary hearing cannot be formed prior to the next rostered game the player is scheduled to play, an immediate one week suspension will be enforced; the judiciary will still be required to meet as soon as practicable to consider the matter in full and determine whether a longer suspension is warranted.

19. JUDICIARY MATTERS.

19.1 A judiciary committee will be formed as required by the Committee, and is to include the Committee, 1 representative from each senior team and at least 1 community member that is independent of the Club.

19.2 Matters relating to the accumulation of penalty warning cards (as per the Disciplinary Code) will be automatically referred to the Committee via the Competition Secretary.

Other matters relating to the conduct of play can be referred to the Judiciary upon receipt of a report from a player, umpire, official or spectator. The report must be submitted to the Club President; a verbal report is initially required within 24 hours, followed up by a written report to be received within 72 hours of the incident. The written report shall include an adequate description of the events surrounding the reported incident and names of available witnesses.

19.3 Matters not relating to breaches of the disciplinary code, conduct of play or resulting from umpires match reports are to be referred to the Committee. When a matter is referred to the Committee, the President will consult with the other members of the Committee to appoint a Judiciary Panel to hear the matter at hand. Each panel will comprise 3 members from senior teams along with the Committee. Any persons who identify themselves or can be identified by others to have a potential conflict of interest in the matter will be excluded from the panel. If, as a result of such exclusions, there are insufficient committee members to form a Judiciary panel, the Committee may consult with the charged player(s) to review the exclusion list with a

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

view to sanctioning the inclusion of any persons acceptable to the charged player(s). If there are still insufficient numbers to form a panel, additional people outside the committee may be co-opted on to the panel.

19.4 The appointed panel then nominates a Chairperson to co-ordinate proceedings and chair the judiciary hearing.

19.5 A player against whom a charge has been made shall have the right to appear before the Judiciary Panel. A player who has been advised or his/her team/club has been advised of a requirement to attend a Judiciary Hearing and who fails to attend the Hearing or apply for a postponement of the Hearing, shall abide by the findings of the Judiciary.

19.6 The umpires presiding over the match in which the incident occurred are encouraged to submit written reports on the matter and if possible to attend the Judiciary Hearing. In considering the protest concerning the umpires and their decisions this committee shall be entitled to follow and adopt the decision(s) of the Umpiring Convenor on the question raised.

19.7 The Umpires Convenor may also be co-opted to attend the Hearing to provide advice about the Rules of Hockey and their current interpretations. If this occurs, the Umpires' Convenor attends as an advisor only and has no authority to question witnesses, directly influence or vote on any decisions of the Judiciary Panel.

19.8 Relevant charges and the recommended penalties for players found guilty of them shall include:

i)	Aggressively disputing an umpires decision	1 game
ii)	Verbal abuse	2 games
	and for a second offence within 2 years	3 games
iii)	Assault of an umpire	15 years
iv)	Abusive conduct while a spectator	2 games
v)	Acts detrimental to the Club or Association	2 games
vi)	Persistent and deliberate breaches of the Rules of Hockey	2 games
vii)	Inappropriate physical play	3 games
viii)	Striking at another player	
	- with other than a hockey stick	3 games
	- with a hockey stick	6 games
ix)	Deliberately striking another player with	
	- a hockey stick	2 years
	- and for a second offence within 2 years	Life

20. PROCESS FOR JUDICIARY HEARINGS.

20.1 The Chairman shall read and explain to each party to the Hearing, the full text of the charge, protest or appeal to be considered.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

20.2 The parties to the Hearing shall be heard by the Panel in the following order:

- i) Those supporting a charge or protest, to give evidence, to call witnesses, to be questioned by the panel, followed by.....
- ii) Those defending a charge or protest, to answer evidence, to call witnesses, to be questioned by the panel, followed by.....
- iii) Those supporting a charge or protest to answer evidence given under (ii) and to be questioned by the panel.
- iv) Parties supporting a charge or protest will leave the room when parties defending a charge gives evidence and vice versa.

The panel may request any other person to answer evidence and to answer any questions put by a member of the panel.

20.3 The parties to the Hearing shall retire while the panel considers it's findings, although the panel may call any or all of them, individually or together to amplify or clarify any evidence.

20.4 The Chairman shall have the right to determine questions of order, shall sum up evidence to the panel.

20.5 The Judiciary Panel may, in written resolution, reduce a charge to another carrying a lesser penalty, providing that the guidelines for minimum penalties are still satisfied.

20.6 The Panel shall record it's findings, made by majority vote, in the form of a written resolution. Every decision shall be final.

20.7 An application to the Committee for leave to appeal against a finding of the judiciary shall be made only on the grounds of new evidence which was not available at the time of the Hearing.

20.8 Application shall be lodged in writing with the Club Secretary within 14 days of the relevant meeting of the Judiciary Panel. Leave to appeal against a decision shall be given only to the Member or player to whom a penalty has been applied or against whom a finding has been made.

21. PROTESTS AND APPEALS.

21.1 All protests and appeals are to be decided by an Appeals Committee whose decision shall be final and binding. The Appeals Committee shall consist of the Committee *plus* five (5) Association members to be formed as required by the Executive. This Appeals Committee shall elect the Chairman.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

21.2 Procedures for lodging an Appeal - All appeals, disputes and protests shall be notified in writing and personally signed to the Club Secretary within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident at issue, accompanied by a fee of fifty (50) dollars. The letter must clearly set out:

- 1 the decision sought to be appealed
- 2 a concise statement of the facts
- 3 a concise submission stating the Regulation or Rule that has been contravened and setting out clearly in what respect the decision is alleged to be wrong.

21.3 The Appeals Committee shall deal with matters where players/representatives wish to dispute decisions of the judiciary, grading committee or of the Committee that have affected a team or individual player excepting matters relating to conduct of play and matters normally under the authority of umpires. These matters are to be referred to the judiciary.

21.4 When a matter is referred to the Appeals Committee, the President will consult with the other members of the Committee to form a Panel of members from the Senior Teams to hear the matter at hand. No club/team shall have more than one member on this panel. No member of this panel shall take part in an appeal if the result involves them, their club or team.

21.5 At the hearing of the appeal a delegate may appear on behalf of their team or themselves. The Appeals Committee may request Umpire(s), officials or player(s) to appear before such Appeals Committee.

21.6 ONCE MATCH CARD IS SIGNED IT IS BINDING.

- i) If a team is not aware of a situation or decision that affects the result prior to the game and signs the card, they do have a right to appeal.
- ii) If a team knows of the situation or decision that affects the result prior to the game and signs the match card, an appeal can't be made.

22. SELECTION COMMITTEE.

The Committee will form as required a three (3) member selection committee drawn from the senior teams (No more than one (1) member from any one (1) team) who, along with the nominated coach for the team undergoing selection, will select a team for representative duty. No member standing for selection may be elected to the selection committee for that age group. No parent of a child standing for selection may be elected as a selector for that age group other than the coach.

23. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS.

23.1 All players under the age of 18 representing the Club must travel with the team and are at the direction of the manager and coach at all times. If an accompanying

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

parent or guardian wishes to remove players from the care of the coach/manager for a period of time while the team is away, he/she must provide a signature confirming this arrangement and detailing when the player will be returned to the care of the coach/manager. Players may only travel home by other transport than that with the team, if written permission from their parent/guardian is received by the manager before departure from home base.

23.2 Players from other clubs or associations wishing to play representative hockey with SCH are only permitted to do so if insufficient local players are available. Local players must be affiliated and playing in a club team to be considered for selection before outside players.

23.3 Nominations for officials (coaches & managers) to accompany representative teams will be called for prior to the commencement of the season and be voted on and/or endorsed at the next compulsory meeting of the Club.

23.4 In the event that representative teams request assistance with funding to enable them to attend championships or away competitions, a budget proposal must be submitted to the Committee prior to any expenses being incurred. Details must include proposed income and expenditure from all sources and the number and type of officials that will be accompanying the team.

23.5 Subject to available funds:

i) The Club may pay the team nomination fee and umpire panel fee for ONE team per division for every carnival attended by SCH.

23.6 The intention of the rule is to maintain equality for all teams that are travelling representative duties.

i) A representative playing levy will be imposed on those players wishing to nominate as an SCH representative player. This fee will be set at the beginning of each season. The levy fee must be paid to the Association by the player 2 weeks prior to the first competition being attended. This fee will assist in off-setting costs (including maintaining uniforms) to SCH. It will also cover turf/court hire costs where applicable.

ii) Travel and accommodation expenses for officials accompanying the team, if applicable, shall be levied across the team by the team manager.

iii) Officials may include coach, manager, umpire and technical official.

24. CLUB ACTIVITY AND COMPETITIONS.

Clubs must obtain permission from the Association to hold carnivals or competitions involving association or visiting teams.

SAPPHIRE COAST HOCKEY COMPETITION RULES

25. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

In special circumstances, teams may apply for special dispensation from current rules. This application must be made in writing to the Committee. Teams affected will be given prior notice and a representative from these teams will be included in discussions. Teams will be advised of decision of Committee in regards to the application.

26. MEN'S COMPETITION

Men's Competition rules are as per Competition Rules but can be altered at the start of each competition depending on player numbers and if voted for by three quarters of the meeting prior to the start of competition.