

Rules  
of the  
Winter Outdoor League  
of the



*As approved by Council on 13 April 2016*

## CONTENTS

1	Interpretation and Resolution.....	1
2	Participation.....	1
3	Entry and Registration.....	1
4	Method of Competition.....	1
5	Fixtures.....	2
6	Umpires.....	3
7	Matches.....	3
8	Postponements.....	6
9	Withdrawal.....	7
10	Player registration.....	7
11	Misconduct and Discipline.....	8
12	Appeals.....	9
13	Colours and Clothing.....	10
14	Young players.....	10

## **1 INTERPRETATION AND RESOLUTION**

- 1.1 In the event that circumstances arise that are not covered by any provisions of these rules, the Executive Committee shall decide on the matter and such decision shall be final.
- 1.2 As prescribed by the By-laws, the Executive Committee may appoint a person or sub-committee to perform any of its responsibilities specified in these rules.
- 1.3 Only in the event of a dispute not being amicably resolved, and with prior notification of the Executive Committee, may a matter be referred to the national body, the South Africa Hockey Association (SAHA), for mediation and arbitration, in which case the decision of SAHA shall be binding and final.
- 1.4 The Association indemnifies itself from any injury, loss or death incurred by any persons involved in, appointed to, supporting or providing service to the association.

## **2 PARTICIPATION**

- 2.1 The competition is open to all member clubs, in good standing, of the Association.
- 2.2 The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, permit the entry of teams from clubs that do not comply with paragraph 2.1, provided it is considered to be in the best interest of the sport and the other participants.

## **3 ENTRY AND REGISTRATION**

- 3.1 The Executive Committee shall annually determine the final date for entries. Clubs wishing to enter teams must do so before such date, simultaneously submitting to the Hockey Office any additional information as requested in advance by the Executive Committee.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of each club's management to ensure that they have a sufficient number of players to enable participation in all league fixtures prior to entering.
- 3.3 All players of successfully entered clubs must be registered on the Association's website before league commences. Players who join clubs after the commencement of the league must be registered prior to taking part in any match for the club.

## **4 METHOD OF COMPETITION**

- 4.1 Unless explicitly specified in these Rules, all matches will be played according to the official rules of outdoor hockey as published in the official FIH rule book under the auspices of SAHA. Should any official rule changes be published after commencement of the league such changes shall not be implemented until a published implementation date, as determined by the Executive Committee at its discretion.

- 4.2 Separate but concurrent competitions will be held for men's teams and for women's teams. No player will be permitted to play for any team of the opposite gender.
- 4.3 The composition of the respective leagues for each gender will be done as follows:
- 4.3.1 Teams will be ranked according to their final positions at the end of the previous season.
  - 4.3.2 Newly-entered teams that did not take part in the previous year's league will be ranked below all teams referred to in paragraph 4.3.1 in the order that their entries are received by the Hockey Office.
  - 4.3.3 The 8 (eight) highest ranked teams will be allocated to the Premier league. The next 8 (eight) teams will be allocated to the second league, the next 8 (eight) to the third league, etc, until all teams have been allocated. Depending on the total number of teams entered the Executive Committee may, at its own discretion, allocate more or less than 8 (eight) teams to each of the lowest two leagues.
- 4.4 Each league will consist of a double round-robin with each team playing two matches against every other team in the same league.
- 4.5 For all matches match points will be awarded to the participating teams as follows:
- 4.5.1 3 (three) points for the winning team.
  - 4.5.2 1 (one) point for each team in the event of a draw.
  - 4.5.3 0 (zero) points for the losing team.
- 4.6 Where there is equality of points between any number of teams, the following will be used to determine the teams' positions with the process ceasing as soon as inequality is achieved:
- 4.6.1 Highest number of matches won.
  - 4.6.2 Highest goal difference (which means "goals for" less "goals against").
  - 4.6.3 Highest number of goals scored.
  - 4.6.4 Least number of red cards awarded during the season.
  - 4.6.5 Least number of yellow cards awarded during the season.
  - 4.6.6 Least number of green cards awarded during the season.
  - 4.6.7 The ranking of the respective teams at the commencement of the season.
- 4.7 At the end of the season the team ranked highest in each league will be deemed the winners of their respective leagues.

## **5 FIXTURES**

- 5.1 Fixtures for all matches will be drawn up and published by the Executive Committee before the commencement of matches. Due consideration will be given to teams who are likely to have players taking part in the Under 21 IPT, Senior IPT and SA Country Districts Championships.
- 5.2 In the event that neither team is playing on their home ground, the team indicated first on the fixtures will be considered the home team. Where possible, matches will be scheduled on home-and-away basis.

- 5.3 Men's matches will primarily, but not necessarily always, take place on Sundays. Women's matches will primarily, but not necessarily always, take place on Saturdays.
- 5.4 All matches will be played on artificial surfaces in Northern Region on an in so far as the availability of venues will allow. In the event that the availability of artificial surfaces is such that not all matches can be played on artificial surfaces, some matches will be played on grass fields. Matches in higher leagues will take precedence for allocation to artificial surfaces over matches in lower leagues.
- 5.5 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5.4, teams may agree to play at alternative venues, provided that the Executive Committee is notified at least seven days before such match takes place.
- 5.6 Where two teams from one club have to play against one another, the club in question may be requested to arrange the fixture. In this event the club must notify the Executive Committee of the venue and date set for such a match at least seven days before the match is to take place.

## **6 UMPIRES**

- 6.1 The Executive Committee will, at its discretion and manpower-permitting, allocate umpires to all league matches. Decisions taken by the Executive Committee in this regard will be final.
- 6.2 Allocation of umpires will be done with due consideration of the level of play to be expected, as well as the abilities of the umpires in question. However, in order to ensure the development of umpires, the Executive Committee reserves the right to occasionally allocate umpires to matches with the purpose of ascertaining their ability to officiate at the level of play in question. Where at all possible, such umpires will either be allocated together with a more experienced umpire, or will have a more experienced umpire in attendance.
- 6.3 Allocated umpires must officiate in the following attire:
- 6.3.1 Prescribed umpiring shirt – blue, green or pink – with both umpires wearing shirts of the same colour.
  - 6.3.2 In the case of male umpires: black slacks.
  - 6.3.3 In the case of female umpires: either a black skirt with long black socks or black slacks.
  - 6.3.4 Shoes appropriate for running on the surface the match is to be played on.
- 6.4 If an umpire fails to officiate at his/her allocated match, such umpire will be subject to a disciplinary process at the discretion of the Executive Committee which may include suspension or a monetary fine or both.

## **7 MATCHES**

- 7.1 If, prior to a match or at any stage during a match, and after consulting team captains, the umpires are of the opinion that the field is unplayable or that any other adverse conditions exist that may in any way negatively impact on or endanger players, officials or spectators, the umpires may, at their discretion, curtail the match.

- 7.2 Should any match be one of several being played at any one venue, an earlier match may, at the sole discretion of the umpires, be curtailed in order to finish at the time at which the later game is due to start or as soon as possible thereafter, provided that at least twenty minutes of the second half had been played. Where possible, the intention to curtail the match must be made known to both captains at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.3 In the event of a match having to be curtailed by the umpires for any reason:
- 7.3.1 If 20 minutes or more of the second half had been played the match shall be deemed to have been completed;
- 7.3.2 If less than 20 minutes of the second half had been played the match will be rescheduled by the Executive Committee.
- 7.4 In the event of any team not being ready to commence a match within fifteen minutes of the time set down the opposing team may refuse to play the match for points, in which case:
- 7.4.1 The opposing team will be required to fill in a match result sheet claiming the points for said match.
- 7.4.2 A 5-0 goal credit will be recorded in favour of the opposing team.
- 7.4.3 Except where the match takes place as a “friendly”, the offending team will be liable for fees relating to the match for both teams.
- 7.4.4 The offending team will have three league points deducted. The Executive Committee may award further penalties against teams repeating the offence which may include, but are not limited to, further deduction of points, monetary fines or suspension from the league.
- 7.5 In the event of a team leaving the field before the end of the match has been indicated by the umpires, it must be recorded on the match result sheet by the umpires and that team will be deemed to have lost the match. A 5-0 result will be recorded, except in the case where their opponents were in the lead by a margin greater than 5 goals. The team leaving the field may be disciplined by the Executive Committee at its sole discretion.
- 7.6 Each Premier league team shall be allowed a total of 18 (eighteen) players per match, provided that 2 (two) such players are fully kitted goalkeepers. Premier league teams with less than two goalkeepers, as well as teams in the second and lower leagues, shall be allowed a maximum of 16 (sixteen) players per match.
- 7.7 During a match only a manager, coach, medical officer and team substitutes are permitted on the team bench. Only the manager, coach, medical officer and suspended players may enter the technical area. No other persons are permitted on the team bench or in the technical area.
- 7.8 All Premier league teams must field a minimum of 1 (one) player of colour in each match. Quality of opportunity for all players. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in the team being penalised with 3 (three) league points per match where the requirement is not met.
- 7.9 No team may take the field with fewer than 8 (eight) players.
- 7.10 If any side objects to the composition of their opposing team, the match must first be played as an official match and only thereafter may they lodge an official objection, in writing, to the Hockey Office within 48 (forty-eight) hours. Thereafter the Executive Committee will make a ruling on the matter.

- 7.11 In the event of a team commencing a match short of a player or players, such player or players shall be allowed to join their team provided that:
- 7.11.1 Their names had been recorded on the team return prior to the commencement of the match.
  - 7.11.2 The players join the match before the commencement of the second half of the match.
- 7.12 In the event that umpires were allocated to a match but only one or no umpires are present at the fixture:
- 7.12.1 The captains may decide to either postpone the match or to make use of any other person present and agreed to by both captains.
  - 7.12.2 No complaints with regard to the suitability and/or performance of a person substituting for an allocated umpire may be lodged by either team.
  - 7.12.3 The fact that an allocated umpire was absent must be recorded on the match result sheet by the technical official or either of the captains.
- 7.13 The home team shall supply the match ball which must be approved by the opposing captain before commencement of the match.
- 7.14 The result of a match shall only be recorded and match points allocated upon receipt, by the Executive Committee, of a match result sheet indicating the following:
- 7.14.1 Date, time and venue of the match.
  - 7.14.2 Competing teams and the league contested.
  - 7.14.3 Names and surnames of all players, whether they played or were substitutes, where applicable also indicating their shirt numbers.
  - 7.14.4 The players that captained the respective teams.
  - 7.14.5 The players that played goalkeeper, as defined in the official rule book.
  - 7.14.6 Half-time score and full-time score.
  - 7.14.7 Goals scored, indicating the scoring team, elapsed time, type of goal (field goal, penalty corner or penalty stroke) and score after the goal was scored.
  - 7.14.8 Players who were cautioned or suspended (green, yellow and red cards).
  - 7.14.9 Signatures of the captain or manager of both teams.
  - 7.14.10 Signatures of both umpires (after captains/managers have signed).
  - 7.14.11 Signature of the technical official (after umpires have signed).
- 7.15 Any person required to sign the match result sheet may report on any aspect of the match they wish to bring to the attention of the Executive Committee on the sheet, provided that:
- 7.15.1 Such report is written prior to signing the form.
  - 7.15.2 The report is not written with malicious intent, but objectively and in the interest of the sport.
- 7.16 Each venue will be responsible for ensuring that the technical table is manned and that result sheets are submitted to the Hockey Office by no later than 12 noon on the Monday after the match. In the event of there being no technical table official present at the fixture, each team shall submit one match result sheet to the Hockey Office within 48 (forty-eight) hours of the completion of the fixture. It is incumbent on team captains to ensure that they have blank match result sheets to use in such events.

- 7.17 Team captains and/or umpires must ensure that their match results are submitted to the webmaster of the Association's web site immediately after completion of the match.
- 7.18 The Association will be responsible for appointing qualified medical personnel – with at least Level 3 qualification – to all matches at all venues except at the University of Pretoria. The latter will supply suitably qualified medical personnel. If there is no medic at the venue 10 minutes after the starting time of a match the match will be postponed and rescheduled by the registrar. Please try and first call Stew Dunbar or Kokkie Sieling if there is no medic to see if we can resolve the issue without having to reschedule the game.

## **8 POSTPONEMENTS**

- 8.1 Clubs forced to postpone a match must obtain written permission from the Registrar before doing so. Such request for permission must be submitted in writing and must reach the Registrar 7 (seven) days prior to the date of the scheduled match, unless exceptional circumstances prevail. The Registrar will be the sole judge of whether the reasons for a cancellation are valid.
- 8.1.1 In the event of the Registrar granting the postponement, the club will be notified in writing and the Registrar will specify a date by when the match must be played. If no date is specified, the match must be played within 14 (fourteen) days of the original fixture. It is incumbent on the club requesting the postponement to arrange an alternative date, time and venue that suits the opposition. Failing this, the club that requested the postponement must request that the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final, set a date, time and venue for the match to be played.
- 8.1.2 The original venue, medical officer, umpire and technical official on duty must be notified of the change by the team requesting the postponement.
- 8.1.3 The team(s) requesting the postponement shall be responsible for any additional costs incurred as a result of the changes.
- 8.1.4 The team requesting the postponement will be responsible for ensuring that the venue, umpires, medical officer and technical official for the rescheduled are notified in advance.
- 8.2 Regardless of the notice period given, no team other than the lowest team in a club may postpone a match due to the unavailability of players. Where exceptional circumstances prevent multiple players in a team, which is not the lowest team in a club, from playing, that team may apply, in writing, to the Executive Committee for a postponement.
- 8.3 A team deliberately forfeiting a match, or refusing to take part in a match for any reason, may be disciplined by the Executive Committee at its discretion.
- 8.4 Teams forced to forfeit a match must notify their opponents, the umpires, technical officials, medical officer, venue and the Registrar at least 72 (seventy-two) hours prior to the start of the match. The opposition will be awarded points for a win together with a 5-0 goal credit, unless the two teams are from the same club in which event the score will be recorded as 0-0 with no league points awarded.
- 8.5 If a team cancels a match less than 72 (seventy-two) hours prior to the start of the match, the opposing team may:

- 8.5.1 Elect to be awarded the points for a win together with a 5-0 goal credit. In this event the offending team will have 3 (three) points deducted for a first offence and may be subject to further disciplinary action, including a monetary penalty to compensate the officials for any cost they may have incurred; or
- 8.5.2 Agree to postpone the match in which event the match will be rescheduled by the Registrar.

## **9 WITHDRAWAL**

- 9.1 Any team forced to withdraw from the remainder of the league after the commencement of fixtures for the league in question must notify the Executive Committee without delay.
  - 9.1.1 If such withdrawal occurs less than 72 hours before that team's next scheduled match, the withdrawing team must notify their next scheduled opponents as well as the venue, technical official, medical officer and umpires prior to the day on which the match was to take place.
  - 9.1.2 The results of all matches already played by the withdrawn team will be removed from the log and points awarded to that team or their opponents will be cancelled.
  - 9.1.3 The club in question may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be held liable for the match and/or umpiring fees with regard to themselves and their opponents for the rest of the season.
  - 9.1.4 A withdrawing team failing to adhere to these provisions will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee which may include, but is not limited to, being disqualified or relegated for future competitions.

## **10 PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- 10.1 All provisions of the Association's By-Laws regarding player registration and player transfers are to be adhered to.
- 10.2 Any club not complying with aforementioned provisions, or rendering incorrect team returns will be subject to disciplinary steps at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 10.3 Clubs with more than one team in the same league must nominate their teams according to strength, except if one or more of the teams in question are closed teams that are limited to a specific category of players, as communicated to the Executive Committee upon entry.
- 10.4 Any player having played in two successive matches for a team shall be deemed a member of that team.
- 10.5 Any player demoted in accordance with the aforementioned will be required to play a minimum of two matches in the lower team before being eligible for promotion. Any deviation from this ruling will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and with the prior permission of the Executive Committee.

- 10.6 Any players absent from two successive matches from the team for which they were initially chosen will cease to be a member of that team and the club shall be free to demote such player to the team below the player's original team.
- 10.7 No player shall be eligible to play for more than one team in any one week of league fixtures, unless that player plays only as "goalkeeper" for one team and only as "field player" for one team, as defined in the official rule book. For purposes of this rule a week is deemed to start on a Monday, before any matches are played on that day, and end on a Sunday, after all matches scheduled for that day have been played. Teams forced to field players for more than one team in one week due to unavailability of players in one of the teams may apply for permission to do so in writing to the Executive Committee which shall grant such permission at its own discretion.
- 10.8 A player who wishes to transfer between clubs, may do so before the league commences and needs to obtain official clearance from the transferring club before doing so. A copy of such clearance must be sent to the Hockey Office.
- 10.9 A player who wishes to transfer between clubs after the commencement of the league is required to obtain written permission from the Executive Committee before doing so, in addition to obtaining clearance from the transferring club.
- 10.10 No club may withhold a transfer clearance if a player is in good standing with the club.
- 10.11 In the event that a team fields an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player, a loss of 5-0 will be recorded (unless they lost by a margin greater than 5) for each match in which the ineligible player took part.
- 10.12 In the event that a club disbands while still indebted to the Association, the registered players of the club will remain proportionally liable for the accumulated debt and will only be permitted to transfer to another club once this amount has been paid to the Association.

## **11 MISCONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**

- 11.1 In addition to the provisions of the Association's By-laws regarding misconduct and discipline, the Executive Committee shall have the power to disqualify, penalise or take disciplinary action against any competing club or team, or player or players of any competing club or team who may be proven guilty of any breach of these league rules.
- 11.2 Any temporary suspension of five minutes or more (yellow card) awarded must be reported to the Executive Committee Member that holds the Rules & Technical portfolio by the umpire that awarded it, in writing, within two days (Saturdays and Sundays excluded) of the match taking place, stating briefly the reason for the suspension. The umpire concerned must also record the reasons for the suspension on the match result sheet before signing it.
- 11.3 Any player receiving 3 (three) yellow cards in one season shall immediately and automatically be suspended for the next league match of the team he/she represented. Such player may not represent any other team until the suspension has been served.

- 11.4 It is incumbent on the player's club to ensure that the suspension is served – failure to do so will imply that the team fielded an ineligible player in which case the penalties specified in these Rules will apply.
- 11.5 All permanent suspensions (red cards) awarded must be reported to the Executive Committee by both umpires, the club that the offending player represented and the technical official, in writing, within 24 Hours of the match taking place, stating the reason for the suspension. Depending on the Level of the offence the player has the option to admit guilt to the offence and face a suspension in accordance with the respective offence without a disciplinary hearing or decide not to admit guilt and face a disciplinary hearing as and when decided by the Executive Committee within a reasonable time frame of the incident having occurred.
- 11.6 In addition to the rules regarding the responsibilities of team captains contained in the official rules of hockey, captains are held responsible for the behaviour of their team coaches, managers and supporters. Umpires are permitted to award suspensions (yellow or red cards) to captains failing to exercise such responsibilities, or to any other player guilty of misconduct, for as long as any players are on the field, on the benches or in the technical area, regardless of whether the match is in progress or not. In the event of a player being awarded a yellow card after the completion of a match, the umpire must indicate clearly on the match result sheet that it occurred after completion of the match and report it to the Executive Committee via its portfolio holder for Rules & Technical. The Executive Committee must then decide on an appropriate penalty to be imposed.
- 11.7 The use of foul language loud enough for spectators to hear, will be considered grounds for an immediate temporary suspension of five minutes or more (yellow card).
- 11.8 The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, appoint a Disciplinary Committee to investigate any acts of misconduct or breach of these rules and to impose an appropriate sanction. Such Disciplinary Committee must report back to the Executive Committee with regard to its procedure, findings and sanctions imposed.

## **12 APPEALS**

- 12.1 All questions or objections relating to any dispute whatsoever shall be referred in writing to the Executive Committee within 48 hours of the match to which it refers. Such questions or objections may be written on the match result sheet.
- 12.2 Objections in respect of suspensions of five minutes or more (yellow or red cards) may only be lodged in the event of mistaken identity of the suspended player and must include the name of the player from the same team who should have been suspended instead.
- 12.3 The Executive Committee's decision in response to any objections shall be final.
- 12.4 No objection which is not put in writing will be entertained.

## **13 COLOURS AND CLOTHING**

- 13.1 All teams will be required to submit the colours of their playing attire when registering for the league. Any team wishing to change its colours from those that were submitted with its entry, must obtain the approval of the Executive Committee prior to using the new colours for the first time.
- 13.2 All players must appear on the field in the official attire of their club. Furthermore:
  - 13.2.1 Cycle shorts may be worn but must be the same colour as the shorts/skirts.
  - 13.2.2 Appropriate underwear must be worn.
  - 13.2.3 Women must wear skirts.
  - 13.2.4 No players may wear long tights unless for medical or religious reasons, in which event written permission must be obtained from the Executive Committee in advance.
- 13.3 In the event of a clash of colours at a match, the home side is required to wear different colours for the match in question.
- 13.4 All players in Premier league teams must wear numbered shirts. Teams in other leagues are encouraged to also wear numbered shirts, but are not compelled to do so. Where numbered shirts are worn, the numbers must be in the range of 1 to 32 and no number may be duplicated in any one team.
- 13.5 Any team breaching the above rules may be disciplined at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 13.6 All Clubs/Teams shall have a 3 match probation period to ensure that all members compete in the official respective club colours and kit, including Premier League teams having numbers. Failure to comply will result in penalty league points.

## **14 YOUNG PLAYERS**

- 14.1 Only players who will become 14 (fourteen) years old or older during the calendar year shall be allowed to play in any match unless prior written approval is obtained from the Executive Committee.
- 14.2 Clubs are required to obtain written permission from the parents or legal guardians of all school going players before they may represent the club.
- 14.3 Where players also represent their schools or official schools' representative teams, these teams will at all times have first call on such players.