

# **HOCKEY NSW WOMEN'S MASTERS HOCKEY RULES & REGULATIONS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2023**

**Preamble – Most of the rules stated below are in accordance with HNSW policy, however there are a few Masters-specific regulations and therefore the document is to be viewed in its entirety to ensure the safe and equitable running of Masters Championships in NSW.**

## **AGE**

- Players participating in the State Women's Masters Championships shall be over the age of 34 years at 31st December in the year of the Championships, that is, they have turned 34 years or more in the year of the Championships.

Either players or the team manager must produce proof of age when requested. i.e. for 2023 – Masters are those born 1989 or before.

Age groups: O/34s born 1989 – or before  
O/40s born 1983 – or before  
O/45s born 1978 – or before  
O/50s born 1973 – or before  
O/55s born 1968 – or before  
O/60s born 1963 – or before  
O/65s born 1958 – or before

For following consecutive years, dates move forward by one year. Every age group is not necessarily contested at State Championships.

## **REGISTRATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- A maximum of twenty (20) players may be registered per team but only sixteen (16) players may play in any one match.
- All players participating must be registered members of Hockey NSW and also be registered for the Championship as per the Team Detail Form/Amended Team detail form or website database.
- A player shall only play in the one team for which she has been registered for the Championship unless a special circumstances exemption has been granted by the HNSW Women's Masters Committee.

**Note:** If an Association has more than one team entered in the Championship, no player from one team may play any part of a match with another team except that after the start of HNSW Masters State Championships, upon request to the Tournament Director, any association may apply for promotion of a player to replace an injured or ill player during the

Championships to have a maximum of 12 players per team; and the promoted player(s) must remain only in the new team for the duration of the Championships. Special circumstances exemptions may be granted by the HNSW Women's Masters Committee.

- Team Managers must attend the Managers' Meeting, which will be held via Zoom in the week prior to the commencement of the Championships.
- It is the responsibility of each Team Manager to hand in an Amended Team Detail Form to the Tournament Director (TD) should changes have been made to the original Team Detail Form (whether they are name changes or number changes). The Amended Team detail form must be submitted at the Managers Meeting.
- Team Managers must provide the TD with their name and mobile phone contact for the duration of the Championship.
- Team Managers must avail themselves of any changes made to the draw and understand that the draw being used is the one displayed in the Tournament Director's room and the Umpire Manager's room. If at all possible each Team/Association will be given notice of the new draw no later than the Managers Meeting.
- Players must not play in an older age group than their age eligibility.

## **UNIFORMS – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- Teams must play in the uniform currently registered with Hockey NSW as their Association uniform by 2025.
- Each team is to have an alternate pair of playing socks and alternate playing shirts (or bibs) to wear as required.
- Where uniform clashes occur, the team named second in the draw must change their playing socks. The TD may also request that this team wear their alternate playing shirt or bib.
- Identification numbers must be worn on the back of the playing shirt, and correspond to the team detail sheet. Numbers are to be 18.20cm high in a contrasting colour and secured on all corners. Numbers may be woven into the shirt, sewn on, ironed on, be adhesive or 'bib' style. Sleeve numbers are optional. Goalkeepers' numbers must be clearly visible.
- Team captains must wear a contrasting coloured armband or identifying ribbon.
- Shin pads and mouth guards must be worn whilst playing. Mouth guard exemptions must be submitted to the Hockey NSW Office each year at least one week prior to the championship. Late exemptions will only be accepted if handed to the TD at the managers meeting. **THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.**
- Shin pads worn over socks must be the same colour as the socks, as must any tape used on the outside of socks.

- Socks must be pulled up at all times during play. Shirts not specifically designed to be over the waistband of the playing skirt must be tucked into skirts.

- Players contravening any uniform rule will not be permitted to take the field, unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been accepted by the TD.

## **RULES OF THE GAME – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- Rules of the game shall be as set out in the current Hockey Australia Rule Book with any variation/modification as determined by the Hockey NSW Women's Masters Committee.

## **UMPIRING – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- Each team must provide a qualified umpire for the Championship. Any team failing to do so may forfeit their right to enter a team in the Championships.

- All teams must have either:
  - i) a qualified non-playing umpire; or
  - ii) at least 2 (two) qualified playing umpires

- A meeting of all umpires will be held via Zoom in the week prior to the commencement of the championships.

- The Umpires' Manager must ratify all umpires.

- It is the responsibility of each umpire to:
  - i) Collect the match card before the commencement of the relevant game and return the signed match card immediately after the match unless a runner is provided.
  - ii) Check the times of all matches half an hour before the first match each day. Be aware of any changes to the draw which will be displayed in the Umpire Manager's room.
  - iii) Be aware that in all matches the umpire's decision is final.

No protests will be entered into.

- An umpire suspending or temporarily suspending a player during a match shall note the player's name and type of suspension on the match card. For each colour card issued there will be penalty points accrued by the offending player:

- Green Card 2 points

- Yellow Card 5 points

- Red Card 10 points

- When a player accrues 10 points she will automatically incur a one match suspension. After the player's suspension has been enforced, the player's penalty points shall revert to zero.

- If an injury occurs during a match, the umpire must write the name and number of the injured player and the nature of the injury on the back of the match card. The injured player

or her manager is responsible for completing the injury report book which is available at the TD tent/room.

- Five (5) rolling substitutes shall be permitted. All players involved in the substitution procedure must be chosen from the players who are registered for the Championship and recorded on the match card. A player who has been substituted may re-enter the field as a substitute for another player. Players leaving or entering the field shall do so at the centre line on the side of the field agreed to with the umpires. When a goalkeeper is substituted the umpire must stop play.

## **BALLS**

- Each team must provide a match ball for each match.

## **MISCONDUCT AND JUDICIARY – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- It is the responsibility of the officiating umpire to report misconduct from a team member or official to the TD and Masters Committee representative in attendance. The TD, Masters Committee representative and Umpire Manager shall confer and adjudicate on any incident and decide on action to be taken.

## **FIRST AID – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- Qualified First Aid Officers MUST be in attendance on each day of the Championship from the commencement of play till the end of the last game.

## **POINT SCORE – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- A separate point score shall be kept for each Division/Pool.
- Points shall be awarded as follows:
  - Win - 3 points
  - Draw - 1 point
  - Loss - 0 points
- A team claiming a forfeit shall receive Win (3) points for the match and their opponents shall receive 'Loss - 0 points'. In addition, the team claiming a forfeit shall be deemed to have won the match 2-0.

## **DIVISIONS / POOLS – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- Teams shall play in Divisions. Depending on the number of entries, some Divisions may be further divided into Pools. Note: Teams may nominate for a Division, however the Masters Committee shall determine the final composition of each Division.
- Where there is only one Pool in a Division, teams will play one full round of matches. Where the teams are divided into two pools, teams will play at least one full round within each Pool.

## **SEMI FINALS AND FINALS – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- If semi finals are played in Divisions with 2 pools, they will be:
  - i) The team finishing first in Pool A shall play the team finishing second in Pool B. This will be known as the first semifinal.
  - ii) The team finishing first in Pool B shall play the team finishing second in Pool A. This will be known as the second semifinal.
- If semi finals are played in Divisions ONLY they will be:
  - i) The team finishing first in the Division will play the team finishing fourth in the Division. This will be known as the first semifinal.
  - ii) The team finishing second in the Division will play the team finishing third in the Division. This will be known as the second semifinal.
- To determine the positions in any Pool, the team with the greatest number of points shall be first etc. In the event of teams being level on points at the completion of Pool matches, positions will be declared as follows:
  - i) On goal difference divided by matches played (i.e. Goals For minus Goals Against, divided by actual matches played). Forfeits are not included in this average. The team with the greater result is deemed to hold the higher position.
  - ii) If this does not yield a decision then Goals For divided by actual matches played (forfeits are not included in this average). The team with the greater result is deemed to hold the higher position.
  - iii) If this does not yield a decision, then the results of the pool round games between these teams shall be used to declare a higher position.
  - iv) If still no decision, position may be determined on the toss of a coin.
- In the event of a draw in a Semifinal, the team that was in a higher position in its Pool (or Division) shall progress as the winner.
- 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.
- If semi finals are played, the final shall be played between the two winners of the semifinal matches.
- If, at the conclusion of any final match, the score is equal then the teams will be declared "Joint Champions".

## **FORFEITS/EARLY DEPARTURES – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- A team may claim a forfeit if the opposing team is not ready to take the field and play within five (5) minutes of the starting time. In this event, the team receiving the forfeit shall be awarded three (3) points and two (2) goals. Such right will lapse if the game is commenced after this time by mutual consent. The playing time will be shortened by the same amount as was delayed.

- Teams involved in classification matches who decide to leave early can only do so if mutually agreed upon by both team managers who will then seek approval from the Tournament Director before departure from the Championships.

## **DURATION OF MATCHES - STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- Matches will run on an hourly cycle. Changes may be made where necessary after discussion with the Masters Committee.
- Ideally, the duration of each match shall be two periods of twenty three (23) minutes each. The length of the periods for each Championship shall be clearly indicated on the draw and in the program. There will be a five (5) minute half time break after which time teams shall change ends for the second period of play.
- There will be nine (9) minutes between games.
- Starting and finishing each match will be indicated by an official siren/hooter. Teams finishing must vacate the field immediately, and the next teams should take the fields ready to commence play at the scheduled time.
- No additional time will be added to the game for injury.
- The Opening Ceremony will be allocated a minimum thirty (30) minute time slot.
- Sufficient time after the completion of the rounds shall be allowed to enable the Officials time to allocate the correct teams and umpires for finals.

## **ALTERATIONS TO THE DRAW – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The draw may need to be altered after commencement of the Championship for the following reasons:

- i) A named team withdraws or fails to attend
- ii) The ground/weather conditions prevent the use of fields or create dangerous conditions.

The decision to alter/cancel games shall rest with the TD, Umpire's Manager and Masters Committee member responsible for the draw.

In the event of conditions occurring that prevent the completion of the Championships, recommended changes will be put to a meeting of Team Managers. Such meeting will be held at a time and venue determined by the TD and Masters Committee representative, with a minimum thirty (30) minutes notice. Recommended changes or variation proposed from the meeting will be passed by a bare majority vote.

## **MEDICAL – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- i) Sharing of towels, face washers, drink containers, mouth guards, goalkeepers face masks etc. must not occur.
- ii) Should any injury that involves bleeding occur, the player must leave the field immediately and all contaminated clothing and equipment must be replaced prior to the player being allowed to resume play. If bleeding should reoccur the above procedures must be repeated. If bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered, then the player must not continue in the game. The blood stains on the playing surface need to be washed immediately with disinfectant solution.
- iii) No jewellery is to be worn, earrings are to be removed or taped and facial piercings are to be covered.

## **LIGHTNING SAFETY CODE – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- i) The Lightning Safety Code adopted by HNSW applies to all Championships.
- ii) The lightning safety code is based on the 30/30 rule that calls for play to be stopped when the lightning/thunder ratio reaches 30 seconds or less. ie, the time between when the lightning is seen and the thunder is heard is 30 seconds or less. This means that the lightning is 10 km away and the next strike has a "significant risk" of hitting the people who have seen the lightning and heard the thunder.
- iii) Play should not commence until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike and thunder.

## **OTHER MATTERS pertaining to STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- The Women's Masters Committee shall "divide" the State for its Half State Championships into a North Band, a South Band and a Central Band of associations. The Central Band of Associations shall be divided into two groups based on usual number of entries and the facilities of the host. The Central Band will attend the State Championship closest to them where possible. The Masters' Committee will make changes to the composition of groups when necessary.
- State Selection Trials are held in June, at Newcastle or in March/April should a National event be held in July.
- All nominations for entries into State Championships and Selection for State Teams nominations are to be made through HNSW online.
- Exemptions to any of the above rules will be considered on application to the Hockey NSW Women's Masters Committee. Any request must be in writing with supporting documentation and must be submitted prior to an Association's team nominations being registered.

## **FINANCES**

HNSW determines the entry fees to State Championships and are paid to HNSW when associations nominate their teams.

Hockey NSW Women's Masters Committee prepares a budget annually which is submitted to HNSW for approval. The budget details the income/expenditure for State Trials, State Championships and State Teams using good accounting processes.

#### **OTHER – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Tournament Director, in conjunction with the Umpires' Manager and Masters Committee Representative, shall have the power to make any decision regarding any Championship matters that are not covered by these rules.

#### **JUMPERS**

The jumpers with the following coloured embroidery: navy (O50s); green (O60s); maroon (O70s); pale blue (O75s) can be ordered through the HNSW Women's Masters Committee via a Google Form which is shared with associations each year.