



Senior Competition 2024 By-Laws



Senior Competition By-Laws

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Senior Competition By-Laws: Intents & Purposes

A Authority

These Senior Competition By-Laws are made under clause 23 of the Constitution – 'By-Laws of the Association'.

The Senior Competition By-Laws should be read in conjunction with the Peel Hockey Competition and Events By-Laws and FIH By-laws of Hockey. The FIH By-laws of Hockey are an important source of information regarding how matches should be conducted. However, where the Senior Competition By-Laws differ from the FIH By-laws of Hockey, then the Senior Competition By-Laws will apply.

To the extent of any inconsistency with any other by-law or by-law of Peel Hockey, these By-Laws prevail regarding the Senior Competition.

B Purpose

The Senior Competition By-Laws are intended to:

- (a) encourage the largest amount of participation at all levels of our sport;
- (b) create an atmosphere of sportsmanship, equality and fair play; and
- (c) penalise Clubs who seek to gain an unfair advantage.

C By-laws

The by-laws contained within the body of the Senior Competition By-Laws apply to all Clubs and Teams, regardless of their position within the Competition structure.

D Penalty Provision

Where there is a prescribed financial penalty for a breach of any of these By-Laws, the by-law will be designated in these By-Laws as a Penalty Provision.

E Definitions

The defined terms used in these By-Laws are set out in **Appendix A**.

Where these By-Laws incorporate any by-law taken from the FIH By-laws of Hockey, Hockey WA, Peel Hockey Competition and Events By-Laws, Hockey Australia Australian Championship Operations Manual, Hockey Australia Tournament Regulations, Peel Hockey Codes of Behaviour or Peel Hockey Membership By-Laws, these By-Laws are taken to incorporate any updates or changes.

F Review

The Competition By-laws Committee is responsible for determining the process by which these By-Laws and any competition by-laws are reviewed on a periodic basis.

Peel Hockey will seek and consider the Competition By-laws Committee's decisions when determining the application of the By-Laws.



1. Competition structure

- (b) The number of Teams and rounds will be as follows, unless otherwise determined by Peel Hockey:

Men's & Women's Competitions	Teams	Rounds
Men & Women's	Six (6)	Eighteen (18)
Men & Women's	Five (5)	Eighteen (18)
Men & Women's	Four (4)	Eighteen (18)

2. Conduct of matches

2.1 Match conditions

- (a) The fixture week is deemed to be Friday through to following Thursday.
- (b) Double Headers named as such, will be classed as two (2) fixture rounds. All other teams will be deemed to be on a bye week.
- (c) All matches must be played on the date and time and at the ground nominated, unless determined by Peel Hockey.
- (b) A match will consist of:

Four (4) periods of play	Timing of play	Intervals of play immediately following the nominated period of play	Other match conditions
First quarter	Seventeen (17) minutes	First interval will be two (2) minutes	No end swap, same Team recommences with centre pass Teams must remain on the pitch during the interval
Second quarter	Seventeen (17) minutes	Half-time interval will be five (4) minutes	Teams must swap ends after half-time, other Team recommences with centre pass
Third quarter	Seventeen (17) minutes	Third interval will be two (2) minutes	No end swap, same Team recommences with centre pass Teams must remain on the pitch during the interval
Fourth quarter	Seventeen (17) minutes	Fourth interval will be the end of the match	Not applicable

- (c) A maximum period of ten (10) minutes may be added for delays or interruptions but the match must conclude at a time which is the earlier of:
- five (5) minutes before the scheduled commencement of the next match scheduled to take place on the same field; or
 - eighty-five (85) minutes after the commencement of play.
- (d) *Unless otherwise advised* - each Team must provide at least one (1) white hockey ball of standard requirements in serviceable condition, to the satisfaction of the umpires, unless supplied by the Association. A coloured ball may be used by the agreement of both Teams and both umpires.



2.2 Team conditions

The Team conditions will be as follows:

- (a) Teams can comprise of up to sixteen (16) Players. A maximum of eleven (11) Players are allowed to play at one time. Players may be interchanged at any time except during penalty corners.

Each Team must play with either:

- (i) a goalkeeper wearing full protective equipment comprising of at least Protective Headgear, leg guards and kickers and subject to Competitions and Events By-Law 2.1 (c); or
- (ii) 11 field players;
- o No field player has goalkeeping privileges or may wear a different shirt;
 - o Protective headgear **MUST NOT** be worn by field players, other than a face mask when defending a penalty corner or penalty stroke;
 - o All players are required to wear the team shirt.

Any Team wanting to change between these options must make a substitution at a break in play.

- (b) No Team is permitted to commence play with less than seven (7) Players.
- (c) A Team with less than eleven (11) Players may add extra players during the progress of a match until the full complement of eleven (11) Players is reached.
- (d) No field player has goalkeeping privileges or may wear a different shirt. Protective Headgear must not be worn by field players, other than a face mask when defending a penalty corner.
- (e) If a Team has seven (7) or more Players absent for a fixture due to hockey commitments endorsed by Hockey WA, Peel Hockey or School Sport WA, then consideration will be given for the fixtures to be rescheduled to an appropriate time. A written request for a reschedule must be received by Peel Hockey at least ten (10) days prior to the original fixture date as published and requests will be addressed on a case by case basis.
- (f) A Team is allowed up to a maximum of four (4) non-playing persons on a team bench during a turf fixture including the coach, assistant coach, manager and any health practitioners. This is in addition to any Players not in the current eleven (11) on the pitch. All health practitioners present on a Team bench must have sufficient documentation of accreditation.

- (g) Two teams in the same competition – Core Players

The Core Player Requirements, process of review and process of changes are as follows:

Core Player Requirements	<p>Each Team must provide to Peel Hockey fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the FIRST FIXTURE, or at a time advised by Peel Hockey, a list of at least sixteen (16) squad players with six (6) Core Players clearly indicated on the list.</p> <p>Teams should be created evenly, distributing players across both teams to determine a player's regular team.</p> <p>The list of Core Players is to include a goalkeeper.</p>
Process of Review of Core Player lists	Coaches (or their representatives) may, prior to the fixture following the submission date, review the Core Player lists and approve or require modification of a Club's list.
Process of changes to Core Players list	<p>A Club may request a change to their own or any other Club's Core Player list within the same Grade at any time during the Qualifying Season; or</p> <p>Peel Hockey may request a change at any time during the Qualifying Season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All changes require that the names of the Players to be included and excluded to be provided to Peel Hockey by the requesting party no later than 10am on the second last working day prior to the Club's next fixture. • Peel Hockey will refer all requests for changes to three (3) randomly selected opposition coaches. Should a consensus not be possible then Peel Hockey may request consideration from additional opposition coaches.

- (c) A Core Player must only play for their assigned Team. *This is a Penalty Provision.*



- (d) Peel Hockey can investigate situations where a Core Player has been absent from fixtures for at least three (3) consecutive Fixture Weeks. Unless due to injury or suspension, this will lead to a request to change a Team's Core Player List.

3. Officiating

3.1 Technical Officials/Timekeepers

- (a) Peel Hockey may appoint Technical Officials to control matches in any Grade. The function and powers of Technical Officials are as outlined in the Hockey Australia Australian Championship Operations Manual and as determined from time to time by Peel Hockey.
- (b) No Player may enter the playing arena without the consent of the Technical Official.
- (c) Where a Technical Official/Timekeeper is present, the captain or manager of each Team must accurately complete the line-up sheet clearly indicating the starting eleven (11) and return it to the Technical Official at least fifteen (10) minutes before the scheduled start time of the match.
- (d) The Technical Official/Timekeeper can require any person on a Team bench who engages in loud or offensive behaviour to withdraw from the playing arena, in addition to any consequence referred to in Competition and Events By-Laws by-law 5.1 (c).

3.2 Umpiring (refer also to Competitions & Events By-Law 4.1)

The umpiring by-laws are as follows:

- (a) Peel Hockey will decide on the umpiring arrangements for each Competition.
- (b) Where the Appointed umpire(s) fails to arrive by the scheduled starting time a replacement umpire(s) must be sourced by the competing Teams. Failure to source a replacement umpire(s) will result in the competing Teams nominating a Player(s) to undertake the umpiring allocation.
- (c) In the event that both Teams are required to nominate a Player umpire under sub-by-law (b), failure of one (1) Team to do so will result in the Forced Loss of the match.
- (d) Failure of the Appointed umpire(s) to attend the match does not give cause to request re-fixturing of the match. For the Team that was allocated to umpire, **this is a Penalty Provision**.
- (e) If the Appointed umpire(s) arrive after the commencement of the match, they may take the place of the replacement umpire(s) by agreement of both Teams.
- (f) Where Clubs are required to provide an umpire for a Final, then that umpire must not be an immediate family member of a player, coach or team manager for either Team playing that Final. **This is a Penalty Provision**.

4. Player qualification

Subject to any relevant provision within the Competitions & Events By-Laws the player qualification by-laws are as follows.

4.1 Qualifying Season player qualification

- (a) A Player may only play in one (1) Senior Competition match within the same Fixture Week, unless:
 - (i) They are a Double Up Player, State Replacement Player or Permit Player under by-law 4.2, 4.3 or 4.4;
 - (ii) Competition and Events By-Laws by-law 6.3 applies; or
 - (iii) More than one (1) match in the same Competition is scheduled to be played during the same Fixture Week.
 - (b) Note: A Bye will be considered to be a Fixture Week. Any Player who does not play in a match, will be deemed to have participated in that Fixture Week for that competition.



4.2 Asterisk (*) Player

A player playing for another **METRO Club** (Premier Division 1, 2 & 3) may be eligible to play in Peel competition if their regular grade is Premier Division 1, 2 or 3 on written application from the President or Secretary of the Peel Club and complies with the following.

- (i) The Player resides within the Peel Hockey Region
- (ii) The player has previously played for a member club of the Association;
- (iii) The written application must be sent to the Administrator (5) five business days prior to the player's first game.
 - a. Peel Hockey will not give permission unless the Club can clearly demonstrate that an unfair advantage will not be obtained.
- (iv) Peel Hockey will review permission if one or more clubs submit a written complaint. Peel Hockey will seek feedback from other clubs before a decision is made either to withdraw permission or leave as is.
- (v) The player **MUST** be identified with an asterisk (*) on the scorecard
- (vi) **Asterisk players must play 50% of the season games to qualify for finals.**
- (vii) If a player plays without approval, it will be considered that the team has played an ineligible player – refer to Competition & Events By-Law 10.2.
- (viii) Clubs must apply to the Board each season for approval.

4.2 Double Up Players

- (a) A Team may list and play three (3) Double Up Players, or four (4) if one of the Double Up Players is a goalkeeper.
- (b) The by-laws about eligibility of Double Up Players are as follows:

	By-law	Result	Procedure
A Player is eligible to be a Double Up Player if:	(i) one (1) game is in the Player's Regular Team; and	A Double Up Player may play two (2) matches in a Fixture Week	Double Up Player(s) must be clearly indicated by a "D" in the player role column of the match report sheet in the higher graded match and by a "4" in the Double Up column on the Online Portal. <i>This is a Penalty Provision</i>
	(ii) the other game is in the Clubs second team.		

- (c) When a Player has played in more than one (1) game in a week as a Double Up Player, then only the match played in the player's Regular Team may be used for assessing finals qualifications.
- (d) If a Club contravenes by-law 4.2, then the Double Up Player(s) will be an ineligible player in that Club's lower Grade match and the appropriate penalty will be applied, as set out in by-law 10 of the Competition and Events By-Laws.

4.3 Permit Player

- (a) The by-laws about eligibility of a Permit Player are as follows:

	By-law	Result	Procedure
A Player is eligible to be a Permit Player if:	(i) a Player has a Goalkeeper permit (automatic). That Player may take the field in one (1) match as a goalkeeper and in any other match as a field player; or	A Permit Player may play two (2) matches in a Fixture Week	Permit Player(s) must be clearly indicated by a 'P' in the player role column of the match report sheet in the match for which permission has been granted and in the Permit column on the Online Portal. <i>This is a Penalty Provision</i>
	(ii) in exceptional circumstances, Peel Hockey may grant a permit for a Player to play in two (2) matches in a Fixture Week. Permit requests must be received by close of business on the second last working day prior to the match		



- (b) If a Permit Player plays as a field player and a goalkeeper throughout the Winter Season, that Permit Player can qualify for two Finals, but can only qualify in a Final for the position in which the Permit Player has played in that Team throughout the year.

For example: if a Player has played as a goalkeeper in Team One and a field Player in Team Two they cannot play as a goalkeeper in a Team Two game.

- (c) If a Club contravenes by-law 4.3, then the relevant player(s) will be deemed ineligible player in that Club's second team match in which they played during that Fixture Week and penalty will be applied in accordance with the Competition and Events By-Law 10.
- (d) In exceptional circumstances, where a Team is unable to comply with player eligibility by-laws, they may apply for a permit. The application must be made to Peel Hockey by close of business on the second last working day prior to the match.

Should Peel Hockey agree to grant the permit, the Club will be directed as to how the permit is to be applied.

4.5 Finals qualification

- (a) To play in a Final:

A Player must have played at least **five (5)** fixtures prior to Finals for the Club in the Senior Competition; and

The Player must have played greater than half of their matches for the Winter Season for that same Team (i.e. two teams in the same competition) in which they are seeking to play Finals in

OR

The Club must obtain permission from Peel Hockey.

A written request, **outlining reasons why the required number of games has not been played**, must be lodged with Senior Director by Tuesday prior to the game. Permission will only be given if Peel Hockey is satisfied no unfair advantage will be gained.

- (b) In the event of an ineligible player playing in a Finals fixture, the relevant Team will receive a Forced Loss in accordance with Competition and Events By-Law 10.
- (c) Players will be exempt from by-law 4.5 if they are prevented from qualifying to play Finals due to Hockey WA representation.

5. Finals

5.1 Format for Finals

Subject to any Special By-laws the format for Finals will be as follows:

Five or more teams – Three (3) FINAL series

- (a) The top four (4) Teams on the premiership table at the completion of the Qualifying Season will play in the final series.

Final	Explanation	Result
First semi-final	The third and fourth placed Teams on the premiership table play each other	The losing Team is eliminated from Finals. The winning Team will play the losing Team of the Second semi-final in the preliminary final.
Second semi-final	The first and second placed Teams on the premiership table play each other	The losing Team will play the winning Team of the first semi-final in the preliminary final. The winning Team will play the winning Team of the preliminary final in the Grand Final.
Preliminary final	The winning Team of the first semi-final and the losing Team of the second semi-final play each other	The losing Team is eliminated from Finals. The winning Team moves into the Grand Final to play the winner of the second semi-final.
Grand Final	The winning Team of the second semi-final and the winning Team of the preliminary final play each other	The winning Team is the Premier



(b) Five or more teams - Two (2) round FINAL Series

Final	Explanation	Result
First semi-final	The second and third placed Teams on the premiership table play each other	The winning Team will play the winning Team of the Second semi-final in the Grand Final
Second semi-final	The first and fourth placed Teams on the premiership table play each other	The winning Team will play the winning Team of the First semi-final in the Grand Final.
Grand Final	The winning Team of the second semi-final and the winning Team of the preliminary final play each other	The winning Team is the Premier

4 team competition, 2 round Final Series

The top three (3) Teams on the premiership table at the completion of the Qualifying Season will play in the final series.

Final	Explanation	Result
First team	Will move straight to Grand Final	Will play winner of semi-final in Grand Final
Semi-Final	The second and third placed Teams on the premiership table play each other	The winning Team will play the first placed Team in the Grand Final.
Grand Final	The winning Team of the semi-final and the First Team will play each other	The winning Team is the Premier

5.2 Tie breakers

The format for tie breakers will be as follows:

- (a) If the score in a Finals game is level at the end of normal time then, after a five (5) minute rest period, umpires will toss a coin with the captains and the winner will have the choice of ends or possession of the ball to re-start the match. Two (2) periods of up to five (5) minutes of extra time will be played, in between which Teams must change ends without a rest period.
- (b) The first Team to score a goal in extra time is the winner of the game.
- (c) In the event that the score is still level at the end of the two (2) periods of extra time then a penalty stroke competition as outlined in the Hockey Australia Tournament Regulations will be played to establish the winner of the match.
- (d) In a "penalty stroke" or "shoot-out" competition, five (5) Players from each Team will take a penalty stroke/shoot-out alternatively.
- (e) Permanently suspended (red card) Players are ineligible to take part in a penalty stroke competition.
- (f) The umpires, after consultation with the Team captains and Technical Official if present, will choose the goal to be used and will toss a coin with the captains, the winner having the choice to take or defend the first penalty stroke.
- (g) One of a Team's nominated goalkeeper/s must defend for their Team unless unable to do so, in which case another Player may replace them. This Player must wear approved goal keeping equipment, including Protective Headgear.
- (h) Once each Team has taken five (5) penalty strokes, the Team with the highest number of goals is the winner of the game.



- (i) In the event of an equal number of goals having been awarded to each Team during the first penalty stroke competition, a second penalty stroke competition will occur as follows:
 - (i) the same Players as featured in the first penalty stroke competition will take part;
 - (ii) it will feature 'sudden death', which means that the winning Team will be the first Team to have scored one (1) more goal than the opposing Team after an equal number of penalty strokes has been taken by each Team;
 - (iii) the sequence of Players taking penalty strokes does not need to be the same as in the first penalty stroke competition and the Team captain has freedom of choice at the time of each penalty stroke as to which of the nominated Players will take it;
 - (iv) all five (5) nominated Players must take a penalty stroke before any of them are eligible to take a further one;
 - (v) the Team which defended the first penalty stroke of the first competition must not defend the first penalty stroke of this second competition.

6. Promotion and relegation

- (a) There is no promotion or relegation in Peel Hockey competitions.

7. Situations not covered by these By-Laws

- (a) Peel Hockey must consider the intent and purpose of these By-Laws so that they may be applied in any given situation.
- (b) Any situation not provided for explicitly in these By-Laws will be referred to Peel Hockey for consideration and determination.

8. Seeking an unfair advantage

- (a) Clubs or Teams who deliberately seek to gain an unfair advantage will be subject to a penalty.
- (b) For example, Clubs or Teams that collude or conspire to predetermine the results of any match will be deemed to be seeking an unfair advantage.
- (c) *This by-law 8 is a Penalty Provision.*

9. Fines table

Where any by-law confers discretion on Peel Hockey to determine a fine, Peel Hockey will be guided by the following decision matrix:

Level of breach	Example
Minor breach	Procedural breach only
Medium breach	Has the potential to operate to the detriment of another Club or Team
Serious breach	Wilfully attempting to gain an unfair advantage, to the detriment of another Club or Team



Appendix A: Defined terms

Absent Representative Player is a Player who is absent for a specific Fixture Week due to participating as a player, team official, or event official in an Australian national hockey championship.

Advisory Group refers to an advisory group that is set up by Peel Hockey to assist with the decision-making process.

Appointed Umpire refers to all umpires organised for a match, whether these be Peel Hockey Panel umpires, or umpires that have been organised by clubs to officiate the fixture.

Association, Peel Hockey refer to the name of the Peel Hockey Association Incorporated and its Staff, Board and Committees.

Business Day means a day (other than a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday) in Perth, Western Australia.

Club means any Club or Association, or any other group within Australia or overseas controlling the playing of field hockey, according to the By-laws of FIH.

Committee refers to a Committee that is set up by Peel Hockey to carry out delegated functions or powers of Peel Hockey.

Competition means the competitions controlled by Peel Hockey.

Core Player is a Player who has met the criteria in by-law 2.2(g)

Double Up Player is a Player who has met the criteria in by-law 4.2.

Eligibility Period means the last four (4) Fixture Weeks of the Qualifying Season for Premier Divisions and the last three (3) Fixture Weeks of the Qualifying Season for all other Divisions.

FIH refers to the International Hockey Federation.

Final refers to any of the series of matches played at the end of the Qualifying Season to determine the Premier.

Fixture Week refers to a period during which a set of fixtures for that Competition takes place, as set out in Peel Hockey's season calendar.

Forced Loss is the result of a match where a team has contravened a prescribed provision in these By-Laws, in which case:

- (a) the Team that committed the contravention and against which the Forced Loss is assessed shall be awarded zero (0) premiership points;
- (b) the Team that has not committed a contravention will be awarded three (3) premiership points;
- (c) the score of the match shall be deemed a five (5) goals to nil (0) in favour of the non-offending Team, unless the original score of the match (prior to the assessment of the Forced Loss) reflects a greater goal difference in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case that original score shall apply; and
- (d) the Team against which the Forced Loss has been assessed shall incur a penalty in accordance with the Penalty Provisions By-Laws.
- (e) Association F&B votes will not be awarded to a player in the offending team/s

Media means any form of media or social media such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, Instagram.

Members are the Clubs and Schools affiliated with Peel Hockey.

Online Portal refers to the online Competitions, fixtures and results portal used by Peel Hockey.



Penalty Provision means a by-law which if breached could result in the imposition of a financial penalty (usually a fine).

Permit Player is a Player who has met the criteria in by-law 4.3.

Player refers to any player regardless of their position, includes field players and goalkeepers.

Premier refers to the Team in each Division or Grade that wins the Grand Final.

Protective Headgear refers to a full goalkeeping helmet, not just a facemask.

Protests and Disputes Tribunal and **Protest Fee** have the meanings given to them in the Peel Hockey Competition & Events By-laws.

Qualifying Period means more than sixty per cent (60%) of matches during the Qualifying Season of the Winter Season.

Qualifying Season is the round of matches played prior to the Finals series.

Regular Grade is the Grade in which a player has played most of their matches in the current season at that point in time up to and including the last qualifying round. Where a player has played an equal number of matches in more than one Grade, his/her Regular Grade will be the higher of those Grades.

Rules of Hockey means current edition of the FIH Rules of Hockey.

Season Premier refers to the Team in each Competition that finishes on top of the premiership table at the end of the Qualifying Season.

Special By-laws refer to the By-laws set out in **Appendix B**, and are special to a particular Competition.

Team means a number of players registered with a Club and designated by that Club to represent it in a scheduled match in the Competition.

Technical Officials/Timekeepers may be appointed by Peel Hockey to any match and have the functions and powers as outlined.

Winter Season means a Winter Season Competition run by Peel Hockey, including junior Competitions, the first day of which will be the date of the first match of the Competition and the last day of which will be the date of the grand final match of the Competition for that season.