

SEHA JUNIOR COMPETITION RULES

Introduction

These Competition Rules should be read and understood in their entirety as various cross references apply. They have been established so that there is fair competition between teams based on the ability and standard of the players. Junior Convenors should ensure all coaches and managers have a copy of these rules. Any queries should be directed to the SEHA Junior Competition Committee Executive.

Rule 8, dealing with eligibility of players, has created much mis-interpretation over the years and the following is provided as a simplified interpretation with examples:

Competition Age Eligibility Rules

Note: reference to games includes trial games at the start of the season where they are part of the official SEHA draw

- From the start of the season, players who play 4 games in an A Division team are then not permitted to play for B Division teams
- For the first three (3) games of the season, players are allowed to play between teams (if they play 4 games in A Division, then they are not allowed to play in B Division). This covers any unavailability of players due to summer sport commitments etc and allows for further grading in game situations. This rule should not be abused eg. A Division players also playing for B Division teams to gain points
- After the first three (3) games of the season, the following use of players applies (this should only be when teams are short):
 - *U11B teams - can use older minkey or Under 9 players.*
 - *U13B teams - can only use U11B players, not U11A players*
 - *U15 SEHA teams – can only use U13B players, not U13A players*
 - *U15 Metro teams - can only use U13A players (they can use U15 SEHA team players but only in the first 6 games. If these SEHA players play 4 games in the Metro team, they must then remain in that team and are not allowed to play back in the U15 SEHA team).*
 - *U17 Metro teams - can only use U15A Metro players (they can use U17 SEHA team players but only in the first 6 games. If these players play 4 games in the Metro team, they must then remain in that team and are not allowed to play back in the U17 SEHA team).*

- The only time an U11A Division player can play in an U13B Division team (or an U13A Division player play in the U15 SEHA team or U15A Metro player play in the U17 SEHA team) is if the club has no A Division team in the older age group. Then, the player must not be a current SEHA or other Association representative player and should be noted on the Match Card so that this can be verified by the Records Officer.
- A Division players can play up an age group any time if required ie. U11A can play up in U13A; U13A play up in U15 Metro; U15 Metro in U17 Metro
- U11 players are not permitted to play up in U15 teams ie. can't play up two age groups; same applies for U13 playing up in U17
- To qualify for the Finals series, players must have played 50% of games and 3 of the last 5 games for the respective teams.

Definitions

SEHA Junior Competition Committee – comprises the Executive and one delegate from each affiliated club.

SEHA Junior Competition Executive – is the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Records Officer and Umpire Co-ordinator.

Division – means A or B Division (or any other Division decided by the Committee); it refers to grading within an age group only and not to an age group

Age Group – means the age groups designated by SEHA eg. Under 11, Under 13, Under 15, Under 17

Under 15 Metro – is the Sydney Wide Under 15 Competition

Under 17 Metro – is the Sydney Wide Under 17 Competition

Games – includes trial games at the start of the season where they are part of the official SEHA draw

Rules

1. To provide equal and quality competition between teams within the following District hockey clubs: Bankstown, Glebe, Moorebank, St George/Randwick,

Sutherland, UNSW, Sharks and any other club that makes an application and is duly admitted to the competition by the SEHA Junior Competition Committee.

2. SEHA junior games are played under the rules adopted by the SEHA, unless otherwise decided at a meeting of the Association.
 - i. Penalty strokes may not be awarded in Under 11 games. Instead, a penalty corner should be awarded for the infringement.
3. Finals Series Rules:
 - i. **Semi Finals and Finals** - Play full game, no extra time. If the result is a draw at the end of full time then the team that was higher in the Points table will proceed. If points were equal, then the team with the superior goal average will proceed. If equal goal average, then the team with the highest goals for will proceed.
 - ii. **Grand Finals** - At the end of full time if there is a draw, then the players have a 3 minute break. Play recommences with two lots of six minutes extra time, golden goal. The first 6 minutes of extra time has 9 players in each team, at the end of 6 minutes if the result is still a draw there is an immediate change of play and a further 6 minutes of extra time with team drop off to 7 players each. At the end of the second period of extra time, if the result is still a draw then U11 teams will be declared joint premiers, U13 and U15 grand finals will be decided by penalty strokes, five strokes for each team taken by five different players.
4. Age Groups – The SEHA Junior Competition Committee will run a competition in whatever age groups as designated by SEHA, then duly endorsed by the SEHA Junior Competition Committee. These age groups may change but are currently Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17. The designated age group is determined by the child's age as at 1st January in the year of the hockey season (eg a child must be 10 or less on 1st Jan to play U11).
 - i. A player may not play up more than one age group eg, an Under 11 player may not play in an Under 15 game at any time.
5. Match times – commencement time of matches shall be as determined by the SEHA Junior Competition Committee. Currently the match times are set to U/17 8.00am, U/15 9.10am, U/13 10.20am, U/11 11.30am.
6. Match duration – duration of matches shall be determined by the SEHA Junior Competition Committee and are subject to change at the Committee's discretion. Currently U17, U15 and U13 play 30 minutes each way with a 5-minute half time

break. Under 11 play 25 minutes each way with a 5-minute half time break. A five (5) minute warm up time is permitted prior to each match. Time is not to be stopped for injuries and/or suspensions.

7. Length of the season is at the discretion of the SEHA Junior Competition Committee and is at the recommendation of the SEHA Junior Competition Secretary following the nominations of teams for the season. Wherever possible there will be no play during
 - a. The middle weekend of the school holidays and
 - b. The weekend of the HockeyNSW State Championships of that age group
8. Eligibility to play within the SEHA Junior Competition
 - i. To be eligible for competition a child must be correctly registered with a club affiliated with the SEHA Junior Competition, the players' registration must also be recorded with SEHA, or their home association, and be registered with HockeyNSW.
 - ii. Players cannot play in another team within the same Division or a lower Division (however, refer points 8vi and 8xi for exceptions)
 - iii. Any changes to a team must be approved at a SEHA Junior Competition Committee meeting with an explanation of the reasons for requested change.
 - iv. A team shall comprise a maximum of sixteen players. No more than eleven players on the field at any given time, one of which must be a goal keeper. In the event that a team shall comprise more than sixteen players, approval must be obtained from the SEHA Junior Competition Committee.
 - v. Starting from the first game of the season, once a player has played four (4) or more games in a higher Division that player cannot play in the lower Division. (however refer 8xi for exception). For the purposes SEHA Junior Competition, Divisions the U15 and U17 Metro teams are treated as the 'A' Division and the SEHA Junior Competition U15 and U17 teams are treated as the 'B' Division.
 - vi. With regard to clubs with two (2) or more teams in the same Division, after three (3) games, you will not be permitted to change players between teams (also refer to 8xii).

- vii. After three (3) games of the SEHA Junior Competition, clubs are required to submit their team nominations to the SEHA Junior Competition Records Officer. (Secretary if no Records Officer is appointed).
- viii. Registration of players is to be completed by the half-way point of the competition.
- ix. To qualify for the Finals series
 - a. Players graded within a team in a Division must play 3 of the last 5 games with that team.
 - b. **And** have played a majority of games with that team over the season (50%); this allows for injured or sick players in the period leading up to the Finals.
- x. Having qualified to play in a younger age team on criteria 8.ix.a and 8.ix.b, a player can only be eligible to play for an older team at equal to or higher than their Divisional status. E.g. U/11A can play U/13A, U/11B can play U/13B.
- xi. Having qualified to play in a younger age team on criteria 8.ix.a and 8.ix.b, a player can only be eligible to play for an older of a lower Divisional status, if the club involved only has a lower Divisional team in the next age group. Then the player concerned will only qualify if he is not currently a SEHA or other association representative player or been selected to play in the current season. E.g. U/11A Division non-representative player can play U/13B if that club has only fielded an U/13B Division team in that age group in that season. This player should be noted as such on the match card.
- xii. After the first 6 games, players registered in higher graded teams are not permitted to play in lower graded teams. Any breach of this condition will result in the loss of competition points (Refer 8.ii and 8.v)
- xiii. Team Calculating – The SEHA Junior Competition may use the following method to attempt to grade teams. Boys – 1 point for each year of competitive hockey, girls – 0.75 points for each year of competitive hockey. This does not include minkey or 7 aside hockey. Add 0.50 per player for each year of completed representative hockey. Add all the points for the team and submit this to the SEHA Junior Competition Records Officer by the requested date.

- xiv. Any over-aged players are to be approved by the SEHA Junior Competition Committee. Over-aged players are not allowed to play in A Division teams and no team may have more than three (3) over-age players.
 - xv. Any exceptions to the registration rules are to be approved by the **full** SEHA Junior Competition Committee.
9. Breaches of these rules – any breach of SEHA Junior Competition rules will result in loss of competition points for the team that committed the breach.
10. Duty of Care –
- i. No junior player shall take the playing field in a SEHA Junior competition or trial unless he/she is wearing shin pads and mouth guard.
 - ii. Goal keepers and substitute goal keepers shall wear at all times during a match in which they participate, protective equipment, including leg guards and kickers, groin and chest protectors, hand protectors, a face mask and helmet or a helmet incorporating fixed full face protection.
11. Match Cards – All Match cards are to be submitted to the SEHA Junior Competition Records Officer (or the secretary where there is no records officer appointed) by midnight of the Wednesday following the game. Match cards must be scanned and submitted as specified by the Records Officer. Late submission of match cards or online results will result in a fine of \$25 issued to the Club. Unpaid fines render the team unqualified for the finals series.
12. Points – Points shall be awarded as follows: Win – 3 points Draw – 1 point Loss – 0 points
13. Forfeit – a forfeit will occur if a team is unable to field a team with a minimum of seven (7) players, one of whom must be a goalkeeper, within 10 minutes of the scheduled game start time. The result will be a 0-5 loss to the forfeiting team and both teams must complete and submit match cards indicating this result.
14. Washed-out/Abandoned games –
- i. In the event a game is unable to start due to the condition of the field, teams will make their best efforts to play the game within four (4) weeks otherwise the score will be recorded as a 0-0 draw. Match cards with players listed must be submitted and the game will count for Finals eligibility.

- ii. Any match that reaches half time without interruption, or a total of 50% of the allocated match time, will be deemed as a valid match. If the game is abandoned prior, Rule 14.1 will apply.

15. The Tomahawk shot is only permitted in the U17 age group.

- i. a Tomahawk is considered to be a powerful back stick shot on goal in which the stick is swung down through the ball; using the edge of the stick to propel the ball towards goal.
- ii. A Tomahawk is not:
 - When a player keeps the stick upright using the flat head of the stick to strike the ball.
 - When a player sweeps their stick along the ground using the edge to propel the ball forward.

16. Mercy Rule – In the event that a score reaches a difference of eight (8) goals during a game, the leading team will drop-off two (2) players. Should the score then reach a difference of ten (10) goals, the leading team will drop a further two (2) players. The drop-off of players should not exceed the number required by SEHA Junior Competition to field the minimum team of seven (7) players including a goalkeeper. Coaches of both teams should also use their discretion and judgment in managing the fairness of the game.

17. U11B Games – coaches are allowed on the field of play for the first six (6) games of the season. This recognizes that many U11B players are new to hockey and will benefit from the coach's directions in regard to positional play. Coaches must not exert influence over umpires or obstruct the passage of play.

18. The SEHA Junior Competition Committee seek the co-operation of all clubs in adherence to these rules to ensure even and enjoyable competition for all players, coaches, managers, umpires, parents and supporters. Any club hosting SEHA Junior Competition games must provide a suitably recognised ground convenor to:

- i. Ensure all games complete at the designated time
- ii. Ensure that ice and/or cold packs are readily available in the event of injury
- iii. Ensure that all spectators and players respect umpire decisions and abide by the code of conduct.

19. Other FIH rule Clarifications:

i. In line with F.I.H Guidelines:

- Breaking players on penalty corners are not removed to half-way; however umpires that deem the breaking to be consistent and deliberate can take disciplinary action.

20. Appointment of Umpires for Finals Series – refer attached policy.

New in 2015

- The Sydney East Junior Competition committee in line with the Sydney East Directors have decided that the ball **will not be allowed** to be played above the shoulder unless a defender is in-line with and defending the goal.
- Green cards will be a 2 minute suspension for age groups U13 and above.
- Long corners are now taken **on the 25** in-line with where the ball crossed the backline.
- The ball no longer needs to be taken back outside the dotted circle for a free hit in close proximity to the circle however the ball still must travel 5m before entering the circle and all defenders must be 5 metres from where the ball is played.

SEHA Junior Competition Executive Committee: March 2015

SEHA Junior Competition Policy for Appointment of Umpires in Finals Series.

The SEHA Junior Competition policy for the appointment of umpires to the finals series is for the following reasons:

- To ensure that we have the best quality of umpires available to umpire the finals.
- To protect junior umpires from claims of bias from opposition teams/clubs.
- To prevent junior umpires from peer group pressure within their own clubs.
- To provide clarity to parents/coaches over the how umpires are appointed for the finals series.
- To make it easier for the Umpire Co-ordinator to appoint umpires for the finals.
- To ensure that the appointment of umpires is equitable and fair to all teams and clubs participating.

Umpire Appointment Policy

1. All umpires appointed by the SEHA Junior Competition Umpire Convenor must have a Community Level Qualification as a minimum.
2. Independent umpires are the preferred option.
3. Preference is given to junior umpires over senior umpires.
4. Each club is to notify the SEHA Junior Competition Umpire coordinator of the list of qualified umpires (junior and senior) and the games that they are available to umpire. NOTE: Nominations must be sent by the Monday preceding the finals game. If qualified independent umpires are not available then qualified umpires from the clubs playing may be appointed.
5. Appointments will be based on merit and preference will be given to junior umpires.
6. If there are insufficient nominations from the Clubs involved in the competition then the SEHA Junior Competition umpire co-ordinator may ask for assistance from SEHA.
7. Umpires will be appointed by the SEHA Junior Competition Umpire Co-ordinator or whomever the SEHA Junior Competition Committee delegates and will be ratified by the SEHA Junior Competition Committee.
8. If there are still insufficient nominations from qualified umpires then each club will be notified that they must provide their own umpires for the game.