

TAMWORTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
Competition Rules



Document Control Information
 Tamworth Hockey Association Incorporated – Competition Rules

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1 Definitions

In this Competition Rules Policy, unless the context otherwise requires:

Adult	means players who are 18 years of age or older as at 1 January of the current year
Board	means the Board of Tamworth Hockey Association Incorporated
Committee	means the Officiating Committee
Company or Organisation or THAI	means Tamworth Hockey Association Incorporated
Constitution	means the Constitution of Tamworth Hockey Association Incorporated
Draw	means a schedule of fixtures between Tamworth Hockey Association Incorporated
Junior	means players turning 18 years of age or younger on or before 31 December of the current year and play within Tamworth Hockey Association Incorporated junior competition
Junior Competition	means the hockey competition held between either male or female junior players
Junior Competition Committee (JCC)	means the Junior Competition Committee
Masters Competition	means the hockey competition held between either male or female adults eligible for Masters; ie player who are 34 years of age or older as at 1 January of the current year
Meeting	means a meeting of the Committee
Member	means a member of the Committee
Mixed Competition	means a competition held between both male and female players
Official	means Umpire and/or Technical Official
President	means the President of THAI
Secretary	means the person appointed by the Committee, which may vary from time to time
Senior Competition	means the hockey competition held between either male or female adult players
Senior Competition Committee (SCC)	means the Senior Competition Committee

The singular imports the plural and vice versa; and other terms defined in the Constitution have the same meaning in this Charter.

2 Purpose

These competition rules determine the playing rules and conditions for all weekly competitions held by Tamworth Hockey Association Incorporated.

These competition rules are administered by the Junior and Senior Committees appointed and empowered by the Board of Tamworth Hockey Association.

The Junior and Senior Competition Committees may amend these rules as and when required, subject to the final approval of the Board of Tamworth Hockey Association Inc.

These rules have effect from the date nominated by the Board in this document until otherwise notified by the Board.

3 Governance

The following competitions are governed by these competition rules:

- a. The Senior Men's Competition (including Masters)
- b. The Senior Women's Competition (Including Masters)
- c. The Junior Girl's Competition
- d. The Junior Boy's Competition
- e. Mixed Competitions

4 Team Nominations

4.1 Minimum number in teams

- a. Seniors
THAI shall not accept from any club the nomination of teams of less than 12 members.
- b. Juniors
The JCC will support each club's endeavour to register a minimum of 12 players in a full field team and a minimum of 9 players in a half field team.
- c. Modified Competitions
Team nomination requirements will be determined by the SCC and JCC as required.

4.2 Team Uniforms and Equipment

- a. Team names and colours are to be submitted with nominations.
- b. All Junior Team Names and team colours will be approved by the JCC.
- c. All Senior Team Names and team colours will be approved by the SCC.
- d. Items of dangerous jewellery, clothing, non-prescription glasses, or caps with hard peaks may not be worn during any game due to the possibility of injury to other players.
- e. Compression garments and undershirts of any length may be worn. These garments must not cover any part of the official uniform. It is desirable (but not compulsory) that these garments are of a similar colour to the uniform being worn.
- f. Umpires may request players to remove jumpers which are (because of colour) making umpiring difficult, and any player so requested must comply with the umpire's direction.

- g. In addition, umpires may request the team named first in the draw to wear bibs should the colour of the uniforms make umpiring difficult. When teams are drawn to play one another, and have similar socks, one team is to wear socks of a different colour.
- h. It is compulsory for all players to wear shin pads, mouth guards and shoes appropriately designed for the conditions of the playing surface.
- i. Anything outside these policies must be submitted in writing to the SCC to be assessed.

4.3 Nominations

- a. All nominations are to be delivered to the THAI Secretary and either the JCC or SCC.
 - b. Nominations for all competitions shall close on the date as approved by the THAI Board.
 - c. No changes to team nominations will be accepted after team nominations are due. Exceptions will need to be submitted in writing to the JCC or SCC executive for review. The decision is final, and no further appeals will be heard.
- (l) **Penalty:** if nominations are late or changed after the due date a penalty of \$200 per team may be applied

4.4 Nomination Acceptance

- a. The JCC or SCC reserve the right to accept or reject any nomination of any team.
- b. The JCC or SCC will advise each team the outcome of their nomination.

4.5 Single Team Clubs

- a. The SCC or JCC will decide on the acceptance of single team clubs to any competition.

5 Competition Rules

5.1 Applicable Rules

- a. Playing Rules

All competitions will be umpired in accordance the rules of Hockey as set down by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

- b. Policy

All competitions are subject to policies as released by Tamworth Hockey Association Incorporated.

5.2 Eligibility

- a. Clubs

- (l) Any club failing to pay monies owing by the date set by the THAI Board the club shall be deemed to be non-financial.

- (II) Any club who is non-financial shall not score competition points in any games played by it until the outstanding monies are paid.
 - (III) The points not earned during the non-financial period will not be reinstated when the club assumes full financial status.
- b. Players
- (I) The age of any player will be taken as of 1st January of that year.
 - (II) Players in the Senior competition must turn a minimum of thirteen (13) in the year of the competition
 - (III) Players who do not qualify as a 'Junior' as per the definition in this document are ineligible to play in the Junior Competition.
 - (IV) No Junior player may play in an age group which is younger than their age at 1st January of the current year. Special exemption to this rule may be granted by the JCC upon application in writing, with justification for the request.
 - (V) As well as playing in their nominated age group, a junior player may also play in one other higher age division.
- c. A player subject to Clause 5.2b(I) must be 34 years of Age to be eligible to play Masters.
- d. All players are required to have paid their Hockey NSW registration fee and their name to be listed within the Tamworth Hockey Association Revolutionise Sport member listing before taking part in any matches.
- e. If a player has not paid their Hockey NSW fee, they will be considered non-financial, uninsured, and ineligible to play.
- f. Failure for players to be registered with Hockey NSW via Tamworth Hockey Association Revolutionise Sport prior to taking the field will result in a loss of competition points for any matches played

5.3 Grading (Juniors)

- a. Club Secretaries are to supply team lists to the JCC for each nominated team within age divisions U11 to U18, where applicable, prior to the third competition match.
- b. Any amendments to a Clubs Team List(s), including the addition of new players, must be provided to the Secretary of JCC at least 3 days prior to the first competition game of next competition round.

5.4 Grading (Seniors)

- a. Refer to current version of THAI Senior Grading policy.
- b. Grading lists are to be submitted in compliance with THAI Senior Grading Policy

5.5 Duties of Grading Panel

- a. Each club shall have one representative on this Panel which shall be responsible for the grading of players and teams for competitions conducted by the Standing Committee.

- b. A quorum for meetings of the Grading Panel shall be five (5) members. Each club shall have one representative who shall have one (1) vote.
- c. The Grading Panel shall meet prior to round 4 of the competition to address each club's grading list and to recommend changes, if necessary and/or required.
- d. Records of changes shall be kept from any Grading Panel meetings and shall be submitted by the Match Convenor to the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee.
- e. Matters shall be decided by majority vote. Clubs may appeal to the Standing Committee a decision made by the Grading Panel with such appeal to be heard at the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee.
- f. Any decision endorsed by the Grading Panel and subsequently appealed shall be enforced until the matter is resolved by the Standing Committee.
- g. Appeals by any Club concerning Grading Meeting decisions, relating to their own club only, must be lodged, in writing, to the JCC or SCC within 48 hours of the relevant grading meeting where the decision has been made.

5.6 Competition Matches

a. Draw

Dates and fixtures of all matches for the competition shall be planned by the JCC or the SCC in consultation with the Board of THAI.

A complete season draw will be released by no later than round 3 of a competition.

b. Deferment of a Match

- (I) Requests for rescheduling of hockey matches, where teams are affected by club members being absent from Tamworth, will only be approved when these club members are officiating at, or competing in, Academy, State and/or Australian Hockey Championships/Tournaments. Minimum of five (5) team players or four (4) core players where there are two (2) or more teams in one grade, must be absent for this to apply. Each request will be processed on it's individual merits.
- (II) Matches shall be played on the day and at the time appointed as per the published draw. While deferment of matches is to be discouraged forfeits are equally undesirable and expectation is that they will be avoided.
- (III) Teams may apply no later than fourteen (14) days before the scheduled match for consideration regarding rescheduling matches. The application must be made in writing to the Secretary of the JCC or SCC. Notification of the decision will be given in writing.
- (IV) Any approved deferred match will be scheduled to be played within 2 weeks of the original scheduled date at a date and time determined by the SCC or JCC
- (V) In the event that the rescheduled match is unable to proceed and to assist in ensuring that the match is able to be played and a forfeit avoided, then permission may be obtained from the JCC or SCC to agree to an alternate time.

- (VI) Any request to defer a match submitted to the Standing Committee must include names of representing players
 - (VII) This time and date must be prior to the commencement of the finals. In the event the deferred match is approved no further deferment will be considered.
 - (VIII) Should the match not be played at the set date and time then the standard forfeit rules will apply.
 - (IX) Provision will be made for matches to be postponed considering prevailing weather conditions, with the decision to be made by the JCC Convenor or SCC Convenor. Rescheduling of the match will be advised by the respective JCC or SCC.
 - (X) If none of the above personnel are available and a decision has to be made at game time, the match officials will be responsible for making a decision on postponement.
 - (XI) In the event of storms with lightning, the umpires and those on control will be responsible for calling players from the field in accordance with the current HNSW Extreme Weather policy.
 - (XII) If during a match there is an injury or there are weather conditions prevailing that would make the continuation of such match or matches dangerous to the participants, the following decisions and results should apply:
 - (XIII) If at least 75% of any match has been completed, the remaining time of such match should be abandoned and the score at such time should be treated as the final result of the said match. The time at which the game is abandoned shall be noted on the card and endorsed by the umpires and the team captains.
 - (XIV) Any matches commenced and then abandoned prior to the 75% of time being played, and any matches scheduled after the announcement of the abandonment of competition for the day, should be played at a time and on a day designated by the SCC or JCC Convenor with the participating teams being given where possible at least five (5) days written notice of the scheduling of such a match.
 - (XV) Any matches unable to commence due to extreme weather policy within 45minutes of the scheduled start time will be abandoned and should be played at a time and on a day designated by the SCC or JCC Convenor with the participating teams being given where possible at least five (5) days written notice of the scheduling of such a match.
 - (XVI) The results of any matches fully completed prior to the decision to abandon matches shall stand as indicated on the scorecard at the completion of such matches.
 - (XVII) Any full round of competition postponed due to the prevailing weather conditions should be completed after the last scheduled competition match and prior to the semi-final matches, or at such time designated by the JCC or SCC Convenor.
- c. Forfeit
- (I) A Senior team with less than (7) players present will forfeit that game.
 - (II) A Junior team with less than seven (7) players present (full field) or five (5) players present (half field) will forfeit the game.

- (III) Modified competitions, player numbers required to be set as per competition brief.
- (IV) A team not ready to commence play within ten (10) minutes of the appointed time will forfeit that game.
- (V) In the event of a team forfeiting a game, competition points will be awarded to the opposing team together with three (3) goals
- (VI) A team intending to forfeit a match shall give forty-eight (48) hours' notice to their opponents and to the THAI secretary and either the JCC or SCC.
- (VII) Failure to provide notice as per Clause 5.6c(VI) will make a team liable for match expenses of both teams.

5.7 Player Eligibility to play (Juniors)

a. Games per round

- (I) A junior player is entitled to play in their age group, subject to Clause 5.2b(I).
- (II) As well as playing in their nominated age group, a junior player may also play in one other higher age division.
- (III) No player may play more than two (2) games during a round.
- (IV) Byes and forfeits do not count to the number of games for finals for the forfeiting team. The non-forfeiting team members, as noted on grading list, will be recorded as playing.
- (V) If a bye or forfeit is applicable for a team, this will still count as playing one (1) game in a round, therefore they can only play one (1) more game in an equivalent grade or higher in that round (if not classified as a core player).
- (VI) Deferred games are deemed to be dated on the date and round they were originally scheduled for application of the two game rule.
- (VII) If a player plays more than 2 games during a weekend, then the player will be considered unregistered for the third and subsequent matches played. Matches will be counted in date and time order.
- (VIII) If a player is considered unregistered as per Clause 5.7a(VII) competition points will be awarded to the opposing team together with three (3) goals. If Opposing team has scored more than three (3) goals in the match, they are to record the higher number of goals scored.

b. Junior Competition - Core Players

- (I) When a club has more than one team in an age division, strongest players of each club team must be nominated as 'core players' and play for the nominated team only in that age division. The core players are permitted to play an additional game in a different age division if required. Five (5) core players must be named in full field

sides and four (4) players in small field/modified games. Junior player lists including core players are to be submitted to JCC by round 3 of competition.

- (II) If a listed 'core' player plays in a club's alternate team of the same grade, the player will be considered to be unregistered for the team in which they are not a core player, and competition points awarded to the opposing team.

5.8 Player Eligibility to play (Seniors)

a. Games

- (I) No player may play more than two games during a round. Deferred matches will relate to the round in which they were originally scheduled and graded, and the two-match rule applies except for Clause 5.8b.
- (II) Byes do not count to the number of games for finals.
- (III) Forfeits do not count towards the number of games for finals for the forfeiting team. The non-forfeiting team members, as noted on grading list, will be recorded as playing and match towards finals
- (IV) If a bye or forfeit is applicable for a team, this will still count as playing one (1) game in a round, therefore they can only play one (1) more game in an equivalent grade or higher in that round (if not classified as a core player).
- (V) Deferred games are deemed to be dated on the date and round they were originally scheduled for application of the two game rule.
- (VI) If a player plays more than 2 games during a weekend, then the player will be considered unregistered for the third and subsequent matches played. Matches will be counted in date and time order.
- (VII) **Penalty:** If a player plays more than 2 games during a round then the player will be considered unregistered for the third and subsequent matches played, and Clause 5.9 shall apply for the third and subsequent matches played by the player in that round. Matches will be counted in date and time order.

b. Playing in a Lower Grade Exceptions

(I) Goalkeepers

- c. A player graded as goalkeeper and playing a game as a goalkeeper, with the required protective equipment may also play as a field player in any grade except for those listed as core players (refer SCC's Grading Policy, Two or more teams in one grade).

(I) Field players

A player graded as a field player may also play as goalkeeper in any other grade, provided that they wear the required goalkeeper protective equipment and plays in the normal goalkeeping position.

If a player is unavailable to play their graded game in a round they can play down one grade in that same round, making them only eligible to play one game that round. E.g if a player is graded in top 11 and is unable to play their 1st grade game they could play 2nd grade that round, playing 1 game only that round.

- (II) Masters (considered a separate competition to Grade Competition)
 - (i) If a player is younger than 34 but wishes to play Masters only, the Club may apply to the SCC for permission for that person to play Masters only and not in any other grade of the grade competition.
 - (ii) Players eligible to play Masters and playing for a Club which fields a Masters side may play for one other Club in any other grade subject to Clause 5.8.
 - (iii) Players eligible to play Masters may be graded in any grade subject to applying Clause 5.7a)
 - (III) If a player plays in Masters and is considered ineligible, competition points, together with 3 goals, for any matches played will be awarded to the opposing team of said matches. If Opposing team has scored more than three (3) goals in the match, they are to record the higher number of goals scored.
- d. Maximum number of players
- (I) A team may use a maximum of sixteen (16) players during any one game provided that no more than eleven (11) players are on the field at the one time.
 - (II) Replacement of players is to be under the control of the umpires or the technical official subject to any conditions laid down by the JCC or SCC.
 - (III) If a team plays more than 16 players that team will be considered to be in breach and competition points will be awarded to the opposing team together with three (3) goals.
- e. Two or more teams from the same Club in one grade
- (I) Two teams from the same club will only be accepted in the same grade if that Club has teams in all higher grades than the two teams nominated.
 - (II) Where a Club has more than one team in any grade, seven (7) members of each team, nominated by the club and known as 'core' players, may not play with any team but their own in that grade. Players must not play in a team in a lower grade in accordance with Clause 5.8b
 - (III) If a listed 'core' player plays in a club's alternate team of the same grade, the player will be considered to be unregistered for the team in which they are not a core player, and competition points awarded to the opposing team with three (3) goals. If Opposing team has scored more than three (3) goals in the match, they are to record the higher number of goals scored.

5.9 Penalties

Breaches of clauses 5.8 and other nominated clauses will result in the following:

Points for the match being awarded to the opposing team who shall be credited with the greater of the goals scored in the game (if played) or three (3) goals.

5.10 Competition Points

a. Competition Points

Competition points in all grades shall be counted as follows:

- a win shall count as three (3) points
- a draw shall count as (1) point
- a forfeit shall count as three (3) points – with 3 nil score line, unless the forfeit is due to a breach of the rules occurring for a game played and higher goals were recorded for that game.

5.11 Finals

a. Competition with more than 4 Teams

- (I) The leading four (4) teams at the completion of the qualifying matches shall contest the semi-finals in each grade.
- (II) Where two or more teams have an equal number of points their relative positions on the table shall be decided on goal difference which is calculated by subtracting the goals scored “against” from the goals scored “for” for a team (The team with the higher goal difference shall take the higher position).
- (III) The order in which the semi-finals shall be contested shall be:
 - The team first on the points table (the minor premiers) shall play the team placed second in the major semi-final.
 - The team placed third shall play the team placed fourth in the minor semi-final.
 - The loser of the major semi-final shall play the winner of the minor semi-final in the final.
 - The winner of the major semi-final shall play the winner of the final in the grand final. The winner of the grand final will be the major premiers.
- (IV) Should goal difference be the same then the team with the most goals for will take the higher position.
- (V) If a full-field finals match results in a draw, ten (10) minutes each way extra time is to be played with player drop-off to 9 players per team and no golden goal. The Umpires will conduct a coin toss for this extra time. There is no break at the turn around in extra time.
- (VI) If there is still no decision, the teams shall play a shoot-out as per Hockey NSW guidelines. Coin toss to decide first defender/attacker team.
- (VII) If a half-field finals match results in a draw, five (5) minutes each way extra time is to be played with player drop-off to 6 players per team and no golden goal. The Umpires will conduct a coin toss for this extra time. There is no break in the turn around in extra time. If there is still no result, team with higher points on points table is awarded winner.

b. Competition with 4 Teams

- (I) The leading Three (3) teams at the completion of the qualifying matches shall contest the semi-finals in each grade.
- (II) Where two or more teams have an equal number of points their relative positions on the table shall be decided on goal difference which is calculated by subtracting the goals scored "against" from the goals scored 'for' for team. The team with the higher goal difference shall take the higher position.
- (III) Should goal difference be the same then the team with the most goals for will take the higher position.
- (IV) The order in which the semi-finals shall be contested shall be:
 - The team first on the points table (the minor premiers) shall advance to the grand final.
 - The team placed second and the team placed third shall play in the major semi-final.
 - The winner of the major semi-final shall play the minor premiers in the grand final. The winner of the grand final will be the major premiers.
- (V) If a full-field finals match results in a draw, ten (10) minutes each way extra time is to be played with player drop-off to 9 players per team and no golden goal. The Umpires will conduct a coin toss for this extra time. There is no break at the turn around in extra time.
- (VI) If a half-field finals match results in a draw, five (5) minutes each way extra time is to be played with player drop-off to 6 players per team and no golden goal. The Umpires will conduct a coin toss for this extra time. There is no break at the turn around in extra time. If there is still no result, team with higher points on points table is awarded winner.
- (VII) If there is still no decision, the teams shall play a shoot-out as per Hockey NSW guidelines. Coin toss to decide first defender/attacker team.

c. Changes to Finals

The SCC or the JCC shall have the power to introduce additional conditions governing finals if and where necessary.

d. Player eligibility for finals (Seniors)

- (I) To be eligible for finals a player must have played at least seven (7) competition rounds with their club during that season.
- (II) In the case of a player playing for a one-team club in Masters and for one other club in any other grade the player must have played at least seven (7) competition rounds for each Club.
- (III) Players are only eligible for the grade in which they are graded, with the exception of Masters who are eligible for Masters and the seniors grade in which they are graded,

- (IV) Teams with a 5-team competition, players are required to play six (6) competition rounds.
 - (V) Masters must play five (5) competition rounds for their club in Masters.
 - (VI) Breaches of Clause 5.11d will result in the match being awarded to the opposing finals team.
- e. Player eligibility for finals (Juniors)
- (I) To be eligible for finals a player must have played at least five (5) competition rounds with their club team during that season.
 - (II) In the case of a player playing in an age group for one club and a second age group for another club, the player must have played at least five (5) competition rounds with each club/team.
 - (III) A junior club may request an exemption to this rule in extreme circumstances only if a player suffers a major injury that rules them out of playing and there is not enough rounds remaining to have another player qualify with the required number of rounds.
 - (i) To be eligible for such an exemption, a team must have no more than 12 players eligible for finals, including the injured player, on their team list.
 - (ii) This is to ensure that no team plays their semi/final/grand final short in players and has the ability to have one substitute sitting on their bench.
 - (iii) All requests must be in writing and will be at the discretion of the JCC. The application must nominate the substituting player for consideration.

5.12 Transfers and Registrations

- a. Transfers
- (I) A person may not transfer from one club to another without clearance from the club they have transferred from.
 - (II) The clearance must be in writing, by the Club they have left and prior to playing a competition match with the new Club.
 - (III) Such clearance should not be unreasonably withheld.
 - (IV) Should a dispute arise the matter shall be referred to either the JCC or the SCC for resolution.
 - (V) If a player plays in any match without a clearance, the club will be considered to be in breach and competition points will be awarded to the opposing team together with three (3) goals. If Opposing team has scored more than three (3) goals in the match, they are to record the higher number of goals scored.

5.13 Coaches

- a. Each team will provide on team registration the name of the team's coach and a current Working with Children's (WWC) Number.

5.14 Team Officials

- a. The team official will be responsible for giving a team list via game management system to the officials prior to the commencement of the game. Players can be added to the team list no later than half-time of the match.
- b. The team official is to ensure that all players in their team are correctly dressed in the registered team uniform. For a breach of this rule a player may be prevented by the officials from taking the field.
- c. The team official are responsible for ensuring the game management system has been correctly completed by the officials.
- d. In the event of the game management system not being completed no points or goals will be allowed for that match.

5.15 Code of Conduct

- a. All players and participants are subject to the THAI Code of Conduct.
- b. Alleged breaches of the Association's Code of Conduct are to be conveyed to the Disciplinary Tribunal and JCC or SCC in writing, including comments on the game management system by umpires or technical officials.
- c. All breaches of the code of conduct will be referred to THAI's Disciplinary Tribunal.

6 Appendix A - Disciplinary Points System

6.1 Demerit Points

The following demerit points shall apply depending on the length of suspension from the field:

- a. Minor Yellow (5 mins) 2 points
- b. Major Yellow (10 mins) 4 points
- c. Red Card 8 points

6.2 Penalties

- a. The following shall automatically occur depending on the number of points accumulated in any one competition:

(i) Red Card	Considered by the Disciplinary Tribunal
(II) Accumulation of eight (8) Points	One (1) Competition Round suspension
(III) Accumulation of 13 Points	Two (2) Competition Round suspension
(IV) Accumulation of 16 Points	Considered by the Disciplinary Tribunal
- b. Following the serving of a suspension, a players penalty points total shall revert to four points
- c. The Disciplinary Tribunal may refrain from imposing an automatic suspension in order to avoid any obvious miscarriage of justice.

7 Appendix B – Code of Conduct

TAMWORTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. By nominating a team in any competition run by the Tamworth Hockey Association Inc. a club accepts that it agrees to uphold this Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct applies to players, officials, and spectators.
2. The individual clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials and supporters and should encourage them to participate within the framework of the Code.
3. The following behaviour is unacceptable:
 - Violence, threats, or intimidation.
 - Umpire Abuse.
 - Swearing or abusive language.
 - Sledging or incitement to unacceptable behaviour.
 - Malicious misrepresentation of facts.
4. The following behaviour is to be encouraged:
 - Strong competition played within the rules and spirit of the game.
 - Active participation in the running of the sport in Tamworth.
 - ie coaching, administration, fundraising.
 - A spirit conducive to families and younger players.
 - Fostering the development of our younger players to play to their highest potential.
5. All players are responsible for wearing correctly fitted shin guards and a mouthguard at all times whilst on any Hockey Field.
6. The primary responsibility for the upholding of the Code rests with the Clubs. However, any incident or matter of concern within Tamworth Hockey may be brought directly to the attention of the Board of Directors of Tamworth Hockey Association for further action.