

Tamworth Hockey Association Inc.

Senior Grading Policy

**Version 1
05/02/2025**

Document Control Information

Tamworth Senior Competition Committee Selection Policy

Version	Date Reviewed	Date Endorsed	Date of Vote to Adopt Changes
1	1 December 2024	5.2.25	New Policy
	2 February 2026	4.2.26	4.2.26

CONTENTS

1 GRADING CONVENOR

1.1 DUTIES

2 GRADING PANEL

2.1 COMPOSITION OF

2.2 DUTIES OF GRADING PANEL

2.3 MEETINGS OF THE GRADING PANEL

2.4 VOTING AND DISPUTES

2.5 APPEALS

3 GRADING

3.1 TWO OR MORE TEAMS IN ONE GRADE

3.2 GRADING LISTS AND GRADING AMENDMENTS

3.3 PLAYER ABSENCES

3.4 Penalties

4 ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY

4.1 Games Per Round

4.2 Play in a Lower Grade

4.3 Masters Competition

5 GLOSSARY

6 FIGURES

6.1 TWO TEAMS IN ONE GRADE

6.2 GRADING LIST EXAMPLE

1 Grading Convenor

1.1 Duties

- a. The Grading Convenor shall review match management system each week to record details of:
 - (i) what grade/s individual players have played (monitoring 2 games in rounds, core players etc). This will be presented at each grading meeting up to the relevant date to inform the grading panel meetings decisions.
 - (ii) Goal scorers
 - (iii) Best and Fairest points

2 Grading Panel

2.1 Composition of

- a. The Grading Panel will include one representative from each club participating in the current season to vote and speak. Others in attendance shall be observers.
- 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.

2.2 Duties of Grading Panel

- a. The Grading Panel shall be responsible for the grading of players and teams for competitions conducted by the Senior Competition Committee.

2.3 Meetings of the Grading Panel

- a. The Grading Panel shall meet prior to round 4 of the competition to address each club's grading list from rounds 1 to 3 to recommend changes, if necessary and/or required. Deferred and double round games will be dealt with accordingly.
- b. Subsequent meetings will be held at the discretion of the Grading Convenor, special request by two (2) or more clubs, or as directed by the Senior Competition Committee.
- c. Records of changes shall be kept from any Grading Panel meetings and shall be submitted by the Grading Convenor to the next regular meeting of the Senior Competition Committee. Records of changes must also be sent to all clubs prior to the next playing round.
- d. Any Club requesting a re-grade of a player must have their grading representative attend the appropriate grading meeting to allow discussion to take place. See 2.3.5
- e. Clubs can request a grading meeting for any individual player for reasons due to
- f. merit, absence, injury or illness. The application must be made in writing to the Match Convenor and is not considered to be an automatic re-grade. The Grading Panel will meet at their earliest convenience to make a decision after hearing the circumstance concerning the individual player.

- g. The final Grading meeting must be held prior to two (2) rounds prior to the finals series commences

2.4 Voting and Disputes

- a. Matters shall be decided by majority vote and decisions are effective immediately. Any contentious matters that are not resolved or agreed upon shall be referred to the SCC for a decision and communicated to club/s involved.
- b. Clubs may appeal to the Senior Competition Committee a decision made by the Grading Panel with such appeal to be heard at the next regular meeting of the Senior Competition Committee.
- c. Any decision endorsed by the Grading Panel and subsequently appealed shall be enforced until the matter is resolved by the Senior Competition Committee.

2.5 Appeals

Appeals by any Club concerning Grading Meeting decisions, relating to their own club only, must be lodged, in writing, to the Senior Competition Committee within 48 hours of the relevant grading meeting where the decision has been made.

3 Grading

3.1 Two or more teams in one grade

- a. 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.
- b. Core players must not play in a team in a lower grade or more than two (2) games in one (1) round in accordance with the Clause 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
- c. **Penalty:** If a listed core player plays in a club's alternate team of the same grade, the player will be considered unregistered for the team in which they are not a core player, and that team will be penalised in accordance with Clause 3.4

3.2 Grading Lists and Grading Amendments

- a. Club Secretaries are to supply an interim grading list by 5pm Tuesday prior to the first competition round of the season to the SCC executive.
- b. Club Secretaries are to supply a grading list to the SCC executive prior to the third competition round three (3) days prior to the first game of the second round, eg Tuesday 6pm if first game is Friday 6pm
- c. Any amendments to a club's grading list, including the addition of new players, must be provided to the Senior Competition Committee executive via email and approved if necessary by 6pm, at least three (3) days before the first game of the next round commences of any senior comp round – eg Tuesday 6pm if the first game of the round is Friday 6pm.

- d. **Penalty:** Failure to provide a grading list by the agreed date will result in a loss of competition points as per Clause 3.4 for all teams within the club from the first competition match after the due date until the necessary documents are provided.
- e. Players will be graded from highest to lowest, with the first 11 graded in first grade, the next 11 graded in second grade, and so on. A player will only appear in a club's grading list once and a designated goalkeeper can be graded for any grade.
- f. Visiting players (non-regular players) must be included in a Club's grading list in a grade appropriate to the players capabilities and identified as an a), b), c) etc ie If a player is to be graded as a first grade visiting player, they will be graded 11a, subsequent first grade visiting player would be 11b and so on. These players are only eligible to play first grade. If a visiting player is deemed to be graded second grade, they would be graded as 22a, 22b etc. Visiting players are not eligible to play in any grade lower than their grading and are exempt from Clause 4.1
- g. Players graded as a designated goalkeeper must be noted as a goal keeper (GK) on the club's grading list. A designated goalkeeper shall be named for a clubs highest grade.
- h. The Grading Panel may demand that a club revise its grading list where the Grading Panel considers that players have been wrongly graded.
- i. The Grading Panel shall review the grading of teams should any club request a team re-grade.
- j. Any player may play in a higher grade than that in which they are graded. Players continually playing more games in a higher grade will be considered for a re-grade by the Grading Panel. Refer 3.6 Player Absences.
- k. If a player wishes to be graded to play, within the same Club, lower than two grades from the previous season, permission must be sought from the Grading Panel. The player cannot take the field in that lower grade until permission is granted.
- l. No changes or additions to grading lists can be made after the final grading meeting of the current season.
- m. Senior Competition Committee will provide a grading template to be used by clubs. Only this format will be accepted by the grading panel.

3.3 Player Absences

- a. Players will be reviewed by the Grading Panel after an absence of 5 consecutive games.
- b. Clubs can and should be pro-active in informing the Grading Panel of legitimate player absences as soon as possible.

3.4 Penalties

- a. Breaches of Clauses 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, 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. Goals will remain with the player UNLESS the player is the cause of the breach.

4 Eligibility to Play

4.1 Games per round

- a. If a player is unable to play in their grade, they are eligible to only play one grade down. They being their only game played in that round.
- b. No player may play more than two games during a round. Deferred matches will relate to the round they were originally scheduled and graded, and the two (2) match rule applies except for Clause 4.3.
- c. Byes do not count to the number of games for finals.
- d. 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
- e. Deferred games are deemed to be dated on the date and round they were originally scheduled for application of the two game rule.
- f. 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).
- g. **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 3.4 shall apply for the third and subsequent matches played by the player in that round. Matches will be counted in date and time order.

4.2 Play in a lower grade

- a. A player may play two (2) matches in the same round with one being in a lower grade, only in the following circumstances:
- b. Goalkeepers - 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 other grade except for those listed as core players (refer SCC's Grading Policy, Two or more teams in one grade).
- c. Field players - A player graded as a field player may also play as goalkeeper in any other grade, if they wear the required goalkeeper protective equipment and plays in the normal goalkeeping position except for those listed as core players (refer SCC's Grading Policy, Two or more teams in one grade).

4.3 Master's Competition – considered a separate competition to the main competition

- a. Masters - A player must be at least 34 years of age to be eligible to play in the Master's competition. If a player is younger than 34 (minimum turning 30 in the year of playing) but wishes to play Master's only, the club may apply to the committee for permission for that person to play Master's only and not in any other grade of the grade competition. Except in Clause d

- b. Players eligible to play Master's and playing for a club which fields a Masters side may play for one other club in the grade competition in any other grade.
- c. Players eligible to play Masters may be graded in any grade in the major competition, subject to Clauses 4.1 and 4.2.
- d. Goalkeepers playing only as a GK may be of a younger age when playing Master's. Permission will be required from the SCC.
- e. 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.

5 Glossary

Squad	A squad is considered 1-11 as 1st grade, 12-22 as 2nd grade, and 23 onwards as 3rd grade, 34 and onwards as 4th grade etc
Core	Where a club has two (2) or more teams in one grade, core players are the notated seven (7) members of each team, nominated by the club.
Occasional Player	Listed as 11A, 11B, 11C for 1st grade; 22A, 22B, 22C for 2nd grade
Dual Player	A player who is registered with another association and Tamworth Hockey Association.
Round	The competition will be divided into rounds. The rounds will comprise games played from 1st grade to lowest grade, usually over one weekend.
Interim Player List	The initial list of players a club must submit to identify the number of players required to nominate a team/s.
Grading List	A club's list of players graded from 1-11 as 1st grade, 12-22 as 2nd grade, 23 onwards as 3rd grade. See Figure 4.2
Two (2) teams in one grade	Where a club has two (2) teams in one grade. See Figure 4.1
Deferred Game	A deferred game is a game that is played outside the original designated round. It will be calculated within the original scheduled round for grading and games per round calculations.

6 Figures

6.1 Two Teams in one Grade



