

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

Boys and Girls 12 Years & Under Hockey Championships

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Section A – Championship Overview

- A - 1.** These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia (SSA) Policies, Championship Protocols and the Sport Championship Organisational Manual.
- A - 2.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of Hockey Australia (HA) unless otherwise stated.
- A - 3.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a current Memorandum of Understanding between School Sport Australia and Hockey Australia.

A - 4. Championship Length

Teams are to arrive for the Championship on a Sunday with competition beginning the following day. A Championship Team Experience/rest day must be included.

A - 5. Eligibility

All players must be 12 years of age and under on 31 December of the year of competition unless age dispensation has been granted as per rule A - 6.

Added December 2020

A - 6. Age Dispensation

Age Dispensation may be granted to a State or Territory for these Championships as allowed through the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

A - 7. Team Size

A - 7.1 All teams will be limited to a maximum of fourteen (14) players.

A - 8. Attendance at Championships

A - 8.1 All students who participate in the School Sport Australia Hockey Championships must remain at the Championship location throughout the duration of the Championships and be bound by all Championship arrangements, except in exceptional circumstances as per School Sport Australia policy.

Section B – Competition Structure

B - 1. Program / Schedule

B - 1.1 The SSA National Hockey Advisor is to formulate the draw based on the previous year's results for the 12 Years and Under SSA Hockey Championships.

- B - 1.2** The program should avoid imposing three matches a day on any of the teams and where possible there should be a spread of early and late matches for all teams.
- B - 1.3** Should time permit, in addition to two full rounds, a seven-a-side format should be conducted as part of the Championship. See APPENDIX B - SEVEN-A-SIDE FORMAT.

B - 2. Draw

- B - 2.1** Up to and including five (5) competing teams

Where up to and including five (5) teams are competing there should be two full rounds of competition.

- B - 2.2** Six (6) teams competing

When there are six (6) teams competing in the Championship the draw shall be constructed so that:

- B - 2.2.1** One (1) complete round of member body v member body matches.

- B - 2.2.1.1** The current host member body plays the previous year's host member body in the opening match.

- B - 2.2.1.2** The last Round Robin match is between the current host member body and the next year's host member body.

- B - 2.2.2** At the completion of the round the teams are divided into two pools based on position at the end of the Round Robins.

- B - 2.2.3** The two further matches are to be played by each team in their respective pool.

- B - 2.2.4** The pools are to be arranged at the completion of the Round Robin matches. Pool A to consist of teams placed first, second and third. Pool B to consist of teams placed fourth, fifth and sixth.

- B - 2.2.5** The draw for pool matches to be as follows:

Pool A: 1v3 2v3 1v2 Pool B: 4v6 5v6 4v5

- B - 2.3** When 7 or 8 teams are competing, a full round of competition is to be played.

Draw for School Sport Australia 12 & Under Hockey to be held in August, with games played from Monday to Friday and a rest day occurring on the Wednesday. All teams will arrive on the Sunday prior to the commencement of competition. All games would start around 9.00am with 1hr 20 minutes to 1hr 30 minutes between the start of each game. This will be dependent upon available turf time from the host state. Teams are ranked from the previous year from 1 to 7 and placed in the following seeded draw for the Championships. Final finishing places can be obtained from the previous championship report. When boys and girls' teams receive the same final

rankings in the previous year, game times may be adjusted by the National Hockey Advisor in an attempt to allow teams from the same association to support each other.

* - Denotes the team with a double header on that day

Day 1 Monday Uth August

Game 1	1 v 2
Game 2	3 v 4
Game 3	5 v 6
Game 4	7 v 1*
Game 5	3* v 2*

Day 2 Tuesday Vth August

Game 1	7 v 4
Game 2	5 v 2
Game 3	6 v 1
Game 4	3 v 7*
Game 5	5* v 4*
Game 6	6* v 2*

Day 3 Wednesday Wth August

Rest Day – Championship Team Experience
 Officials Function

Day 4 Thursday Xth August

Game 1	6 v 4
Game 2	3 v 1
Game 3	7 v 5
Game 4	4* v 2
Game 5	6* v 3*
Game 6	1* v 5*

Day 5 Friday Yth August

Game 1	7 v 2
Game 2	1 v 4
Game 3	3 v 5
Game 4	6 v 7*

Closing ceremony and presentations to follow the final.
 All teams travel home today.

B - 2.4 Where possible, all teams at the Championship should have a two match rest break between games. If this is not possible, then no team should have only one match rest break between games on consecutive playing days unless all competing teams are subject to the same conditions. The exception to this is when teams are split into the final pools (1st – 3rd and 4th – 6th).

B - 2.5 Boys and girls' teams from the same State/Territory are not to have games scheduled at the same time where possible, to allow for teams to support their other team.

B - 3. Duration of matches

- B - 3.1** Length of matches shall be similar to current Hockey Australia match times for Under 13 Championships.
- B - 3.2** There should be time off for injury at the discretion of the umpires. In the event of serious injury all players of both teams should return to their respective dugout. Play shall be suspended whilst the player is dealt with safely. If the match is not able to be resumed before the time of commencement of any subsequent match, then the National Hockey Advisor (or their delegate) and/or Championship Convenor are to meet with all coaches of the teams that are impacted to discuss the rescheduling of the times/duration and/or location of matches. This is to ensure that each team is given the opportunity to play their full quota of matches.

B - 4. Game Protocols / Specific Rules / Results

B - 4.1 Match Day

- B - 4.1.1** Teams are encouraged to watch and support the opposition teams.
- B - 4.1.2** Positive coaching shall take place during the actual play.
- B - 4.1.3** No one, except the players and the umpires properly engaged in a given match, may enter the field of play during the match, unless invited to do so by an umpire. This includes officials entering the field of play to assist an injured player, as per the Rules of Hockey.
- B - 4.1.4** No player may be admitted to the field of play during a match unless he/she is wearing his/her team's approved uniform and his/her designated shirt number, unless they are wearing the approved 'blood uniform'.
- B - 4.1.5** Each team engaged in a given match may have up to six persons on the bench; namely the Team Manager, the Coach, three (3) interchange players, and one other team official.
- B - 4.1.6** The Team Manager is responsible for the proper conduct of all persons occupying the bench. The Team Manager should remain at the end of the team bench that is closest to the Technical Bench, so that the Technical Official can speak to them easily, if required.

B - 4.2 Interchange

- B - 4.2.1** Each team should interchange all players during a game.
- B - 4.2.2** All available players must play in every game.
- B - 4.2.3** All interchange players shall be chosen from amongst the players whose names appear on the checking sheet.
- B - 4.2.4** No interchange shall be permitted for a suspended player.
- B - 4.2.5** Players entering or leaving the field shall do so from the designated area, within 3 meters of the center line, except in the case of a

goalkeeper or an injured player, where the point of interchange is at the discretion of the Technical Officials.

- B - 4.3** No jewellery to be worn. If jewellery cannot be removed it must be covered.
- B - 4.4** Competing teams are responsible for providing their own playing equipment.
- B - 4.5** A seven-a-side competition may be part of the Championship. The format should incorporate the following:
 - B - 4.5.1** Teams of seven (7) players on the field, one must be a goalkeeper in full kit.
 - B - 4.5.2** Less time per game (e.g. 15 minute halves).
 - B - 4.5.3** Mixture of teams to be left to the discretion of the convener – dependent on participation numbers.
 - B - 4.5.4** Pushing only allowed - no hitting. Model and rules of seven-a-side component to be advised early to all participating states.
 - B - 4.5.5** Circle should be full size.
 - B - 4.5.6** A full round robin (no points) of twenty (20) minute games, to complement the Championship matches, is to be played when six (6) states are involved.

B - 5. Points Allocation

- B - 5.1** The following points shall be awarded for each match:
 - Three (3) points for each win – including a forfeit
 - Two (2) points to each team for a drawn game
 - One (1) point for a loss

B - 6. Method of Determining a Winner

- B - 6.1** If at the conclusion of the series of matches, two or more teams finish in equal first place, they will be declared joint winners. Only points are to be used to determine final placings.
- B - 6.2 Pool Matches**
 - B - 6.2.1** The scoring system is to be carried through to the pool matches. Points scored in the Round Robin are to be carried through to the pool matches
- B - 6.3** If necessary, the following criteria are to be used to determine places at the completion of the Round Robin matches:
 - B - 6.3.1** Round Robin match result
 - B - 6.3.2** Goal Difference
 - B - 6.3.3** Goals for

- B - 6.4** First, second and third positions for the Championship will come from those teams in Pool A.

Section C – Facilities / Equipment

C - 1. Venue

The host member body should provide at least two playing surfaces. Water base is the preferred surface, but in the absence of accompanying suitable facilities for teams and supporters (changerooms, canteen etc.), a hybrid surface could be considered if the facilities were an appropriate standard.

C - 2. Games Equipment

The host member will provide:

- C - 2.1** Kookaburra Elite match balls.
- C - 2.2** The host member will provide Umpire Shirts, suitably embroidered with SSA logo, Championship, venue and year.
- C - 2.3** A championship kit on each Technical Bench for all matches.

Section D – Uniform

- D - 1.** Before the start of the Championship each state shall allot a number to each of its players including goalkeepers, which shall remain the same throughout the Championship.
- D - 2.** All such numbers shall be 16 - 20cm high and be clearly visible on the back of the players' uniform.
- D - 3.** Goalkeepers shall wear a playing uniform contrasting in colour with playing uniforms worn by each of the competing teams in any match. The Goalkeepers uniforms to be numbered front (7 – 20cm high) and back (16 – 20cm high).
- D - 4.** Any obvious clashes in uniform will be discussed at the Pre-Championship Meeting.

Section E – Injury Management

Refer to School Sport Australia Championship Protocols for the management of injuries. This policy will override any sport specific injury management Protocols.
[School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf \(schoolsportaustralia.edu.au\)](https://schoolsportaustralia.edu.au/School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf)

New Policy Dec 2023

- E - 1.** Teams and Officials should follow the Hockey Australia Concussion Protocols in the absence of any specific SSA Concussion or host State/Territory Education Department protocols.

Section F – Officials

F - 1. Championship Convenor

The Host Member Body appoints this person – they should have a good knowledge of hockey in general; it would be an advantage if they have previously been involved in a Championship. This person is responsible for the running of the Championship, maintaining daily cumulative tally of results and general trouble shooting.

F - 2. Tournament Director

This person should be appointed after consultation between the Host Member Body and the State/Territory Hockey Association. The Tournament Director should hold appropriate Hockey Australia Technical Official qualifications (TO Level 3 is the standard). The Tournament Director will ensure that the Championship follows the rules laid down by Hockey Australia, as well as compiling tallies for player penalty points for suspended players and presenting players before the Judiciary, if required.

F - 3. Technical Officials

Appointed by the Host Member body and/or the State/Territory Hockey Association, Technical Officials are directly responsible for ensuring that the matches are played in accordance with the current Rules of Hockey. A good knowledge of the rules and their application are essential for this role and a Technical Official qualification is highly desirable.

F - 4. Umpire's Managers

F - 4.1 The host member body, in consultation with their State Hockey Association is to appoint accredited Umpire Managers to mentor and provide feedback to umpires on their performance during the Championship.

F - 4.2 The Umpires' Managers will convene a meeting with all umpires prior to the commencement of matches.

F - 5. Umpires

F - 5.1 All competing member bodies should endeavour to select a minimum of one umpire of each gender to officiate as part of an umpire's panel. Umpires should be included as part of the member bodies team structure. Individual umpires are responsible for their costs. **The minimum standard of umpire should be Hockey Australia Foundation Lead Umpire Accreditation and have competency to officiate at the Under 14 Hockey Australia Championship.** Whenever possible, the umpire's pool is to be drawn from a combination of senior and student umpires.

F - 5.2 It is the Umpire Manager's responsibility to roster umpires and the host member body is to decide upon suitable payment for adult umpires (where applicable).

Section G – Protests

G - 1. Protests must be made with the championship Convenor within one (1) hour of the match concerned and shall be dealt with by the Judiciary.

Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary

- H - 1.** The Judiciary shall consist of three members, the Championship Convener (Chairperson), the Umpire Manager/Tournament Director and the National Hockey Advisor (or delegate).
- H - 2.** The Judiciary will act upon matters dealing with the conduct or otherwise of players, coaches and managers. Any player who receives multiple yellow cards and/or red card, will be dealt with by the Judiciary.
- H - 3.** Any reports of inappropriate player conduct shall be lodged with the Championship Convener within one (1) hour of the completion of the match concerned and dealt with by the Judiciary as soon possible thereafter, in the presence of the umpires, team officials and/or Convener who made the report, or upon the lodging of a written report.
- H - 4.** The Judiciary shall have the power to impose a suspension of one or more games on any player reported by an umpire in accordance with rule H - 3.

Section I – Trophies / Awards / Medals

- I - 1.** Hockey sticks will be available as Championship ‘trophy/mementos’. These sticks are to display an engraved plaque each year of winning State/Territory team.
- I - 2.** School Sport Australia medallions will be presented as per School Sport Australia policy.