



South Coast Hockey Association  
P.O. Box 652  
Goolwa. S.A. 5214

ABN: 30 917 963 898

[www.southcoasthockey.org.au](http://www.southcoasthockey.org.au)

## Junior Competition Supplementary Document

### Purpose:

To provide the opportunity to all young participants within South Coast Hockey Association (Referred to as SCHA) to develop and enrich their lives through the playing of hockey.

### Objectives:

1. To encourage life long and active participation in hockey.
2. To provide a safe environment in which to play.
3. To ensure equal opportunities for all young people to participate in hockey.
4. To actively cater for talented young players.

### Principles:

1. Participation with an emphasis on enjoyment and fun.
2. Appropriate use of modified rules, facilities and equipment.
3. Adoption of Rules of Conduct
4. Junior members are all registered members of the SCHA under the age of 18.

### Competition:

1. SCHA Junior participants should be taught that "winning" and "losing" are merely results of all sporting competitions and that the emphasis should be on the quality of the experience and its appropriateness to the age and ability of the participant.
2. The level of competition must be appropriate to the age and development of players.
3. Junior Competitions within the SCHA are considered to be U10's, U14's and U17's.

### Responsibility:

1. The delivery of Junior Hockey is shared by:
  - 1.1 Coaches
  - 1.2 Parents/guardians
  - 1.3 Officials
  - 1.4 SCHA



### **Junior Participation:**

1. The introduction of children to hockey should be gradual with the use of modified rules.
2. Players should be provided with avenues for leadership roles.
3. The safety, involvement, enjoyment and development of all junior players should be considered to be the most important outcome of Juniors playing within the SCHA.
4. All players in Under 10's through to Under 17's competition who enter the field, with the exception of Goalies, are to be wearing the following mandatory safety equipment:
  - 4.1 Shin Guards
  - 4.2 Mouth Guards, unless exempt with a proven doctors or dentist certificate.
  - 4.3 Face masks are to be worn, according to the rules, when defending a short corner.
  - 4.4 A fully equipped goalie must be present for both teams during play of all Under 14's matches.
5. Under 10 players, Under 14 players and Under 17 players may be permitted to participate in over age competition, with a fully completed and Processed SCHA Junior Permit form containing Parental Approval, Club Approval, SCHA Junior Committee Approval, SCHA Committee Approval and any supporting documentation requested during application process.

### **Roles & Responsibilities of Coaches:**

1. All Junior Coaches are required to promote good sportsmanship and involvement of all players on the field.
2. All Junior Coaches are required to undergo and complete "National Police Checks" or "Working with Children" equivalent clearances.
  - 3.1 All Checks and Clearances are to be handed to the SCHA Secretary for required record Keeping, as directed by Regulatory Authorities.
3. All Junior Coaches are required to not be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs while acting in any Official Capacity for SCHA.
4. Where a Junior Team Coach is less than 18 years of age, the club will ensure an adult coach is appointed as mentor.
5. All Junior Coaches are required to ensure all players are participating in a safe manner.

### **Roles & Responsibilities of Officials:**

1. All Junior Officials are required to promote good sportsmanship and involvement of all players on the field.
2. All Junior Officials are required to undergo and complete "National Police Checks" or "Working with Children" equivalent clearances.
  - 3.2 All Checks and Clearances are to be handed to the SCHA Secretary for required record Keeping, as directed by Regulatory Authorities.
3. All Junior Officials are required to not be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs while acting in any Official Capacity for SCHA.
4. All Junior Officials are required to ensure all players are participating in a safe manner.



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### **Roles & Responsibilities of Parents / Guardians:**

1. All Parents and Guardians are required to promote good sportsmanship and involvement of all players on the field.
2. All Parents and Guardians are reminded to respect all officials and Umpires along with their decisions.
3. All Parents and Guardians should remember to respect and encourage all players from both teams.



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1. All SCHA affiliated clubs are to support the decisions of the SCHA Junior Committee and encourage their players to participate in SCHA events.
2. All Senior members of Clubs and SCHA are to mentor and encourage their allocated juniors in the development of their hockey skills.
3. On any given match day, a Junior Member maybe expected by their Club, to have played in their allocated Junior match before being considered to play up a grade.
  - 3.1 Junior coaches should approach senior Captains in situations where this becomes a problem.

### SCHA By-Law interpretation:

#### Section 3:

##### 3. Forfeits.

- 3.1 Is not applicable, but where possible notify the opposing team as soon as possible before the match.
- 3.2 A team receiving a forfeit shall be credited with two (2) Premiership points and a goal score of 5 – Nil applies.
  - 3.2.1 However, a friendly/scratch game will be played at the time programmed.
- 3.3 Applies.
- 3.4 Applies.
- 3.5 Is not applicable.

#### Section 8:

##### 7. Umpires:

- 8.6 Any player accumulating 6 demerit points in a season shall be automatically reported, face a tribunal hearing and receive an automatic one match suspension.
  - ✓ If a minor is called to face a tribunal hearing, then a parent or legal guardian must be present.



## Section 10:

To be read in conjunction with By-law 10 as published.

The following steps must be completed for any Junior player to gain an approved permit.

Juniors do not require a permit to play up one (1) grade within the Junior Competition with Parental / Guardian consent, ie U14's to U17's

1. A fully completed permit form submitted to the association containing:
  - 1.1 Written permission from the parent or guardian.
  - 1.2 Approval from the member's Club Committee, signed by their Junior Coordinator.
  - 1.3 Approval from the SCHA Junior Committee, signed, then forwarded to the SCHA Committee within 24hours for final approval.
  - 1.4 Approval from SCHA Committee will be automatically granted unless an objection or alteration is lodged to the SCHA secretary within 72 hours of notification to the SCHA committee.
  - 1.5 If a permit is not automatically granted by the SCHA Committee then a meeting to approve/reject or alter the permit must take place within 72 hours of such objection being received.
  - 1.6 Once approved, the permit for the member in question will be valid for that season, subject to steps (1.5) and (1.6).
  - 1.7 The Junior Committee may add caveats to a permit as they deem appropriate.
  - 1.8 The Junior Committee will review any permit issued, if requested by the SCHA Committee, and advise that it continue to be approved or cancelled.
  - 1.9 The Association Junior Co-ordinator will keep the list of all ratified junior permits. Captains will mark the members' name on the match card with a "P" circled for senior games.
  - 1.10 A permit shall be deemed invalid if the correct procedure is not adhered to.
  - 1.11 An approved permitted player may not play within 72 hours of the initial permit approval.
2. Once a permit is ratified the member's Coach or Manager must carry a copy of the permit form at all SCHA events, failure to produce the permit when requested may result in exclusion from events.



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## Under 10's Competition

### Guidelines and Modified rules that apply in U10's only:

1. Highly skilled players who would otherwise be more suited to the Under 14's competition will be encouraged to play Under 14's only.
  - 1.1 Refer to **Junior Participation criteria**, if a player who is Under 10 years of age, but participates only in the Under 14's competition, and is considering Under 17's Competition
2. Players must be under the age of 10 years, as of the 1st January of the Playing Year.
3. If one team is short of players and the other has an excess, players shall be shared to create a more equal game and to maximise player participation.
4. Teams shall have 7 players each on the ground.
5. There will not be a goalie.
6. The game shall run for 12 minutes per half, with a 3-minute break at half time.
7. Goals can be scored within 10 metres of the scoring zone.
8. No score shall be recorded, nor points recorded for the duration of the season.
9. Players cannot hit the ball, only push.
10. Players cannot raise the ball at any time.
11. Players must wear mouthguards and shin pads while on the ground.
12. Players must move 3 metres from a free push.
13. Penalties incurred within the scoring zone will have a free awarded to be taken from the 10-metre line.
14. One shirted umpire is encouraged for each game.



## Under 14 Competition

### Guidelines and Modified rules that apply in U14's only:

1. Raised sticks above the shoulder are allowed providing there is no danger and no players are within 5 metres
2. A ball lifted is to be judged solely on its danger as per the umpire's instruction.
3. No tomahawks are allowed at any time.
4. Players are able to be given cards, no matter the grade, at the discretion of the umpire and in accordance with the rules of hockey.
5. If a player "earns" a green card, they should be sent to the coach in the first instance by the umpire, explaining the infringement, then sit out at the tech bench.
6. If the player "earns" a yellow or red card, they are still sent to the coach; a substitute player can NOT take to the field, the umpire must indicate a reason to the coach why the card or disciplinary action has been taken.
7. More than 16 players are permitted on the card.
8. One (1) coach is allowed on the field, provided they are wearing a different coloured shirt to any player/umpire and are not carrying a stick. They must position themselves an appropriate distance from play and are only permitted behind the goals at the umpire's discretion. Coaches must not directly interfere with play at any time. Umpires are allowed to ask a coach to move off the field or from behind the goals if they deem them to be interfering with play.

#### In Minor Rounds only:

These suggestions are guidelines that we encourage coaches to follow. They are not rules of the game and are not enforceable by umpires

1. As soon as a game reaches more than a 5-goal difference, coaches are strongly advised to adjust their playing strategy to prevent increasing the goal difference.
2. Suggestions of how to do this include but not limited to:
3. The highest goal scorer is moved to Full Back.
4. Any team member that has scored 3 goals is encouraged to assist in setting up goals - not to score personally.
5. Only allow 3 attacking players in the circle at a time.

## Juniors Playing Seniors

1. Match umpires may send any junior player from the field at any time if they believe that the player's safety is at risk.

Last Updated Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Last Updated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026