



Ice Hockey NSW 2026 Handbook

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A Guide for Members and Officials on the Administration and Local Regulations of Ice Hockey in New South Wales Effective March 1st 2026 to February 28th 2027.

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1 - Regulatory Bodies Controlling Ice Hockey In New South Wales

Ice Hockey in New South Wales is conducted according to the rules and regulations of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), Ice Hockey Australia Limited (IHA) and the New South Wales Ice Hockey Association Incorporated and the Constitutions of Ice Hockey Australia Limited (IHA) and the New South Wales Ice Hockey Association Incorporated (IHNSW), unless otherwise stated.

The New South Wales Ice Hockey Association Incorporated carries the sole responsibility for the conduct of all officially sanctioned games in New South Wales.

The playing rules of the current IIHF Rule Book apply, unless otherwise stated.

These rules are enforceable under the Constitution and By Laws of the New South Wales Ice Hockey Association Inc., as approved by the [New South Wales Department of Fair Trading](#).

No amendment to any existing rule will be retrospective.

The New South Wales Ice Hockey Association Incorporated operates under the registered name of Ice Hockey New South Wales and the Association will be referred to as IHNSW in most instances from here on.

Ice Hockey Australia Limited operates under the registered name of Ice Hockey Australia and will be referred to as IHA herein.

2 - Operating Structure of IHNSW

2.1 IHNSW Committee of Management

Official Committee Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting each year.

The Committee consists of the following elected officers:

2.1.1 Executive – elected for 2 year terms in alternating cycles of President/Treasurer one year and Vice-President/Secretary the next.

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

2.1.2 Ordinary Members

Four are determined each year at the AGM.

2.1.3 Additional Officers

Additional Officers are appointed by the Committee at the beginning of the season. One Delegate is appointed by each Club Affiliate and has voting rights at Committee meetings.

The following appointed Officers do not have voting rights at Committee meetings:

- Coaching Director
- Junior Player and Development Director
- Referee Administrator
- Referee-in-Chief
- Goaltender Coordinator
- Member Protection Information Officer
- Tribunal Chairperson
- Director of High Performance Teams
- Women's Coordinator
- Child Safeguarding Officer

An Executive Officer is employed by IHNSW.

2.2 The Association's Democratic Structure

IHNSW is incorporated in New South Wales and is governed by the will of the majority of members through the Committee of Management and the provisions of the Constitution of the New South Wales Ice Hockey Association Inc., as registered with the NSW Department of Fair Trading.

2.2.1 Ordinary Members of the Committee of Management

Four are decided by ballot at the IHNSW Annual General Meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinary Member Nomination Form, distributed prior to every AGM. Ordinary Members from the nominations received MUST be elected at the AGM each year. In the event that nominations are not received the Friday 5pm one week prior to the AGM, nominations will be accepted from the floor, provided the nominee is present and able to accept the nomination. All nominees must be financial members of IHNSW at the time of the membership role close and AGM notification is sent out.

Unfilled Ordinary Member positions do not remain vacant however, in the event of a casual vacancy occurring, the Committee may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and that member will hold office until the conclusion of the AGM next following the date of appointment.

2.2.2 Club Delegates

Club Delegates and complete Club Committee contact list are to be forwarded to the Executive Officer, for approval by the Committee of Management meeting at the commencement of the year.

All Club Committee members must be registered with IHNSW.

Only the IHNSW Committee of Management and appointed Club Delegates are eligible to vote at Committee meetings and proxies are not permitted, only the votes of those present count. Although a club may have more than one appointed Club Delegate, only a single Club Delegate vote may be cast on a Club's behalf at any CoM meeting.

Functional, non-voting officers are appointed annually by the Committee of Management and attend Committee meetings to promote discussion and recommendations in the administration of the sport, for their specific areas of responsibility.

Elected officers that take a strictly "club" view are discouraged and unlikely to be re-elected by the members.

In essence, it is the view of the majority of Club Delegates that governs the direction of IHNSW.

For this reason, it is important that club members communicate their views to their Club Delegates, and where possible assist in some way in the workings of their club - members may be surprised at the number of small tasks that require assistance! With just a little help from members, the sport will continue for the benefit of all.

Any financial member is welcome to attend meetings of the Committee of Management, as an observer.

Their Club Delegate may request that a member be invited to participate in the discussion on any matters of great interest they may have.

Meetings of the Committee of Management are held on the first Wednesday of every month, 730pm online Microsoft Teams. The Executive Officer will confirm the time and place for interested members.

Meetings are conducted in accordance with the Constitution and are chaired by the President. The Minutes of all meetings are circulated to the Committee of Management, Club Delegates, Appointed Officers and any visitors attending the meeting.

2.3 Procedure for Enquiries, Complaints & Contacting IHNSW

Any enquiries MUST be made to (or via) a member's Club Committee or Delegate, before approaching IHNSW. Initially, a Team Manager is the first person to approach with an enquiry.

More serious complaints of harassment or abuse or non-game / play related grievances, should initially be directed to a member's club Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) / Committee of Management, who may then report to the IHNSW MPIO / Committee of Management. Due process will then be followed as per the IHNSW By-Laws and Constitution.

It is highly unlikely that IHNSW will directly enter into any official correspondence with individual club members, unless it can be determined that the issue has been dealt with in an unsatisfactory manner by the respective officer of the relevant club.

Any member taking an issue to an external authority before giving the Committee of Management of IHNSW a reasonable time to respond and / or take action, is likely to face disciplinary proceedings as per the Rules in the IHNSW Constitution.

All Officers of IHNSW are keen to assist members to get the best out of their participation in the sport of Ice Hockey. When appropriate, the identity and contact details for all appointed officers can be obtained from your club or IHNSW Executive Officer.

2.4 Sanctioning of Special Games

Sanctioning requests must be received in writing to IHNSW with all required supporting documents a minimum of 7 days before the event. [Sanctioning request form](#)

An IHNSW-sanctioned event includes all games, club try-outs and training sessions, State Team selections and training and any Special, Exhibition or Invitational games conducted under the auspices of IHNSW, or in which IHA and/or IHNSW insurers may have a liability.

Sanctioned events must comply with all IHNSW and/or IHA Rules, pertaining to registration, membership, accreditation, coaches, managers, on-ice officials, uniforms and the provisions of the NSW Child Protection Act, with game reports for every match submitted to IHNSW.

All Sanctioned events must be run through Esportsdesk for the registrations of those attending.

Referees and Linesman are to be paid at the IHNSW grade level.

Sanctioning is required for any home or away event involving members of another IHA member State Association or visiting international team and in both cases, IHNSW will also have to seek IHA approval. To apply for sanctioning, please complete the Sanctioning of Special events form and submit to IHNSW.

3 - IHNSW Seasons

3.1 IHNSW Season Dates

3.1.1 Winter League

Season commences: Saturday 28th March 2026

Season will finish by: Juniors/Seniors by Sept 28th, ECSL mid-October

- **All memberships expire on the last day of February each year.**
- Playing members are able to train until the end of February but are unregistered after this date unless proof of registration can be shown.
- Only teams with full player lists and registrations will be included in the draw.
- Long week-ends and National Championship schedules will be avoided wherever possible.
- Some grades may start later or finish earlier than the above dates.
- Changes in the availability of ice time at short notice may force late changes to the draw.
- There will be no league games played over the Easter long weekend.

3.2 Number and Time Periods of League Games

The objective of IHNSW is to provide approximately 18 competition games for each team (excluding the play-offs / finals), subject to available ice time.

Warmups are 5 minutes for Junior grades and ECSL. Warmups in Senior Divisions & **Womens** are 3 minutes.

All games in grades other than Women and Senior Divisions have a maximum duration of 60 minutes and are played in three timed periods with 1 minute intervals, as follows:-

- First two periods: 15 minutes running time
- Third period: 10 minutes running time and up to 5 minutes of stop time¹, or the game limit of 60 minutes, whichever is first.²

All games in **Women** and Senior Divisions have a maximum duration of 60 minutes and are played in three timed periods with 1 minute intervals, as follows:-

- First two periods: 18 minutes running time
- Third period: **16** minutes running time where the first **13** minutes are running time, AND if goal difference is 2 goals or less, the final 3 minutes are stop time; or if goal difference is more than 2 goals, the final 3 minutes will be running time. For example:
 - Goal difference 2 or less? Last 3 minutes: stop time.
 - Goal difference 3 or more? Last 3 minutes: running time.
 - Once stop time begins, it continues to the end.

Some rinks may allow games to be completed regardless of the 60 minutes window. This decision is up to individual rink managers. Referee are to abide by this rink decision.

During running time, the time clock will only stop when the referee calls time-out. On-ice officials and / or timekeepers will call an end to the game when the 60 minute ice slot is finished, even if there is time remaining on the game clock.

2025 Change: Only in 11U Squirt and 13U Peewee if the score differential exceeds 5 goals, further goals should not be displayed and the stop time is not applicable. All other grades will show the actual game score.

To avoid a forfeit teams must start a game with a minimum of (a) 5 skaters and 1 goalie, OR (b) 6 skaters. A player who starts the game as a goalie cannot switch to being a skater later in the game (**applies to all grades except 11U Squirt**)

¹Time clock stops when the referee stops play for any reason.

²Timekeeper is authorized to announce the return to running time as required.

Handbook section 3.2 reinterpreted ...

	11U, 13U, 15U, 17U	Women, Seniors
Game duration <i>See notes 1,2</i>	60 min	60 min
Warmup	5 min	3 min
Period Duration <i>See note 3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ P1 + P2: 15 min running time ▪ P3: 15 min ➔ 10 min running-time + up to 5 min stop-time ▪ Period Interval: 1 min 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ P1 + P2: 18 min running time ▪ P3: 16 min ➔ 13 min running-time + up to 3 min stop-time ▪ Period Interval: 1 min
Stop-time rules	Stop time <u>only</u> if goal differential is 5 or less . <i>See note 4</i>	Stop time <u>only</u> if goal differential is 2 or less . Once stop time begins, it continues to the end of the game regardless of changes in goal difference.
Score clock rules	11U + 13U only: If the score differential exceeds 5 goals, further goals should <u>not</u> be displayed	-

Notes:

1. Some rinks may allow games to be completed regardless of the 60 minutes window. This decision is up to individual rink managers. Referees are to abide by this rink decision.
2. On-ice officials and/or timekeepers will call an end to the game when the 60-minute ice slot is finished, even if there is time remaining on the game clock (unless note 1 applies).
3. During running time, the time clock will only stop when the referee calls time-out.
4. Timekeeper is authorized to announce the return to running time as required.

4 - Club Affiliation & Membership Registration of Players & Officials

4.1 Club Affiliation Fee

Each club affiliated to IHNSW must be an Incorporated Association in its own right.

Each club must renew its affiliation with IHNSW each year. This club affiliation fee has been set at \$110.00 (Inclusive of GST), payable before member registrations can be lodged. Affiliation will not be accepted without a full financial report (unless the club is less than one year old), a financial clearance letter from the home rink and a copy of Form 12 that has been lodged with the DFT and the criteria according to the By-Laws on affiliation, are met. This will apply to each affiliating club each year.

4.2 Registration Categories & Fees for Annual Membership (Inclusive of GST)

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NSW FEE	IHA FEE	TOTAL
VOLUNTEER/SUPPORTER - No access to unprotected areas Volunteer, Supporter, Open Day Memberships	\$ 1.00 AV	\$ - A01	\$ 1.00
TRYOUT MEMBERSHIP Tryouts and learn to play with a 15 day expiry	No charge T	No charge T15	No charge
LEARN TO PLAY One time for LTP programs, 8 week expiry	No charge T	No charge T15	No charge
NON PLAYING OFFICIAL (NPO) Score Box, Penalty Box, Team Manager/Officials	\$ 2.00 NPOS	\$ - A02	\$ 2.00
COACH Accredited Coach or Trainer	\$ 3.00 CS	\$ 104.50	\$ 107.50
REFEREE Accredited Referee and Linesman	\$ 4.00 RS	\$ 104.50	\$ 108.50

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NSW FEE	IHA FEE	TOTAL
PLAYER JUNIOR - 18 or younger on December 31 11USquirts 13UPeeewe 15UBantam 17UMidget Women	\$ 135.00 PJ	\$ 143.00 A12	\$ 278.00
PLAYER SENIOR - Over 18 on December 31 17UMidget Women ECSL	\$ 160.00 PS	\$ 165.00 A13	\$ 325.00
SENIOR DIVISION PLAYER OVER 18 Open mixed grade 18 & older Includes paid scorers (\$50) & Referee course	\$ 215.00 Snr Player	\$ 165.00 A13	\$ 380.00
UNDER 18	\$ 215.00 Snr Player	\$ 143.00 A12	\$ 358.00

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NSW FEE	IHA FEE	TOTAL
9U - ATOMS Cross ice age at December 31	\$ 50.00 CJ	\$ 55.00 A05	\$ 105.00
DEVELOPMENT PLAYER 18 & UNDER Not permitted competitive games - age at December 31	DJ \$34	A07 \$66	\$ 100.00
OVER 18	DS \$35	A06 \$77	\$ 112.00
SUMMER LEAGUE PLAYER 18 & UNDER Not permitted March to Sept - age at December 31	SJ \$40	A09 \$82.50	\$ 122.50
OVER 18	SS \$45	A10 \$104.50	\$ 149.50

All members who are in direct contact with members under 18's years of age must comply with Working with Children Checks.

Clubs may levy an all-inclusive fee to cover the above registration (includes insurances, state & federal administration and affiliation), club affiliation, game referee and line officials' fees, club administration expenses and the cost of training ice. Clubs will also be charged Team Fees to cover Officials.

Each affiliated club will be supplied Directors and Officers Liability Insurance through Ice Hockey Australia at a small premium.

4.3 Membership Fees Cover

The following information is provided as a broad indication of how the fees are formulated:

- Sports Injury and Public Liability Insurance;
- State administration wages and on costs, office equipment and consumables;
- Committee of Management meetings;
- Ice Hockey Australia Executive Officer's wages and on costs;
- Ice Hockey Australia office equipment, consumables, officers' travel and expense reimbursements;
- Ice Hockey Australia member association General Assembly costs including travel and accommodation;
- Ice Hockey Australia programs including development camps, national leagues and national teams, subsidization for costs of member associations participation in national leagues and national programs.
- Ice Hockey Australia National Tournaments and OiHan tournaments.
- Development and officials programs, recognition trophies, uniforms, patches etc; and
- Referee fee subsidies, insurance indemnities for IHNSW and its Officers, and affiliation fees.

A full copy of the Association's annual accounts are tabled at every Annual General Meeting or are available for inspection at the office.

4.4 Expiry of Annual Membership Registrations

Teams are able to train until the last day of February each year however, if annual membership fees are not paid in full by March 1st each year, members are not insured and cannot train or play until registration fees have been received.

IHNSW will not accept any responsibility for any person who is not a financial member.

An un-financial member training and/or playing who subsequently becomes a financial member, will be required to state their case before the tribunal panel and may be subject to a suspension period before being allowed to play in competition games.

Refunds for membership are only possible if you have played zero games and trained zero times.

4.5 Registration Process

A member registering on-line will still be subject to providing any required documentation such as ID and clearance/transfer forms, before registration will be recognized by IHNSW.

All registrations must be submitted through an affiliated club of IHNSW. Applicants must become a financial member of an affiliated club of their choice by paying the appropriate fees as set by that club. Only ECSL age players can register with ECSL. Registration is conditional on club approval. Online registration does not guarantee you will be placed in a team.

First time applicants must also submit a photocopy of their birth certificate or their passport.

Players must be registered with a team playing in the IHNSW competition.

All Elected Club Committee members must have a minimum registration of Non Playing Official (NPO).

It is recommended that a parent or both parents of a junior aged player should register at the same time as their child as a Non Playing Official (NPO), to assist with scoring and timekeeping. This will help eliminate officials appearing on Game Reports who are not registered.

All Scorekeepers and Timekeepers must be registered as Non Playing Official (NPO) as a minimum.

Coaches / managers who allow players to play without valid registrations will be held responsible for the illegal player fine of \$200.00 (No GST required). The team will forfeit all points gained in that game.

The Committee of Management subsequently has the right to reject any application at its sole discretion with the applicant having the right to appeal for reconsideration within one month. The Committee's decision is final, unless otherwise directed by the members at a Special General Meeting.

In the event of a rejected application, a refund of the registration fee may be considered by the Committee of Management.

4.6 Membership Age Grades for Players

All players must be registered in their respective age grade. No exceptions will be made. This does not prevent them from playing in higher age grades only, with the relevant documentation.

Players are permitted to play with only a single team in the same grade, including Senior Division.

4.7 Age Grades & Rules

- Maximum of one team per club in each division unless determined otherwise by the committee.
- A maximum of 20 players plus 2 goalies per team per game

Grade	IHA Naming	Age Group	Playing Rules
9U (Atom)*	9U	9 & under Mixed (at 31 December of registration year)	Cross Ice – 3 on 3. No slap shot
11U (Squirts)*	11U	11 & under Mixed (at 31 December of registration year)	Body contact, no deliberate checking. No slap shot
13U (Peewee) *	13U	13 & under Mixed (at 31 December of registration year)	Modified Body Checking
15U (Bantam) *	15U	15 & under Mixed (at 31 December of registration year)	Body Checking
17U (Midget)	17U	18 & under Mixed (at 31 December of registration year)	Body Checking
Women		Female only: First year 15U age and up; 13U age players permitted a playing up form.	Body contact, no deliberate checking
East Coast Super League		Open Age Male, minimum age of 17. 2 nd Year 17U can play up into ECSL.	Body Checking
Senior Division		Open Age Mixed (over 18 only)	Body contact, no deliberate checking

* First year 15U (Bantam) 14 apply to play down into 13U (Peewee) – Subject to Club and Executive approval

* First year male 17U (Midget) 16 & all age female 17U Midget apply to play down into 15U (Bantam) – Subject to Club and Executive approval

* All other play downs for 13U, 11U and 9U – Subject to Club and Executive approval

4.8 Clearances

A player must obtain an official clearance from their previous overseas, interstate or local club, by writing to the secretary of the club and requesting a written response on an official letterhead within 14 days.

If any club/team allows a member to play without the required clearance documentation, the member will be deemed an illegal player and the club will be fined accordingly.

Clubs are required to respond to a player's request for a clearance within 7 days. If a clearance is refused, the club must respond and inform IHNSW. If a club fails to respond within 7 days, the player may appeal in writing to IHNSW for immediate clearance to play.

If a player has been refused clearance, they have a right of appeal to the Committee of Management, who may uphold the refusal or grant the clearance at its sole discretion and its decision is final.

IHNSW will not become involved in financial disputation between individual members and their clubs (Incorporated Associations in their own right). In the event that a request for clearance is refused due to a financial liability, the onus is on the member to resolve the matter with their club and to the satisfaction of both parties. Any resultant action and/or litigation is a matter for and between the individual member and their club alone.

With the exception of transfers within IHNSW local Clubs, once IHNSW has granted a player a clearance, they are no longer eligible to play any more games for any team or club in NSW for the remainder of that hockey season, as the NSW membership has ceased.

For further guidance regarding player movements, please refer to [IHA regulations](#).

4.9 Rules Governing Imports / Overseas Visitors

IIHF Regulations state that any player moving from one country to another requires transfer approval. This approval is required irrespective of whether or not the individual played hockey in their country of birth.

All new players registering to play and all "Play Ups" into senior full contact hockey such as **ECSL** who are/were either:

- a) born overseas or
 - b) Australian born players who have previously transferred overseas
- will require an IIHF transfer processed [IHA Transfers](#)

Senior/Womens non-checking players who are/were either:

- a) born overseas or
 - b) Australian born players who have previously transferred overseas
- shall provide a Stat Dec or written statement to declare that they have either a) never played elsewhere or b) if played elsewhere that they have no outstanding debts or suspensions from other leagues.

All under-age players who are/were either:

- a) born overseas or
 - b) Australian born players who have previously transferred overseas
- must have an IIHF transfer processed at zero cost [IHA Transfers](#)

Under age players will not be eligible to compete in IHNSW Winter League games until the International Transfer has been finalised.

Please see <https://www.iha.org.au/team-australia/iihf-eligibility> for detailed information, forms and fees

4.10 State Team Eligibility

To be eligible to play for IHNSW in the Ginsberg, Defris, Tange, Boxall and Brown National Championships, a player must be a permanent resident, have a visa of two years or more validity, or be an Australian Citizen. No import players are permitted to compete in these Championships.

NSW players and goalies that tryout for a NSW State Team and are unsuccessful, may be eligible to participate for another State in National Championships. IHNSW will deal with IHA directly on providing players and goalies to the pool for other States to select from. This is opt in for NSW players and goalies, they do not have to play for another State.

4.11 National Team Eligibility

Strict rules govern the inclusion of non-Australian born players representing Australia in IIHF Championships.

Players holding a valid Australian Passport who are Australian by birth, with no other citizenship plus their parents also are Australian by birth, have participated in IHA national competitions for at least two years.

4.12 Working With Children Checks (WWCC)

All members who are in direct contact with members under 18's years of age must comply with Working with Children Checks. That includes, but is not limited to, coaches, managers, on-ice officials, off-ice officials, on-ice trainers and off-ice trainers. In the case of State Teams, all adults involved with teams that include members under 18 years of age are to have WWCC and supply IHNSW with current documentation.

IHNSW will conduct ad-hoc audits on club teams during the season to ensure WWCC are obtained and current.

IHNSW reserves the right to refuse membership for those not complying with this clause.

5 - Team Competition & Officials

5.1 Requirements for Entering Teams

All team members must be registered with an affiliated club.

A team should comprise a minimum numbers as set each year by IHNSW Junior and Coaching Development Coordinator.

An attendance of less than six players on any teams' bench will constitute a game forfeit and will be subject to the prescribed penalties. If teams are below this number they can work with the opposing team to scrimmage and cover the ice, with a 5-0 win (no player stats) to the non-offending team.

All teams up to and including 17U (Midget) must have a minimum two non-playing officials on the bench at each game, including an accredited Coach and an adult Manager.

All teams with a player (or players) under the age of 18 must have a minimum two non-playing officials on the bench at each game, including an accredited Coach and an adult Manager.

Open-age teams both at home and travelling must have an adult coach or manager however, they can also be a player as long as their first priority is to leave the ice in the case of an incident that requires assistance. The designated coach or manager must also be listed on the game sheet as such. Only open-age teams can have a coach or manager who is also a player.

A coach cannot be the manager of a team. Scorekeepers and Timekeepers cannot be listed as bench officials for the teams playing.

Failure to adhere to the rules concerning coaches and managers will result in a fine of \$200 (No GST required), and a game forfeiture should the offending team be the winning team. If both teams have breached the rules, both will be fined \$200 (No GST required), and no points will be awarded for the game.

- If a team is withdrawn during the competition, the team fees for all games played plus a fine of \$500.00 is payable.
- Team fees balance is invoiced on 1st July. All teams are billed one game in the Finals.
- All new clubs must pay FULL team fees in advance (at team registration) of the season for their first 2 years.
- Clubs are not permitted to offer inducements to entice players to change Clubs e.g. free registration, free training fees or free equipment.

Team that wish to have a name different from their Club name must request IHNSW approval

5.2 Annual "Playing Up" and "Playing Down" Approval Form

Eligible players aged under 18 years, wishing to "play up" or "play down" into a higher/lower grade than their grade of registration, are required to lodge an 'Annual Playing Up Approval Form' or 'Over Age playing Down Consent and Approval Form' for each and every higher or lower grade.

Players and Goalies are only permitted to "play up" **into a higher contact grade** if the player is in the upper age bracket of their chronological age grade ("second year")

Players and Goalies in the lower age bracket of the player's chronological age grade ("first year") will not be considered for Playing Up **into a higher contact grade**.

The fully completed form must be lodged with the Association prior to the first game in the specific grade, bearing the approval of the parent or guardian, coach, manager and a club office bearer.

The reasons for this are:-

- The IHNSW "duty of care" to ensure that the nominated parties are all of the opinion that the player has the ability to compete proficiently and safely at the proposed level.
- The administrative needs to ensure that all those involved are aware that the player will be committed to play for more than one team, and that they accept the logistical implications of this.

5.3 "Playing up" and "Playing down" Regulations

IHNSW strongly recommends that a player that is approved to play up may do so provided no player registered on the play up team is disadvantaged. This means that a player approved to play up should not be used to replace a player that is registered on that team and is able to play.

For first year 15U (Bantam) (14yrs old at 31st December) to play down into 13U (Peewee), Executive Approval must be given.

For first year 17U (Midget) (16yrs old at 31st December) or females turning 16 and 17 as at 31st December to play down into 15U (Bantam), Executive Approval must be given.

All approvals are subject to Executive review throughout the entire season. The Executive Approval will be based on an assessment of the skill and safety of the player.

Players who represent NSW or ACT (or any other state) at National Championships in the previous calendar year are ineligible to play down for their Club in their representative age grade. Players who are reserves on a State team, but do not attend the National Championships, will be eligible to play down, subject to Executive Approval.

In exceptional circumstances a 2nd year player will be considered for a permanent play-up status. The same annual playing up approval form must be completed with email requesting the player be considered for permanent play up status. If granted the player would compete and only compete in the higher age grade. This status would not affect their eligibility to play at their own age level during national championships. The decision will be made by a cohort from the IHNSW exec. The criteria would be a player who has the mental and physical maturity along with an outstanding playing ability where approval in permanent play up status would both benefit the lower grade competition and the players development.

5.4 Rules Governing Player Uniforms & Equipment

All uniform jerseys must display the IHNSW badge on the upper right chest area, and playing numbers on the back and on each sleeve. All new jersey designs must be submitted to IHNSW for review and formal approval prior to production or use in competition. Proposed designs must not clash with the established branding colours of existing IHNSW affiliated clubs. Jersey and sock colour/design must be sufficiently different that on-ice officials can tell them apart under game conditions.

All players competing in 17U (Midget) (regardless of age) and under, and female players under 18 years must display a RESPECT patch in a readily visible position on their back.

Every member of a team must be dressed uniformly in respect of the colour of their jerseys and stockings/hockey socks. The referee is authorised to refuse entry to the ice for any team member that is not uniformly attired.

If the referee inadvertently allows a player to play whilst failing to meet the uniform & equipment rules (such as face & neck guards), the opposing team captain must advise the referee and the referee will enforce the appropriate IIHF Rules. If the player does not comply then the referee will suspend play until such time that either the player leaves the ice or abides by the ruling. The penalty of \$100 (No GST required), will be issued to the team via their club, for any player who continues to flaunt equipment rulings.

Field/Grass Hockey gear is not safe for Ice Hockey and is not permitted.

All teams should have an alternate jersey. When teams have a clash in jerseys, then the home team is required to change into their alternate jersey. Due to delays, teams are sometimes required to wait for Jersey orders early in the season and allowances will be made.

Players must wear all protective equipment as defined in Rule 9, Rule 102 and Rule 202 of the Official IIHF Rulebook. Rule 202.2 applies to all age categories involving players 18 and under. This can be summarized as follows:

- All Players must wear, as a minimum, a visor as a facial protection.
- All Players competing in 17U (Midget), ECSL (under 18), and all female Players must wear an approved full cage/full visor when on the ice, and must wear ear protection attached to their helmets.
- All players must wear a neck laceration protector.
- Shoulder pads are compulsory for all grades.

“Under 18” Age Category

The players participating in any IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship must be eligible to compete as a male athlete and be no younger than fifteen (15) years of age, and no older than eighteen (18) years of age, by December 31 of the year in which the Championship Season ends.

202.2. FACIAL PROTECTION – MEN’S JUNIOR HOCKEY “UNDER 18” – AGE CATEGORY

All Players participating in the "Under 18" age category must wear a full-face protection (full-visor or cage), properly fixed to the helmet. It must be fixed to the helmet along the sides such that it cannot be flipped up.

→ Rule 9.6 – Helmets.

→ Rule 9.7 – Facial Protection.

A Player whose full-face protection becomes cracked or broken during game action must leave the ice immediately. All Goalkeepers in this “Under 18” age category must wear a facemask constructed in such a way

that neither a puck nor a stick blade can penetrate the openings. Players without the mentioned protection are not allowed to participate in a game.

State Team uniforms are only available for sale to those players and officials selected. . Players selected for NSW State Teams will be required to have a white helmet, except for goalies.

COACHES MUST WEAR HELMETS WHILST ON THE ICE.

Where an official has cause to believe, a player is not wearing the appropriate mandatory safety equipment and they wish to verify, the official may request that the player demonstrate the proper equipment is being worn. The onus of proof is upon the player to demonstrate the proper equipment is being worn to the satisfaction of the official. If the official remains unconvinced that the appropriate equipment is being worn, they may take action per **IIHF RULE 9.8 – DANGEROUS EQUIPMENT**.

RULE 9.12 – NECK LACERATION PROTECTOR – Changes 2025

1 MARCH 2025: From March 1, all Game Officials must wear a Neck Laceration Protector

5.5 How Team Standings are Determined

It is the responsibility of the game referee to ensure that the original game sheet is signed by each team manager, coach or captain, and is forwarded with the report sheet, to the IHNSW Executive Officer as soon as possible, or at latest on the first working day following the game.

Failure to comply with this requirement without satisfactory justification (as determined by the Committee of Management in consultation with the Referee In Chief) will forfeit the applicable game fee for the most senior referee in charge of each unreported game.

Team standings on completion of all rounds will be based on:

- **Games Won: Two points**
- **Games Tied: One point**
- **Cancelled Games in Senior Division: One Point**

If any teams are equal, the following will decide the standings, based only on the games played between them:

- Most games won
- Most goals scored
- Least goals scored against

If any teams are still tied, the highest percentage from all games is calculated by the following formula:
Percentage (%) = (goals for / goals for and goals against) x 100.

The standings at the end of the season are determined by the officially appointed Statistician. These standings are final.

5.6 Rules Governing Player Eligibility for Play-Offs / Finals

Players must have played 7 games or more with the team.

Except Senior, Goaltenders are excluded from this rule providing the usual team goal tender is unavailable to play, and that they have played 7 games or more as a goalie for another team in a lower grade in the same club.

Specifically, a second-year goaltender must play 7 games in their chronological age bracket to be able to participate in the next higher-grade playoff rounds.

In Squirt, Peewee, Bantam, Midgets, Womens and Senior Divisions, an exemption must be received to play a goaltender in the playoffs that did not play 7 games or more with the team. The team must supply IHNSW an exemption request, outlining why the usual team goaltender is unavailable to play, evidence of this unavailability and also the goaltender they are wishing to play.

The procedure for exemption approval is as follows: 1) the opposing team has 48 hours to approve/decline the exemption 2) if declined, a reason must be provided and IHNSW will have the final decision.

All clubs must submit a listing of all players for each play-off team to IHNSW, at least two weeks before the first scheduled play-off game.

Forfeited games by either home or away team are counted for finals eligibility.

If a player has been unable to play sufficient games due to being injured or ill personally during the season, a certificate from a medical practitioner confirming the period and nature of the incapacity that is lodged with IHNSW with the team list, will enable the scheduled games during such period to be counted.

5.7 How Semi-Finals & Finals are Structured

All semi-finals shall consist of one game, with the possible exception of ECSL and Senior Divisions.

Semi-Finals structure is 1v4 and 2v3 for Junior and Women's grades, regardless of number of teams in the grade.

All Grand finals and junior grade Bronze medal matches shall consist of one game, with the possible exception of ECSL and Senior Divisions.

Any team forfeiting a Semi-Final will not be eligible to participate in any further games.

If any teams remain equal at the end of regular time, five (5) minutes 'sudden death' extra time will apply and shall be 'stop time' with the exception of ECSL and Senior.

If the score remains equal at the end of extra time, a best of three (3) penalty shootout will apply with the exception of ECSL and Senior.

If still equal after three shots per team, the shootout will continue until there is a result, after an equal number of shots with the exception of ECSL and Senior.

All players listed on the team sheet who are not serving penalties or injured at the end of the overtime period are to be used once in the sudden death shootout before a player can shoot a second time.

5.8 Player Awards

Ice Hockey NSW presents three awards annually in each division, recognising players' individual contributions to the Winter League. Players must be of good standing to be eligible to receive an award. Players who have been issued a suspension by the Tribunal are not in good standing. This does not include automatic game suspensions or suspended rulings from the Tribunal. Players and goalies must also meet the minimum games for finals to be eligible. The following awards are presented annually in all divisions except 9U.

- Highest Point Scorer (not awarded in junior grades for 2025)
- Best Goalkeeper
- Most Valuable Player

IHNSW determines Highest Point Scorer.

Most Valuable player award and Best Goalkeeper: All clubs nominate ONE MVP/best Goalie per grade from their team. A list of nominees is then provided to clubs. Coaches from each team vote on the individuals below using a 3, 2, 1 system whereby the best player is awarded with 3 points, second best is 2 points, etc. You cannot vote for your own player. Your club can only vote in divisions where you have a team participating. Teams that do not return votes in their grade will make their player ineligible for the MVP or best goalie award.

For Example in 15U (Bantam):

15U (BANTAM) GRADE MVP			
NOMINATIONS		VOTING	
Team Name	Nominated Player	Your Team Name:	
Bears		Your votes:	
Eagles		3 points –	
Flyers		2 points –	
Northstars		1 point –	
Saints			
Ice Zoo			

The Jeffrey Scott Officiating Award is awarded annually to a Rookie Official who has shown dedication, effort and perseverance throughout the season. The winner of the award will receive a trophy, their name on the website Honour Roll and a prize of \$1000.00.

5.9 Referee Information

Current officials must comply with IHA regulations to be eligible to officially referee games, however it is compulsory for officials to complete an officials course every time a new IIHF Rule Book is presented.

A minimum of two game officials are required for a game to commence.

It is the responsibility of the Game Referee to ensure that the original Game Report is signed by Team Managers or Coaches before the game.

The original Game Report and Referees Incident Report must be returned to the IHNSW Executive Officer on the first working day of the following week, so that any reports can be acted upon and for payments of officials. Only original copies will be accepted for these purposes.

So that the Executive Officer can notify players of any Match Penalty suspension / Tribunal that may be applicable to a penalty/offence received, referees must note on the IHNSW Incident Report the relevant offence as listed on the IHNSW Schedule of Offences.

If a club official draws the referee's attention to an unauthorised person on the bench or a spectator in an unprotected area of the rink, the referee has the power to stop the game until the unregistered official or spectator has been moved, with the clock still running until the person has moved. Failure to move can result in citing them or the family member playing, for disciplinary purposes.

If the Referee inadvertently allows a player to play whilst failing to meet the uniform & equipment rules (such as face & neck guards), the opposing team captain must advise the referee and the referee will enforce the appropriate IIHF Rules. If the player does not comply then the referee will suspend play until such time that either the player leaves the ice or abides by the ruling.

Abuse of Officials will not be tolerated by IHNSW. Members are expected to support the decisions of officials at all times. If any member receives a second Abuse of Official penalty in the same season, they will be sent a letter from IHNSW. Any member that receives a third Abuse of Official penalty in the same season will be automatically called to an IHNSW Disciplinary Tribunal.

Officials are not permitted to Officiate above their age group. No minor age Officials may Referee or Line open grade games (ECSL/Senior Division/Women's).

5.10 Procedures for Protests & Complaints from Games

Protests or complaints regarding reports or suspensions must be lodged to the IHNSW office within 72 hours of official notification from IHNSW. The protest must be on or accompanied by, a covering letter/ email/ fax, on an official club letterhead, signed by a recognised officer of the club.

Protests during semi-finals and finals must be lodged by the club's secretary to IHNSW, within 12 hours from the end of the game.

6 - Illegalities

6.1 Penalties For Game Forfeits – Junior, Womens, Senior Divisions and ECSL

In Juniors, Womens and ECSL - Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their teams play in all scheduled games. Failure to do so will result in a \$500.00 (No GST) forfeiture fee.

This is to cover the cost of ice time, loss of gate receipts and to act as a deterrent for any costs or inconvenience caused to the other team and its supporters. IHNSW will invoice Clubs directly for the forfeiture fee. IHNSW will make all payments to rinks for ice time and all payments to Officials.

In Senior Divisions - Games cancelled as a result of Teams not providing Officials will result in the Team being charged the ice cost for the cancelled game and any cascading games that are cancelled.

6.2 Cancelled Games

In the event of IHNSW being responsible for the cancellation or postponement of a game, club(s) affected should submit a detailed invoice to IHNSW for costs incurred. This rule does not apply to games cancelled in Senior Division due to insufficient Officials.

6.3 The Definition of an Illegal or Ineligible Player

An illegal or ineligible player is one that is:

- Suspended
- Playing Up without approval
- Over-aged
- Unregistered or un-financial
- Without clearance from previous Club/Association/State or Country
- An ineligible import
- In breach of any other playing restriction in this handbook
- Does not have the appropriate IHNSW membership
- A player who does not complete the Concussion Return to Play Protocol (RTP) as required

6.4 Tribunals and Rules Governing Suspended Players

A Judiciary Tribunal shall comprise 3 or more persons selected by the committee, one of whom shall be appointed Chairperson.

No member of the committee is eligible to sit on a Judiciary Tribunal. A Tribunal hearing shall be no less than 14 days and no more than 28 days from receipt of the referral, unless the matter is deemed to require urgent attention, in which case the defendant and Judiciary Tribunal may agree on a variation of the time frame set out in [By-Law rule 11](#).

A suspended player cannot participate in any game whatsoever until the suspension has been served as per the following criteria:

- The first consecutive scheduled inter-club competition game(s) in the team and grade the suspension was received.
- Exhibition Games do not count for the serving of suspensions.
- A double point game only counts for one game when serving a suspension.
- Players/Goalies that are genuine weekly playing members of two teams can apply to the Tribunal Chairperson for approval to serve an automatic suspension across the two grades
- A suspended player must be removed from the team sheet and cannot sit on the bench.
- Unless determined otherwise by the Tribunal Panel and subject to club approval, a suspended player may continue training with their team.
- The IHNSW suspension list is based upon a full season of Hockey. The IHA suspension list is based on shorter tournaments with fewer games such as National Championships.

A player that receives a 'Game Misconduct' in the last half of the third period, or any overtime period of a game, is automatically suspended for the next game. The referee and team manager must notify the player of this.

A player that is reported as receiving a 'Match Penalty' or any other major offence above a 'Game Misconduct', may receive an automatic suspension or be requested to attend a Tribunal, as stipulated in the IHNSW Suspension List. A player and their club will be notified officially as to the suspension received. **It is then the responsibility of the player to notify the IHNSW Executive Officer when they have served their suspension time as outlined in the notification letter sent.**

Any player that receives five major penalties (ie. 5 minutes or longer) in a season, will be required to appear before the Tribunal Panel and will be ineligible to play in any further games until this takes place.

If a player receives a suspension in their team's last scheduled game of the season, then the suspension may be served in any other grade's scheduled game in which they have played seven games or more in the current season. However, suspensions that cannot be served at the end of a season carry forward to the following season. Semi finals and finals are counted as part of the suspension period if applicable to the individual player.

THERE IS NO COURSE FOR AN APPEAL AGAINST ANY 1 GAME SUSPENSION

Players who receive a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty from the automatic suspensions list, at the end of the season, are able to serve their suspension at the beginning of the following season, permitting them to play in the IHNSW sanctioned Summer Leagues.

Forfeited games by home or away team count as serving penalties.

6.5 Penalties for Playing a Suspended, Illegal or Ineligible Player

An automatic fine totaling \$200.00 (No GST) will be levied to any Team playing any ineligible or suspended player. There will be an automatic forfeiture of any points and scoring statistics gained, deducted from every game an ineligible or suspended player participates in.

The offending player may be suspended for additional games, at the discretion of an IHNSW Tribunal Panel.

IHNSW notifies the club in writing and the fine is automatically payable by the club to IHNSW within 30 days of each offending game. Failure to pay the fine on time may result in an additional penalty at the discretion of the Committee of Management.

A minimum winning score of 5 goals will be recorded for the non-offending team. The offending team will have a score of 0. All penalties for both teams will stand.

Any member found to have deliberately supplied incorrect registration particulars will be suspended immediately and an IHNSW Tribunal Panel will determine the duration of the suspension and any other appropriate penalty.

Coaches / managers who allow players to participate without valid registrations will be held responsible for an illegal players' fine of \$200.00 (No GST). The team will forfeit all points gained in any game the illegal player is determined as having played.

6.6 IHA & IHNSW Anti-Doping Policy

IHNSW condemns the use of performance enhancing drugs and doping practices in the sport of Ice Hockey. IHNSW subscribes and supports the Australian National Anti-Doping Policy of Sports Integrity Australia (SIA) as adopted by IHA. The IHA Anti-Doping Policy applies to all of its members, or affiliate organisations, including players, officials, administrators, coaches, referees, office bearers and employees. The policy is found on the IHNSW website.

The Policy refers to “The Prohibited List” which is published and revised by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency). The current Prohibited List is available on WADA's website at <https://www.wada-ama.org>.

Sports Integrity Australia (SIA) is the national drug testing authority empowered to conduct random testing of athletes for the detection of prohibited substances. To ensure that its members conform to these requirements, IHA has implemented the following procedures, which must be strictly adhered to:

- At the time of registration, or at the time of prescribing medication after registration, a letter from the physician must be supplied to the club secretary detailing the drug/substance prescribed and the reasons for its prescription.
- The club secretary must retain a copy of such letters and send the original to the IHNSW office. The dates of receipt and forwarding should also be recorded.
- Upon receipt of notification, IHNSW will record the member's name in a register and forward copies of the notification to applicable authority where applicable. The original letter is to be kept by IHNSW and all pertinent dates recorded.
- The member will subsequently be advised of the dates of official notification was sent to the applicable authority.

Testing is normally aimed at athletes competing at national or international level. SIA can test either in-competition or out-of-competition. They can test at an athlete's training venue or home address with No Advance Notice and sample collection can include the collection of urine, blood or both. Testing can detect the use of illicit substances such as marijuana, amphetamines and cocaine. Any medication must be supported by a current medical certificate.

6.7 Concussion Baseline Testing

IHNSW strongly recommends having annual pre-season testing by a trained healthcare professional.

You can visit completeconcussions.com/find-a-clinic/ for more information.

7 - Special Game Rules Relating to Particular Grades

7.1 Special Rules for 9U (Atoms)

This competition will be IHNSW organised with players split into teams on the day.

Every effort will be made so that teams are even with players playing with and against players of a similar level.

The ideal is for teams to have a minimum of six players and one goalie or 7 players with a player in quick-change goalie gear, playing in the $\frac{3}{4}$ sized nets available. Depending on numbers a Max of 9 players and 1 goalie or 10 with a player in a quick-change goalie gear may be created by the organisers.

Any playdowns into this age group can only be 1 year older and very inexperienced.

This is a non-competitive league and players will be given even ice time.

The games will be coached by IHNSW and club coaches to develop all players regardless of club.

Players will register at their own club.

Goalie coaching will be provided as often as possible.

9U (Atoms) will play the 3 on 3 cross ice format. 4 teams will play in a round robin in the allocated hour, 3 x 16 min games. Line changes will be made every 90 secs on the whistle. The minimum team size is 7, the maximum team size is 10. 9U (Atoms) will play with the blue pucks. Goals will result in a face-off without delay. Each team will have a goalie, either a player dressed as goalie or in player gear for the duration of the game.

The main emphasis for this grade is "skills development" rather than "winning". The principal of 'equal opportunity' in respect to even ice time will apply in all games, regardless of skill level. No game results or statistics are recorded or published in the 9U (Atoms) grade.

All minor penalties will result in a penalty shot including actions where a player intentionally uses their body to check another player, however:

- Accidental contact between two players going for the puck will not be penalised.
- "Riding off" an opponent is part of the skills of ice hockey and will be permitted, provided the opponent is not taken directly into the boards.
- Hip and shoulder checks will be penalised.

If the puck is played after the line change whistle a penalty shot will be awarded.

Slap shots are prohibited in 9U (Atoms). A penalty shot will be awarded to the defending team.

There are no off-side penalties in the cross ice format, all other penalties are enforceable.

Any player in this grade that receives more than two penalties in any one game will be excluded from the rest of that game.

Rules for 9U (Atoms) play up to 11U (Squirts)

- Players must upgrade to 11U (Squirts) registration. There will be an increased cost as 9U Atoms have a discounted registration.

- Players must have a valid play up form completed by the 9U (Atoms) and 11U (Squirts) coaches.

7.2 Special Rules for 11U (Squirts)

Teams are a minimum of 10 outfield and 1 goalie.

Clubs must register a minimum of 15 outfield and 1 goalie should there be interest at their club, this is a non-checking league. If the interest exceeds this number and the player will not be in the regular roster, then the club should first direct the parent/player to IHNSW for other options first not hold player at club to train only/development until after contact with IHNSW. Clubs can of course decide a player is not a fit for the club on parent/player behaviour grounds, is not suitable to play in the competition on safety grounds or are playing down into the clubs Atoms team. Clubs must inform IHNSW of Players they deemed unsafe to play, these players may well be assessed by IHNSW.

Play up from Atoms, play ups can't be counted within the 10+1 or 15+1. Play ups are not allowed to play more game time than actual Squirts.

1 year play ups follow the normal player/parent, lower/higher grade coaches' approval being submitted to and approved by IHNSW.

Play down 1st year Peewee, play downs must meet the following requirements, new to sport or vastly undeveloped who could not touch the puck or develop at own age level. These players can be assessed at any time by IHNSW with or without request from other clubs.

Play downs are permitted to play 3 games at their own age as preparation for the following year. If they play a fourth game, then they are deemed no longer eligible to play down (finals eligibility still stands).

All players should be given as even ice time as possible. Stronger players will naturally have more ice being on first line and perhaps during PP and PK however some players double/triple shifting with others getting a shift or two each period at best, must stop. Teams will be assessed by IHNSW throughout the season with or without request. Coaches of stronger team to make every effort to avoid scores blowing out into high teen differentials, these scorelines are detrimental to the sports development.

Coaches/clubs will be questioned if required and if necessary, held accountable for failure to comply as the damage to development and retention of players in our sport is considerable.

The club/coach will receive a formal warning with club team and coach at risk of disciplinary action including potential for losing competition points and coaching accreditation suspended should unacceptable behaviours continue after warning.

While eligibility rules still apply finals can be coached in a different manor.

The main emphasis for this grade is intended to be on "skills development" rather than "winning". The principal of 'equal opportunity' in respect to even ice time will apply in all games, regardless of skill level. This is enforceable through an application to the NSW Coaching Director, or NSW Development Officer on their sole recommendation, subject to the prior approval of the Committee of Management. As this is viewed as a critical element in the development and growth of our sport, a fine of \$100.00 (no GST) will be levied on any club for every game of non-compliance with an approved recommendation.

Slap shots are prohibited in 11U (Squirts). A face-off will be taken in the defending zone of the offending player.

A minor penalty will be given to any player that intentionally uses their body to check another player, however: Accidental contact between two players going for the puck will not be penalised.

"Riding off" an opponent is part of the skills of ice hockey and will be permitted, provided the opponent is not taken directly into the boards.

Hip and shoulder checks will be penalised.

Any player in this grade that receives more than seven minutes in minor penalties in any one game will be excluded from the rest of that game. In applying this rule, only personal penalties are counted; ie: a two and ten penalty is counted as two.

Players can only be credited with 3 goals in a game. However, a player will be allowed unlimited assists. If a player who has scored 3 goals, scores a 4th goal, it will not be counted for any statistics and a faceoff will result in the players defensive end.

7.3 Special Rules for 13U (Peewee)

Teams are a minimum of 10 outfield and 1 goalie.

Clubs must register a minimum of 15 outfield and 1 goalie should there be interest at their club. If the interest exceeds this number and the player will not be in the regular roster, then the club should first direct the parent/player to IHNSW for other options first **not hold** player at club to train only/development until after contact with IHNSW. Clubs can of course decide a player is not a fit for the club on parent/player behaviour grounds, is not suitable to play in the competition on safety grounds or are playing down into the clubs Squirts team. Clubs must inform IHNSW of Players they deemed unsafe to play, these players may well be assessed by IHNSW.

Play up from last year Squirt follow normal play up approval process, play ups can't be counted within the 10+1 or 15+1. Play ups are not allowed to play more gametime than actual Peewee.

In the event of a clash Play ups must prioritise Squirts if Squirts are unable to field a minimum of 10 outfield and 1 goalie without the player. The prerogative during a clash where there is a minimum roster available is with the Squirt coach to release.

Play down 1st year Bantam, play downs must meet the following requirements, new to sport or vastly undeveloped who could not reasonably be involved/develop at own age level or are not suitable for a modified checking league. These players can be assessed at any time by IHNSW with or without request from other clubs.

Play downs are permitted to play 3 games at their own age as preparation for the following year. If they play a fourth game, then they are deemed no longer eligible to play down

All players should be given as even ice time as possible. Stronger players will naturally have more ice being on the first line and perhaps during PP and PK however some players continually double/triple shifting with others getting a shift or two each period at best, must stop. Teams will be assessed by IHNSW throughout the season with or without request.

Coaches of stronger team to make every effort to avoid scores blowing out into double figure differentials, these scorelines are detrimental to the sports development.

Coaches/clubs will be questioned if required and if necessary, held accountable for failure to comply as the damage to development and retention of players in our sport is considerable.

The club/coach will receive a formal warning with club team and coach at risk of disciplinary action including potential for losing competition points and coaching accreditation suspended should unacceptable behaviours continue after warning.

As it is a competitive competition while eligibility rules still apply finals can be coached in a different manor.

The competition is officiated under modified checking rules.

Slap shots are permitted in 13U (Peewee) grades.

Any player in this grade that receives more than seven minutes in minor penalties in any one game will be excluded from the rest of that game. In applying this rule, only personal penalties are counted; ie: a two and ten penalty is counted as two.

13U Pee wee Modified Body Checking Rules

Core Principle: These rules prioritise player safety by restricting dangerous body checks, particularly those involving players moving in opposite directions or using excessive force.

Definitions:

Body Check: Using the body to impede or separate an opponent from the puck.

Charging: A penalty for delivering a body check with excessive force, including taking multiple strides or jumping.

Opposite Directions: Players moving towards each other.

Arresting Momentum: Stopping backward movement.

Standing Up an Opponent: Using the torso to impede an opponent's forward progress without stepping forward.

Angling: Using the torso and shoulder to guide an opponent towards the boards.

Illegal Actions (Resulting in a possible Charging Penalty):

Opposite Direction Checks: a. A player cannot deliver a body check to an opponent moving in the opposite direction, except for minor contact during a poke/stick check.

Stepping Forward Checks: a. A defending player moving backward cannot arrest their momentum and take a step forward into an attacking player.

Illegal Contact: a. Leading with an elbow or delivering a high hit (neck and above). b. Delivering an excessively forceful hit that sends an opponent violently into the boards. c. Leaving the feet to deliver a hit. d. Hitting a player that does not have control of the puck.

Legal Actions:

Standing Up an Opponent: a. A defending player moving backward can arrest their momentum and use their torso to "stand up" an attacking player, impeding their progress without stepping forward.

Poke/Stick Checks: a. Minor body contact leading on from a poke or stick check is legal, even if players are moving in opposite directions. Any body contact must be minor/accidental.

Angling Along the Boards: a. When players are moving in the same direction along the boards, a defending player can use their torso and shoulder to "angle" an attacking player towards the boards, separating them from the puck. This must be done without excessive force, not leading with elbows, or high hits.

Same direction open ice checks: (bumping off/battling for puck) Shoulder, hip to be used when delivering check, not leading with elbows, not with excessive force nor connecting with neck or head.

Important Notes:

The emphasis is on using body positioning to gain an advantage, not delivering dangerous or excessively forceful hits.

During the regular season only, when the regular Goalkeeper is unavailable, a team may borrow a Goalkeeper from any other team in the same grade, provided both playing teams agree in addition to the borrowed Goalkeepers home team. A borrowed Goalkeeper cannot use replacement games to qualify for finals or to qualify for a second team. A Goalkeeper can only earn finals eligibility by playing for their regular team

7.4 Special Rules for 15U (Bantam)

Teams are a minimum of 10 outfield and 1 goalie.

Clubs must register a minimum of 15 outfield and 1 goalie should there be interest at their club. If the interest exceeds this number and the player will not be in the regular roster, then the club must direct the parent/player to IHNSW for other options first **not hold** player at club to train only/development until after contact with IHNSW. Clubs can of course decide a player is not a fit for the club on parent/player behaviour grounds, is not suitable to play in the competition on safety grounds or are playing down into the club's Peewee team. Clubs must inform IHNSW of Players they deemed unsafe to play, these players may well be assessed by IHNSW.

Play up from Peewee, play ups can't be counted within the 10+1 or 15+1. Play ups are not allowed to play more game time than actual Bantam.

In the event of a clash Play ups must prioritise Peewee if Peewee are unable to field a minimum of 10 outfield and 1 goalie without the player. The prerogative during a clash where there is a minimum roster available is with the Peewee coach to release.

Play down 1st year Midget for male and up to 2nd year for female, play downs must meet the following requirements, new to sport or vastly undeveloped who could not be reasonably be involved in the game/develop at own age level or not suitable for a full checking league. These players can be assessed at any time by IHNSW with or without request from other clubs.

Play downs are permitted to play 3 games at their own age as preparation for the following year. If they play a fourth game, then they are deemed no longer eligible to play down.

Players should be given as even ice time as possible. Stronger players will naturally have more ice being on a first line and perhaps during PP and PK however some players continually double/triple shifting with others getting a shift or two each period at best, must stop. Teams will be assessed by IHNSW throughout the season with or without request.

Coaches of stronger team to make every effort to avoid scores blowing out into double figure differentials, these scorelines are detrimental to the sports development.

Coaches/clubs will be questioned if required and if necessary, held accountable for failure to comply as the damage to development and retention of players in our sport is considerable.

The club/coach will receive a formal warning with club team and coach at risk of disciplinary action including potential for loosing competition points and coaching accreditation suspended should unacceptable behaviours continue after warning.

As it is a competitive competition, while eligibility rules still apply, finals can be coached in a different manor.

15U Bantam is officiated under full checking rules: The primary focus of the check shall be to gain possession of the puck and officials should strictly penalise any illegal actions such as boarding, charging, cross checking, and a late body check to a player who is no longer in control of the puck.

Any player in this grade that receives more than seven minutes in minor penalties in any one game will be excluded from the rest of that game. In applying this rule, only personal penalties are counted; ie: a two and ten penalty is counted as two.

During the regular season only, when the regular Goalkeeper is unavailable, a team may borrow a Goalkeeper from any other team in the same grade, provided both playing teams agree in addition to the borrowed Goalkeepers home team. A borrowed Goalkeeper cannot use replacement games to qualify for finals or to qualify for a second team. A Goalkeeper can only earn finals eligibility by playing for their regular team

7.5 Special Rules for 17U (Midget)

Teams are a minimum of 10 outfield and 1 goalie.

Clubs must register a minimum of 15 outfield and 1 goalie should there be interest at their club. If the interest exceeds this number and the player will not be in the regular roster, then the club must direct the parent/player to IHNSW for other options first **not hold** player at club to train only/development until after contact with IHNSW. Clubs can of course decide a player is not a fit for the club on parent/player behaviour grounds, is not suitable to play in the competition on safety grounds or are playing down into the clubs Bantam team. Clubs must inform IHNSW of Players they deemed unsafe to play, these players may well be assessed by IHNSW.

The competition is officiated under full checking rules.

Play up from last year Bantam, play ups can't be counted within the 10+1 or 15+1 unless part of Draft.

In the event of a clash Play ups must prioritise Bantam if Bantam are unable to field a minimum of 10 outfield and 1 goalie without the player. The prerogative during a clash where there is a minimum roster available is with the Bantam coach to release.

Play down into Bantam- 1st year Midget for male and up to 2nd year for female, play downs must meet the following requirements, new to sport or vastly undeveloped who could not be reasonably involved in the game/develop at own age level, physical nature of the player puts them at increased risk for contact by Midget aged players. These players can be assessed at any time by IHNSW with or without request from other clubs.

Play downs to Bantam are permitted to play back up 3 games at Midget as preparation for the following year. If they play a fourth game then they are deemed no longer eligible to play down into Bantam.

There is a Bantam play up draft available for teams with less than 15+1 at the time of season registration. (Contact IHNSW)

Any player who would have been a third year Midget in 2026 (2008 born) and who is not playing ECSL or AIHL in 2026, can choose to play in 17U Midget. Skaters can play up to ECSL or AIHL for 3 games (total across the two leagues), and goalies for 5 games (total across the two leagues). Skaters who play a fourth game and goalies who play a sixth game at either the ECSL or AIHL level will no longer be eligible to play in 17U Midget. 2009 born players can participate in both 17U Midget and AJIHL.

2nd year Midgets rules apply as normal; they can play ECSL, AJIHL and AIHL but must prioritise 17U Midget when there is a clash with ECSL

17U Midget is officiated under full checking rules: The primary focus of the check shall be to gain possession of the puck and officials should strictly penalise any illegal actions such as boarding, charging, cross checking, and a late body check to a player who is no longer in control of the puck.

Any player in this grade that receives more than seven minutes in minor penalties in any one game will be excluded from the rest of that game. In applying this rule, only personal penalties are counted; ie: a two and ten penalty is counted as two.

17U (Midget) must use a full-face cage and throat protection regardless of age.

During the regular season only, when the regular Goalkeeper is unavailable, a team may borrow a Goalkeeper from any other team in the same grade, provided both playing teams agree in addition to the borrowed Goalkeepers home team. A borrowed Goalkeeper cannot use replacement games to qualify for finals or to qualify for a second team. A Goalkeeper can only earn finals eligibility by playing for their regular team

Any player who returns from overseas mid-season who will not complete that season and seeks to participate in any IHNSW league must submit a formal application to IHNSW for approval prior to registration. IHNSW reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to determine whether the player may be registered and, if approved, to allocate the player to the team deemed most appropriate and in the best interests of the competition, including consideration of team balance and specific player attributes.

IHNSW reserves the right to approve, decline, or allocate the player to a team in the best interests of competition integrity and balance.

7.6 Special Rules for East Coast Super League

Please refer to the ECSL Handbook.

7.7 Special Rules for Senior Divisions

Any suspensions, penalties or fines applied under “Special Rules for Senior Divisions” are not able to be appealed. Any suspensions, penalties or fines applied under “Special Rules for Senior Divisions” are done so as an addition to any other IIHF, IHA or IHNSW suspensions, penalties or fines.

7.8.1 General Administration Rules

Senior Division has a “no deliberate body checking” rule. This will be enforced in accordance with **IIHF RULE 101 - ILLEGAL HIT IN WOMEN’S HOCKEY**

Divisions comprising of ≤8 teams, the top four teams will proceed to the playoffs. Semi-finals being seed 1 v 4 and seed 2 v 3, with the winners to play in the Grand Final

Each series is a head-to-head, two game series where each game generates an independent win/loss/draw result. Following game two, if a winner is not determined (eg. each team has won once or both games ended in a draw), the following is applicable to determine the series winner.

- For the purposes of the series tie-breaker, the overtime period and shootout shall be an extension of game two with respect to penalties being served.
- The series tie-breaker shall commence with a five on five, five (5) minute ‘sudden death’ extra time period being ‘stop time.’
- If the score remains equal at the end of extra time, a best of three (3) penalty shootout will apply. If still equal after three shots per team, the shootout will continue until there is a result, after an equal number of shots.
- All players listed on the team sheet who are not serving penalties or injured at the end of the overtime period are to be used once in the sudden death shootout before a player can shoot a second time.

The location of each head-to-head game will be made using the below:

- Ice availability
- Officials availability
- IHNSW discretion (eg. all Grand Final game two being played at the same rink)
- Each team getting a home and away game
- Higher seed preference

Only players registered in the Senior category are eligible to play in the Senior competition (18 and older Womens grade registered players are exempt from this rule). An ECSL drafted player who accepts the position on an ECSL team, cannot be registered in Senior simultaneously.

Players registered in 17U (Midget) and ECSL or AIHL are not eligible to play in the Senior Divisions.

All games in Senior have a maximum duration of 60 minutes and are played in three timed periods with 1 minute (minimum) intervals, as follows:-

- First two periods: 18 minutes running time
- Third period: **16** minutes running time where the first 13 minutes are running time, AND if goal difference is 2 goals or less, the final 3 minutes are stop time; or if goal difference is more than 2 goals, the final 3 minutes will be running time

During running time, the time clock will only stop when the referee calls time-out. On-ice officials and / or timekeepers will call an end to the game when the 60 minute ice slot is finished, even if there is time remaining on the game clock

Players, goalies and officials must have attained eighteen (18) years of age in order to be considered eligible for participation in Senior division.

Senior division players are permitted to play a maximum of three (3) games and only one (1) game prior to 1 May in full contact grades ECSL or AIHL before becoming ineligible for Senior division.

Senior division goalies are permitted to play a maximum of five (5) games and only two (2) games prior to 1 May in full contact grades ECSL or AIHL before becoming ineligible for Senior division.

Senior division players and goalies may play two (2) games of AIHL Exhibition games in addition to the 3 games full contact grades ECSL or AIHL before becoming ineligible for Senior division.

Players in a lower division may play into a higher division(s) of the Senior Competition no more than a total of five (5) games.

Goalies in a lower division may play into a higher division(s) of the Senior Competition no more than a total of five (5) games during the regular season; however, they are interchangeable between teams and clubs.

Players are not permitted to play for more than one team in the same Division.

Playing up players who are filling in playing in the grade above theirs, may play their 5 play up games across multiple teams in the same division.

Goalies are permitted to play across their division.

Players and goalies in a higher division are not permitted to play into a lower division.

Players and goalies are permitted to transfer from a higher division into a lower division if they have played no more than a total of five (5) games in the higher division team. Players and goalies are permitted to transfer to a different team in the same division. This is a permanent move and only one transfer per player is permitted per season.

All Male players in Senior Divisions **MUST** wear a half or full cage/half or full visor when on the ice.

In Senior Divisions all teams must have a dark and light set of jerseys. The Home team is to wear their dark jersey.

7.8.2 Officiating Rules

In the event of a shortage of officials, teams will at the discretion of IHNSW, be allocated senior and /or women's game to officiate. If a team fails to provide officials for the games they have been allocated, that team will lose two (2) competition points.

Cancelled games in this Division will result in one (1) point per team. Games cancelled due to lack of Officials will not be rescheduled.

7.8.3 Penalty Minute Rules

Any player in this grade that receives more than seven (7) minutes in minor penalties in any one game will be excluded from the rest of the game.

Any player or bench official accruing three (3) Misconduct penalties under IIHF Rule 39 - ABUSE OF OFFICIALS or RULE 75 - UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT will receive an automatic two (2) game suspension; any further Misconduct penalties under IIHF Rule 39 - ABUSE OF OFFICIALS or RULE 75 - UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT will receive a further automatic two (2) game suspension.

Any player receiving a game misconduct penalty for Abuse of Officials will be ejected from that game and will be suspended from the subsequent game, regardless of the time of game the infraction occurred.

During the play-offs and finals any player or bench official assessed one (1) major penalty will be suspended for the remainder of the current game and the next game, any player or bench official assessed a further major penalty will be suspended for the remainder of the play-offs and finals.

During the play-offs and finals any player or bench official accumulating two (2) misconduct penalties will be suspended for the next game and any player or bench official accumulating a further misconduct penalty will be suspended for the remainder of the play-offs and finals.

Any player or bench official accruing a total of seventy-five (75) penalty minutes in one season (including play-offs and finals) will be suspended from the senior competition for the remainder of the season and their registration will be reviewed by the senior committee prior to the next season commencing. Any player or bench official excluded from participation in the play-offs and finals is ineligible to receive an IHNSW senior award.

Where suspensions cannot be served in the remainder of the current season, the suspension will be served in the following season.

Team Penalty Minutes Limits will be determined by the number of games in the regular season per division. Any team accruing Limit 1 in penalty minutes in the regular season will lose two (2) competition points. Any team accruing Limit 2 in penalty minutes in the regular season will lose a further four (4) competition points. Any team accruing Limit 3 in penalty minutes in the regular season cannot participate in the play-offs and finals and the team will be reviewed by IHNSW for acceptance into the competition the following season.

Number of games regular season	Limit 1	Limit 2	Limit 3
18	180	230	280
20	200	250	300
21	210	265	320
24	240	300	360
Penalty	minus 2 points	minus additional 4 points	playoff ineligible

7.9 Special Rules for Women's Grade

Any player in this grade that receives more than seven minutes in minor penalties in any one game will be excluded from the rest of that game. In applying this rule, only personal penalties are counted; ie: a two and ten penalty is counted as two.

It is compulsory for Women players to wear a full face mask. Only female players are permitted to play in the Women's Grade, this includes Goalkeepers.

Teams in the Women's grade must have a Goalkeeper to register the team.

During the regular season only, when the regular Goalkeeper is unavailable, a team may borrow a Goalkeeper from any other team in the same grade, provided both playing teams agree in addition to the borrowed Goalkeepers home team. A borrowed Goalkeeper cannot use replacement games to qualify for finals or to qualify for a second team. A Goalkeeper can only earn finals eligibility by playing for their regular team.

7.10 Special Rules for Goalkeepers

Goalkeepers must wear approved helmets.

Players are not permitted to wear goalkeeper skates unless playing the position of goalkeeper. Goalkeepers are permitted to wear player skates in place of goalkeeper skates.

7.11 Special Rules for State Representative Teams

State representative players are expected to actively contribute to state and club training development, with particular emphasis on new player intake programs.

State representative players, coaches and managers of Defris and Tange teams must complete the Sport Integrity Australia e-learning courses (Level 1 Anti-Doping course) and provide proof or certificate to IHNSW. This is an IHNSW requirement.

State Representative Team Managers must be up to date with the IHA Anti-Doping Policy, and will be required to sign a declaration to this effect and submit to IHA, prior to the National Championship they are attending. The Ginsberg State Teams are exempt from this ruling.

8 - Team Managers Administrative Responsibilities

8.1 Club Team Managers

Club team managers must:

- be fully conversant with this Handbook;
- Minimum IHNSW registration of NPO
- abide by IHNSW "Code of Conduct";
- keep abreast of the draw and liaise weekly regarding any late changes;
- lodge completed team sheets 15 minutes before the start of the game (refer to Attachment Example Official Team Sheet);
- ensure all players have the correct uniforms & equipment;
- ensure that all players and bench officials are financial, free and clear of all suspensions and restrictions;
- check and sign the Game Report before the game;
- advise the relevant club president, secretary or IHNSW Executive Officer of anything untoward that is occurring within the sport;
- make sure of relevant statistics for both their players and games, so that ineligible players can be identified. Forms are available from the office for this; and
- be conversant with IHA Anti-Doping Policy (please refer to relevant sections and paragraphs for further details). Copies are available on the [IHNSW website](#)

It is the responsibility of the home team's manager (no matter at which venue the game is scheduled), to provide a game report sheet, a recorder (for completion of the game report sheet), timekeeper and sufficient pucks for both teams' warm-up, plus sufficient new or near new pucks for the actual game.

Players should not share drink bottles to avoid contracting infectious diseases such as Meningococcal. Managers should advise their team of the necessity of hygienic practices.

8.2 State Team Managers

State team managers must:

- be fully conversant with this Handbook and the [State Team Selection Policy and Team Management Guidelines](#)
- abide by IHNSW "Code of Conduct"
- ensure all players have the correct uniforms & equipment;
- ensure that all players and bench officials are financial, free and clear of all suspensions and playing restrictions;
- ensure all players are fully paid before team departure.
- advise the IHNSW Committee of Management or the Executive Officer of anything untoward that occurred during the tournament and any breach of the code of conduct;
- mandatory reporting of all incidents both on and off the ice to IHNSW; and
- Completion of Injury reports and lodgment with IHNSW
- be conversant with IHA Anti-Doping Policy (please refer to relevant sections and paragraphs for further details). Copies are available on the [IHNSW website](#).

State team managers are appointed by the Committee of Management and expressions of interest may be called for beforehand.

Prior to departure of a state team, managers must complete an itinerary of team activities for each day, that must be lodged with the IHNSW office.

Surplus monies collected from the team for tournament participation must be returned to IHNSW with documentation of re-distribution of the money to the teams' members.

State team uniforms are only available for sale to those players and officials selected.

Players should not share drink bottles to avoid contracting infectious diseases such as Meningococcal. Managers should advise their team of the necessity of hygienic practices.

8.3 Coaches

Coaches must:

- have a minimum Level 1 Coaching Accreditation with IHA
- must wear helmets on ice
- must hold a valid Working with Children check
- sign the Coaches Code of Conduct.
- not be the manager of the same team.

9 - General Administrative Game Rules

9.1 Maximum Team

A maximum of twenty players and two goalkeepers may be dressed for a game, unless otherwise stated.

9.2 Non Sanctioned Games

IHA and IHNSW cannot take responsibility for our members participating in any non-sanctioned games/ leagues.

9.3 Scrimmages

An intra-club (internal) scrimmage during a club's normal training session does not require sanctioning to be covered under the insurance policy of the NSWIHA Inc. Any scrimmage involving players from other clubs must be sanctioned and requires official referees in order to be covered by insurance.

9.4 Lodgment of Team Sheets

The team manager is responsible for the lodgment of a properly completed Official Team Sheet, duly signed with the Score Keeper at least fifteen minutes before the start of the game. Players' numbers must be listed in numerical order. Refer Appendices for an example of a properly completed Team Sheet.

9.5 Players Uniform & Equipment

If the referee inadvertently allows a player to play whilst failing to meet the uniform & equipment rules (such as face & neck guards), the opposing team captain must advise the referee and the offending player must leave the ice until suitably attired. (See referee and uniform & equipment).

9.6 Stoppage of Play

The referee's whistle and not the sounding of the rink's buzzer will determine the stoppage of play during each period, but the rink's buzzer and not the referee's whistle will determine the end of each period and the end of the game.

9.7 Penalty Shots

In the case of a penalty shot, the time clock will be stopped until the penalty shot has been taken. The referee will inform both benches and the goal tender on the procedures for a penalty shot.

9.8 Alcohol Consumption

Alcohol is not permitted at any IHNSW sanctioned games outside of any designated, licensed area of a rink.

9.9 Medication

Any medication must be supported by a current medical certificate.

10 – All forms can be found at the [FORMS and RULES](#) page of our website [HERE](#)

10.1 Instructions on how to fill in team and game report sheets [HERE](#)

10.1.1 Official Team Sheet [HERE](#)

This must be filled out and signed by the team manager/ coach.

- Players' name and initial are to be listed in numerical order. (ie: Jersey Number).
- Goaltenders are to be indicated
- Team captain to be indicated
- Alternate captains to be indicated
- Imports to be indicated

Only twenty (20) players and two (2) goaltenders may be listed for a total of twenty two (22) players. Only registered players, coaches, managers or team officials can be listed on the Team Sheet. Registration numbers must be shown.

The team manager/ coach is to sign the Team Sheet and submit it to the scorer at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time.

Team Sheets not following the correct format will not be accepted.

Late players not listed on the official Team Sheet will not be included once the game has commenced.

10.1.2 Game Report

10.4 Example Game Report Sheet [HERE](#) and 10.5 - Blank Game Report Sheet [HERE](#)

This is filled out and completed by the scorer.

All games to be recorded on the official "Game Report" as supplied by IHA (obtainable from IHNSW).

All relevant sections to be filled out prior to the start of the game ie: state, venue, date, grade, round (game number as per schedule), team names, manager, coach, timekeeper and scorer, etc.

From the Team Sheet, players are to be listed numerically and clearly printed on the Game Report. The starting line-up, goaltender(s), captain, alternate captains, and imports are to be clearly indicated.

Only those players listed on the Game Report prior to the start of the game shall be eligible to play that game. Players not listed on the Game Report are ruled "ineligible".

Only those persons listed on the Game Report are eligible to occupy the players bench areas.

During the game the following information is filled on the Game Report by the scorer:

- Penalties: the number of the player, the description of the penalty, the duration of the penalty and the time of the penalty.

The penalty commences when the lines-person drops the puck to re-commence play. Scoring: the time of the goal, the number of the player scoring the goal (G) and the numbers of the player(s) - maximum of two credited with an assist.

- Shots on goal: record goaltenders number (for each period), and list shots on the goaltender, ie. Only those shots that would have been goals if the goaltender had not saved them.

Shots "wide" or "high", even though saved by the goaltender, are not included.

- Indicate any goaltender changes and time of change during the game. At the conclusion of the game, list "total penalty minutes", "total goals" and the game result.

Game Misconducts or Match Penalties are counted as twenty (20) minutes.

The scorer is to delete the players that did not play.

The scorer must have the Game Report checked and signed by the Referee.

VERY IMPORTANT

Only registered members (NPO minimum) are permitted to be in the recording & timekeeping box, or on the bench, or on the game report sheet.

If non-members enter any un-screened areas of the rink and are injured, they are not insured.

Any member has the right to insist that non-members remain in the screened, spectator areas of the rink.

In the case of non-members refusing to comply with this, a member must ask a senior game official to stop the game until they do.

The referee or other game official is officially empowered to stop or continue a game. All registered IHNSW members are expected to respect the decisions of game officials at all times and to provide every assistance and support to the officials in carrying out their duties. Obstructing a referee's ruling will delay the game and may result in disciplinary action.