IHACT Hockey Handbook
2026 Edition

Revision	For Use
Date Adopted	11 April 2026
Date for Review	11 April 2027

Contents

Abbreviations 4
1 Governance Framework 5
1.1 Purpose of Document 5
1.2 Document Hierarchy 5
1.3 Document Review and Revision 5
1.4 Outline of Responsibilities 5
2 Season Format 7
2.1 Grades 7
2.2 Scheduling 7
2.3 League Standings 7
2.4 Finals Structures 8
2.5 Game Format 8
2.6 Forfeits 9
2.7 Cancellations 9
3 Team Requirements 9
3.1 Team Registrations 9
3.2 Manager and Coach 10
3.3 Team Roster 10
3.4 Player Numbers 10
3.5 Teams with Junior Players 11
3.6 Payments 11
3.7 Officiating and Scorekeeping 11
3.8 Uniforms 12
4 Player Eligibility 12
4.1 Memberships & Registrations 12
4.2 Outstanding Penalties 13
4.3 Team Restrictions 13
4.4 Movement Between Grades 13
4.5 Player Skill Levels 14
4.6 New Players 14
4.7 International & Interstate Players 14
4.8 Juniors Playing in Senior Grades 14

4.9 Finals Eligibility 14
4.10 Penalties for Ineligible Players 14
5 Substitutes 15
5.1 Numbers of Substitutes 15
5.2 Regular Season Substitutes 16
5.3 Finals Substitutes 16
6 Player Draft 16
6.1 Draft Procedure 16
6.2 Balancing Player Numbers 17
6.3 Returning Players 17
6.4 Player Preferences 18
6.5 Phoenix Team 18
6.6 D Grade Draft Special Rules 18
6.7 Player Transfers 18
6.7.1 Player Transfers Within a Season 18
6.7.2 Player Transfers Between Seasons 19
7 Playing Rules 19
7.1 Current Rules 19
7.2 Equipment Rules 19
7.3 Bench Rules 19
7.4 Drugs & Alcohol 19
7.5 Codes of Conduct 19
7.6 Accumulation of Penalty Minutes 19
8 Tribunal & Supplementary Discipline 20
9 Enquiries, Disputes and Complaints 20
10 ACT Representative Teams 20
11 Annual Awards 20
Appendix A: IHA Player Code of Conduct 21

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Wording
IHA	Ice Hockey Australia
IHACT	Ice Hockey ACT
IIHF	International Ice Hockey Federation

1 Governance Framework

1.1 Purpose of Document

The purpose of this document is to clearly articulate the regulations and requirements for participating in IHACT sanctioned events into a single comprehensive handbook.

All parties involved in these events, either organising, playing, officiating or volunteering are expected to be aware of these requirements and abide by them.

Changes to this document can only be made by a majority vote of the IHACT Board. Any changes cannot be made retrospective. Where the situation requires, IHACT can issue directions or clarifications to this document to be applied immediately, even if mid-season.

This document applies only to events sanctioned by IHACT. Non-sanctioned events will have their own rules that should be referred to.

Participation in a non-sanctioned event is not covered by the insurances maintained by IHA. Full details of these insurances can be found here:

https://www.iha.org.au/governance/insurances

1.2 Document Hierarchy

This document sits below all other policy documents and the Constitution of IHACT. It also sits below all other Policies, Guidelines or directives issued by IIHF, IHA or IHACT.

If there is a contradiction between any Policy documents and this Handbook, the interpretation of the Policy document shall prevail.

1.3 Document Review and Revision

This document should be revised as required to suit the needs of the evolving sport and membership. In particular, numerical rules such as those about team sizes, officials requirements and game limitations should be reviewed annually to ensure they remain appropriate.

The provisions in this document should be reviewed by the Grade Committees and appropriate Junior/Senior Delegate at the conclusion of each season to provide feedback and propose potential improvements.

It is the responsibility of IHACT to review all proposals and determine what changes are to be made to this document.

1.4 Outline of Responsibilities

The below table sets out the key responsibilities for each role involved in the administration of the regular ice hockey leagues in the ACT.

Role	Responsibilities

IHACT Board	- Set overall Policy Agenda
	  - Determine the rules of the various leagues and competitions run by IHACT,
	  - Prepare and issue the Hockey Handbook
	  - Advise on application of Policies and other IHACT governance documents where required
	  - Administer the Disciplinary Policy

Senior Delegate	- Point of contact between senior leagues/players and the IHACT Board - Schedules the senior leagues - Coordinates the senior drafts - Administers the senior leagues in accordance with IHACT Policies - Ensure scoring and record keeping is maintained for senior leagues - Coordinates IHACT participation in senior tournaments
Junior Delegate	- Point of contact between junior leagues/players and the IHACT Board - Schedules the junior leagues - Administers the junior leagues in accordance with IHACT Policies - Ensures scoring and record keeping is maintained for junior leagues - Coordinates IHACT participation in junior tournaments
Grade Committee (led by Grade Coordinator) – Senior Grades only	- Ensure schedule is communicated to all Team Managers - Maintain a copy of each teams Playing Register - Ensure league information is clearly communicated - Ensure all teams and players are financial and in accordance with current IHACT Policies - Coordinate scorers for league games The Grade Committee is made up of 1 representative from each team. This shall be either the Team Manager or another nominated representative who can make decisions on behalf of their team
Team Managers (assisted by Team Coaches) – Senior Grades only	- Maintain a current playing roster, and communicate this to the Senior/Junior Delegate as appropriate - Ensure all players are financial and properly registered - Ensure disciplinary actions such as suspensions are correctly observed - Ensure team members abide by the Player Code of Conduct - Ensure all players have compliant equipment and uniforms - Manage any special conditions such as Working with Vulnerable People credentials - Ensure team members are aware of schedule and adhere to timing requirements

2 Season Format

2.1 Grades

The below table sets out the current grade arrangement for league hockey in the ACT. The grade rank shall be used to determine higher/lower grades for the purpose of player eligibility as set out elsewhere in this document.

Rank	Grade	Season	Description
1	Senior B	Winter	Highest level of IHACT League Hockey in the ACT. For advanced, experienced players over the age of 18.
2	Senior C	Winter	Intermediate hockey league for experienced or skilled players over the age of 18. A junior team for younger advanced players plays in this League. Refer to the Playing Up or Down Policy for eligibility criteria.
3	Senior D	Summer	The beginner league for players over the age of 18. Once players develop sufficient skills and experience they may be required to move to Senior C in order to maintain Senior D as a balanced beginner league.
3	Women's League	Summer	A league for women and girls aged 14 or older of any skill level.
4	Junior	Winter	A variety of leagues are run based on age. Open to boys and girls from age 5 to 18. Exact league format and age divisions depend on registration numbers.

Player ages are determined by their age at 31 December in the year in which the league begins.

2.2 Scheduling

The intent for all leagues is that each team plays each other team the same number of times in the regular season. The exact number of games may vary depending on the availability of ice time and the number of teams in each league.

The Senior and Junior Delegates will coordinate the schedule with the rink and the relevant Grade Committees before the season commences. The intent is that game times will be as regular as ice time restrictions permit and that the distribution of game times is as equitable as reasonably possible across all teams in a grade.

Other elements of the season such as game length and finals format may be amended to suit scheduling requirements.

2.3 League Standings

League standings shall be determined in accordance with the official records of the scoresheets completed at the game. Once the scoresheet is signed by a referee it cannot be altered.

Points will be awarded for game results as follows:

- Win: 2 points
- Draw: 1 point

- Loss: 0 points

A team that forfeits for any reason shall have a loss recorded and the opposition a win with a score of 3-0.

Overall league standings shall be determined by rankings in the following categories, in order. Only in the event of a tie shall the lower ranked determinations be used:

1. Game points
2. Most wins
3. Results between the tied teams
4. Goal Difference
5. Least penalty minutes

2.4 Finals Structures

The structure of the finals for each league will be determined prior to the start of each season by the Senior or Junior Delegate in consultation with the Grade Committee as appropriate. The intent is to have a playoff system for the top 4 teams from the regular season, in a format similar to:

- Semi-final 1: 1st v 2nd
- Semi-final 2: 3rd vs 4th
- Minor Final: Loser Semi-final 1 vs Winner Semi-final 2
- Grand Final: Winner Sem-final 1 vs Winner Minor Final

The exact format may vary depending on the number of teams in the League.

All finals must have a result at the scheduled time, there are no replays. If a game is tied after 3 periods, a penalty shootout will be held. There shall be no overtime.

No timeouts will be allowed during finals.

Fo penalty shootouts, the following rules apply:

- Shootouts will be an initial best of 3
- If the score is tied the shootout will proceed in a series of single round shootout until a winner is determined
- No player may take more than 1 shot until all players have had 1 shot, and so on for subsequent rounds if required.

Teams not involved in the finals may be entitled to a single consolation game to ensure ice time is as close to equal as possible. Consolation games are to be coordinated by the Senior Delegate in consultation with the Grade Committees and do not have penalty shootouts.

2.5 Game Format

All IHACT leagues games shall have the following timing:

- Warm Up: 3 minutes
- Periods: 3 of 18 minutes each
- Period Breaks: 1 minute

All IHACT League games shall have a running clock, except for the final 2 minutes of the third period of finals games where the score is within 1, which shall use the stop clock format.

The referee is responsible for game timing and is the final arbiter of all timings. Team Managers, Coaches and Captains are responsible for ensuring their teams comply with timing requirements.

The referee, at their sole discretion, may reduce the length of the final period by a period of up to 5 minutes to maintain a scheduled finishing time.

The game format may be amended before the start of the season to suit requirements of scheduling.

2.6 Forfeits

A team must have at least 5 skaters and 1 goalie to start a game. This is in line with IIHF requirements.

If a team cannot meet this requirement, they will forfeit the match with the consequences as described elsewhere in Section 2.3. The Team Manager should provide as much notice as possible of an upcoming forfeit, by notifying the Senior Delegate, the Grade Committee, the opposing Team Manager and the Referee-in-Chief.

Where a team would not have sufficient players from their Team Roster to meet this minimum requirement, they may make use of Substitutes. Substitutes must meet the requirements set out in Section 5.

Teams who repeatedly forfeit games may have their participation in the league suspended and may be prevented from registering in future leagues.

2.7 Cancellations

Games may be cancelled in any league due to circumstances outside of IHACT control, such as rink availability, maintenance issues or availability of officials.

Where possible, an attempt will be made to reschedule the game, but due to ice time limitations this is rarely possible. In the event of a cancellation, both teams will be awarded 1 point.

Cancelled games will not be rescheduled.

If a game is cancelled for a reason other than ice availability, the booking for the game will remain with the affected teams. Subject to agreement with the rink, teams may use this booking for their own use. Such sessions are not IHACT sanctioned events and not covered by insurances or any IHACT Policies.

If a game is forfeited due to lack of player numbers by either or both teams, this will not count as a cancelled game.

3 Team Requirements

All teams are required to comply with the following requirements to participate in IHACT leagues.

3.1 Team Registrations

All senior teams must notify the Senior Delegate of their intent to participate in an IHACT league by a date to be advertised by the Senior Delegate. The intent of this requirement is only to verify the returning teams for the purpose of grade planning and scheduling. The Senior Delegate does not have the right to refuse the registration of a returning team.

There may be limits on total team numbers imposed by IHACT to meet requirements such as total player numbers or available ice time.

New teams may be invited to join a league by IHACT or may request to join a league if formed independently. Priority will be given to returning teams from previous seasons in the event of team nominations exceeding the available number of places.

Memberships, registration and payments are made on an individual, not team, basis.

The Junior Delegate determines the number and type of teams in junior leagues.

3.2 Manager and Coach

Each team must have a nominated Manager. IHACT recommends each team has a nominated Coach as well to be a point of contact for officials and help manage the bench, but this is not a mandatory requirement. However please refer to Section 3.5 for special requirements of teams with Junior players.

Each Manager and Coach must have a current, appropriate membership of IHA and IHACT.

Any other non-playing person on the bench of a team must also comply with the requirements for the Manager and Coach.

3.3 Team Roster

The Team Managers must submit a complete team roster to the Senior Delegate at a time agreed between the Senior Delegate and the Grade Committee prior to the start of the season. The team roster shall list the full name of all players and the number they will wear for the season.

The team roster shall indicate the Team Captain and 2 Alternate Captains.

The roster and players on the roster must comply with the requirements of this document. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that this happens.

The IHACT Registrar registrar@ihat.org.au is the principal point of contact for all membership and eligibility enquiries.

The Team Manager must provide the playing roster to the scorers in advance of each game.

3.4 Player Numbers

IHACT may apply size restrictions to team rosters in any league. Such restrictions are to ensure a fair balance of player numbers across each grade and equitable access to ice time for all members.

Teams must abide by any such restrictions to participate in an IHACT League.

Current roster size restrictions are as per the following table.

Grade	Minimum Skaters	Maximum Skaters	Minimum Goalies
Senior B	16	20	1
Senior C	16	20	1
Senior D	16	20	1
Women's League	16	20	1
Juniors	Team numbers are determined by age grade coaches and the Junior Delegate on a seasonal basis		

Where a team cannot meet the requirements of this section with their returning players from the previous season, they must acquire new players using the Draft Procedure as set out in Section 6.

3.5 Teams with Junior Players

If a team has juniors aged under 18 years, the Team Manager, Coach and any other team official on the bench must hold a current Working with Vulnerable People card and provide a copy of this to the Senior Delegate for verification and record keeping. These people must carry their card at all times when juniors are participating in games or training and be able to produce it on request by IHACT or Government appointed official.

A team with juniors aged under 18 on their roster must have a Level 1 Bench Coach present at all games. That bench coach must hold a current Working with Vulnerable People card and provide a copy of this to the Senior Delegate for verification and record keeping.

Where a team with juniors aged under 18 on their roster cannot meet any of these requirements, the juniors may not participate in any games until the requirements are met in full. If a junior participates in a game where these requirements are not met, they will be deemed an ineligible player, with the attendant consequences outlined in Section 4.10.

If the nominated bench coach is not available for a particular game, the team may nominate a suitable replacement who meets the same criteria, including that all of the information has been supplied to IHACT previously. If a replacement cannot be found, the above provisions apply.

These are legal requirements within the ACT. Failure to comply with these requirements can have legal consequences for both the individuals and the Association.

3.6 Payments

All players are responsible for making their membership and ice fee payments via eSportsDesk.

The IHACT Board will set membership and ice fees for participation in leagues prior to the start of the season. These fees will cover all ice hire, officials and scorers' payments and other administrative costs of the league. The intent is to have a cost neutral ice fee component for all leagues.

Fees will be charged individually on a per person basis based on expected player numbers. Team Managers may make their own arrangements within their teams to subsidise or otherwise amend financial obligations for team members without the involvement of IHACT. IHACT will not create bespoke payment arrangements for individual players.

All fees must be paid prior to the start of the season, within the advertised registration period in accordance with the separate Payments Policy. Team Managers are responsible for ensuring all players on their team roster have made the required payments prior to the start of the season.

Any player who does not comply with these requirements will be deemed ineligible, with the attendant consequences outlined in Section 4.10.

3.7 Officiating and Scorekeeping

The Referee-in-Chief will coordinate officials for each game. To ensure a sufficient pool of officials is available to call on, IHACT may require that each team include a specified number of qualified officials on their roster, who may be required to officiate a specified minimum number of games in the season. The current requirements are set out in the table below.

The Referee-in-Chief will coordinate the provision of scorers for all games. All Scorers must have completed the IHACT Scorers Course. To ensure there are enough suitably qualified scorers to call on, IHACT may require that each team include a specified number of qualified scorers on their roster

who may be required to score a minimum number of games in the season. The current requirements are set out in the table below.

Official Type	Minimum Number per Team	Minimum Games to Officiate
Referee/Linesperson	1	1
Scorer	1	1

Penalties may be applied to teams that do not meet these requirements, including points deductions and restrictions on future registrations. Current penalties are outlined in the table below:

Item	Penalty
Failure to meet required number of officials at start of season	3-point deduction – suspended until completion of regular season. Point deduction will not be applied if the team roster meets the requirement by season end by attending a nominated officials course.
Failure to officiate the minimum number of games	2-point deduction per game under the minimum.

Further penalties are at the absolute discretion of the IHACT Board.

All scoring must comply with the IHACT Scorers Procedure.

3.8 Uniforms

Teams are responsible for organising their own uniforms. All players must wear the same uniform and maintain the same number for the duration of a season.

Uniforms must comply with all IIHF rules on equipment, as well as all IHA and IHACT Policies.

New uniform designs must be submitted to the Senior Delegate for acceptance by the IHACT Board. Such acceptance shall not be unreasonably withheld, and designs may only be denied on the following grounds:

- Non-compliance with rules and regulations
- Similarity to an existing accepted design
- Adult or offensive content
- Inappropriate sponsorship

If player names are included on jerseys, they must be the players surname, plus an initial if multiple players of the same surname exist. Nicknames are not permitted on playing jerseys.

Teams wearing non-accepted or non-compliant uniforms for a game will be deemed to have forfeited that match.

4 Player Eligibility

All players must comply with the following requirements to be eligible to participate in IHACT leagues. Failure to comply with any one of the following requirements means the player is ineligible, and there are penalties for fielding an ineligible player in a league game.

4.1 Memberships & Registrations

All players must have current IHA and IHACT playing memberships.

All players must be financial with IHA and IHACT, meaning they have no outstanding debts to either organisation, or any other Member Association of IHA.

The player must have registered and made payment for the league.

4.2 Outstanding Penalties

Players who have suspensions from previous seasons, other leagues or other tournaments may not be eligible to participate in a league until the balance of any penalties has been served.

4.3 Team Restrictions

A player may only play for one team within a grade. They may not play for another team in that grade as a substitute.

A player may play for another team as a substitute in their non-primary role, e.g. a skater may substitute as a goalie and vice-versa, but only if all other options for acquiring a substitute in accordance with this document have been exhausted, and only with the express permission of the Team Managers of all affected teams in the match concerned of the players teams.

Women's League is excepted from this rule, as there is no other League from which to draw female substitutes. Player substitutions must be agreed between team managers prior to the game in this case.

In the event that there are not enough suitably qualified goalies registered for a grade, the Grade Coordinators and Senior Delegate may agree to allow goalies to play for more than one team, providing due consideration is given as to wat happens when those teams play each other.

4.4 Movement Between Grades

The intent of these rules is to prevent players playing in both summer and winter leagues to the exclusion of other eligible players.

A senior player may only play in one grade within any 12 month period. No senior player may play in more than one senior grade at the same time.

A player may play as a skater in one grade and a goalie in another, providing they meet the skill requirements for both roles in both grades. They may not then substitute at all in the lower grade.

As currently C and D Grade play in different seasons, it is permitted for a D Grade player to move up into C Grade within the same 12 month period. However, they may not move back down to D Grade again for at least 2 seasons, unless dropped by their team and not selected by any other C Grade team.

A player moving to a lower grade must remain in that lower grade for at least 2 seasons. During this period they are not eligible to substitute into any other grade.

Female players may participate in both the Women's League and one (1) graded competition (B, C, or D Grade). Participation in more than one graded competition is not permitted.

This exception recognises that the Women's League operates separately from the standard grading system. It is intended to support player development, while also strengthening participation in the Women's League.

4.5 Player Skill Levels

The intent is that all players participate in the Grade most appropriate for their skill level. This is to help maintain player safety and ensure fairness and balance in all competitions.

The Senior Delegate is responsible for ensuring all players are at a suitable skill level for the league, including players being too skilled or insufficiently skilled for the league. Assessment of player skills shall be undertaken in collaboration with the Director of Senior Coaching, the Director of Player Development, the Grade Committee and Team Managers.

The IHACT Board may act in the case of inappropriately skilled players continuing in a league to preserve league balance and player safety.

4.6 New Players

New players should be directed to the Senior or Junior Delegate depending on their age in the first instance.

All new players seeking to join a senior league must go through the Draft process as set out elsewhere in this league. No teams may add players to their roster outside of the Draft process.

New players seeking to join a league partway through a season may only do so with the express prior approval of the Senior Delegate and Grade Committee, and only if there is room within the team size restrictions as set out in Section 3.4.

4.7 International & Interstate Players

Players moving to the ACT from interstate will require a clearance from both states if they have played hockey before. Contact the IHACT Secretary at secretary@ihact.org.au for details on how to obtain this clearance.

Players moving to the ACT from overseas will require an International Transfer Card (ITC), issued by IIHF. Full details of this process can be found at https://www.iha.org.au/participation/international-transfers . Contact the IHACT Secretary at secretary@ihact.org.au for more information.

Players who do not have these clearances will be deemed ineligible with the attendant consequences as set out in Section 4.10.

4.8 Juniors Playing in Senior Grades

Juniors may play in senior grades only in accordance with the IHACT Playing Up/Down Policy. Refer to that document for all requirements.

If a team wishes to have junior players on their team roster, the Team Manager must ensure compliance with that Policy and the special conditions set out in Section 3.5.

4.9 Finals Eligibility

Only players who have played at least one third of the regular season game for their registered team may participate in finals series.

Refer to the rules in Section 5.3 for rules about substitutes in finals series.

4.10 Penalties for Ineligible Players

It is the responsibility of the player and Team Manager to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements of this document.

Penalties will apply to individuals who play while ineligible and for teams who play ineligible players. Current penalties are set out in the table below.

Offence	Penalty
Player playing while ineligible – 1st Offence	Required to rectify all ineligibilities as soon as possible, including paying full season registration fees
Player playing while ineligible – deliberate or repeated	Barred from registering with IHACT for a period of 12 months. Any unpaid fees/memberships from the season in which they played will be required to be paid or they will be considered non-financial.
Team playing an ineligible player – 1st Offence	All games in which ineligible player played are deemed forfeited in accordance with this document. Stats from those games preserved.
Team playing an ineligible player – deliberate or repeated	All matches in all games in which ineligible player played are deemed forfeited in accordance with this document. Additional 2 point deduction Team is barred from participating in finals series in that season. If they would otherwise qualify, all teams below them on the table at the end of the season move up until finals places are filled. Team potentially prevented from re-registering in future seasons. Team Manager potentially prevented from applying for membership in future seasons.

5 Substitutes

5.1 Numbers of Substitutes

A team may play a maximum of 6 Substitutes in any game. If a team cannot meet the minimum numbers to meet the minimum requirements with only 6 Substitutes they will be deemed to have forfeited the game. Teams playing more than 6 Substitutes will be deemed to have used ineligible players, with the attendant consequences as set out in Section 4.10.

A team may not use Substitutes to take their total number of skaters to above 13 for any game. Teams who play with more than 13 skaters including Substitutes will be deemed to have used ineligible players, with the attendant consequences as set out in Section 4.10.

If a team is intending to use substitutes, they must notify the opposing Team Manager, the Grade Committee and the Senior Delegate a minimum of 1 hour prior to the scheduled game start time to allow verification of eligibility. Substitutes used in violation of this rule will be deemed ineligible players with the attendant consequences as set out in Section 4.10.

5.2 Regular Season Substitutes

A player may only substitute to a higher grade than the one in which they are registered or were registered last season, whichever is higher.

Only senior players (aged over 18) may substitute.

A player must register as a substitute on eSportsDesk to be eligible for selection.

A player may only substitute as a skater a maximum of 5 times in a season. There is no limit to the number of times a goalie may substitute.

A substitute must meet all other requirements of this document for a regular player.

5.3 Finals Substitutes

No substitute skaters will be permitted in finals series.

A substitute goalie may be permitted under exceptional circumstances, such as the regular goalie being unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances like overseas deployment, serious injury or illness or family emergency.

A team wishing to field a substitute goalie for finals must set out the reasons for the substitution and apply for approval from the Grade Committee and the Senior Delegate prior to the match. Such approval must be sought at least 24 hours prior to the match scheduled start time.

6 Player Draft

The Draft only applies to senior leagues. Junior teams are determined by the coaching staff.

The intent of the Draft is to provide a mechanism for teams requiring new players assess potential players they may not already know and select in a fair manner according to their needs. The am is to maintain a balanced and competitive competition in all grades.

All teams and all players not on a team roster are expected to participate in the Draft. New players may not be added to any team except through the Draft Procedure.

If a team meets the roster size requirements with their returning players they are not required to participate in the Draft, though they may choose to do so. If a team is not going to attend the Draft in this circumstance they should inform the Senior Delegate in advance.

6.1 Draft Procedure

Each grade shall conduct a draft to enable players not currently on a team roster to be selected. All Drafts shall follow the procedure set out below.

1. Drafts shall take place by grade in rank order from highest to lowest where those grades run concurrently (i.e. B then C in winter).
2. Team Managers shall submit their roster of returning players to the Grade Committee and Senior Delegate.
3. Once submitted, these rosters may only be amended by removing a player drafted by a higher grade. No players may be added outside of the Draft Procedure.
4. All players wishing to join a league who are not a returning player on a team roster must register for and attend the Draft Tryouts.
5. If a player cannot make the nominated Draft Day, they may make alternative arrangements to try out with the agreement of the Grade Committee and Senior Delegate. These

alternatives must be before the Draft Day and allow all teams the chance to review the player.

6. All teams who want or require new players must send at least one representative to the Draft Tryouts
7. IHACT will organise a suitably qualified Assessment Committee to attend the Draft Tryout, who shall assess the skill levels of the draft players against the grade requirements
8. Only those players the Assessment Committee deem as meeting the grade requirements will be place on the Draft List. The Senior Delegate will communicate the Draft List to the Grade Committee and Team Managers prior to the Draft. Players may be excluded from the Draft list for being too skilled or not skilled enough.
9. The Draft shall take place at a time and place as agreed by the Senior Delegate and Grade Committee, as soon as possible after the Draft Tryout. Ideally this takes place immediately following the Draft Tryout.
10. Separate Drafts will be run for skaters and goalies to separate the selection processes. The Drafts will be run on the same day.
11. Each team may nominate one person to make selections on their behalf during the Draft
12. Each team makes one selection from the Draft List at a time. The order of selection is the reverse of the final regular season table from the previous season.
13. Selection rounds must continue until either all teams have met the required minimum number of players or the Draft List is exhausted.
14. Teams may not pass a round until they have reached at least the minimum required number of players
15. Once a team has met the required minimum number of players they may continue to make selections as they wish, up to the maximum team size.
16. If a team passes in a selection round, they may not re-enter the Draft at a later round
17. Once the Draft is concluded, the Senior Delegate will verify and publish the final team rosters.

The Grade Committee may, by unanimous vote, agree to amend the above Draft Procedure to suit unexpected circumstances. Any such changes must be minor in nature and not subvert the intent of the Draft as outlined in Section 6. The Senior Delegate must verify that any such changes to not alter the intent before they can be amended. Any such changes are only valid for that season and will not be automatically incorporated into this document.

6.2 Balancing Player Numbers

If there were not enough players on the Draft List to allow all teams to meet the minimum roster size, the Senior Delegate, in consultation with the Director of Player Development and the Grade Committee may act to balance team numbers.

This may include actions such agreeing to lower the minimum player numbers per team, inviting player transfers or holding additional Drafts, or any other mechanisms agreed.

If there were players on the Draft List not selected but all teams have met at least the minimum roster size, those remaining players may register to play in a lower league.

6.3 Returning Players

A player may be placed on a team's initial returning players roster if they played for that team in either of the 2 previous seasons, and otherwise meet the eligibility requirements of this document.

Players returning after a longer absence must go through the Draft.

6.4 Player Preferences

A player may state a preference to play for a particular team. Team Managers may then decide amongst themselves to allow this to happen, but the selection must still be made in accordance with the Draft Procedure.

Any such selections should be that Teams first pick(s) in the Draft, otherwise any arrangements shall be deemed void.

If a player refuses to join the team they were selected by they shall be excluded from registration to any IHACT league or tournament for a period of 12 months.

6.5 Phoenix Team

The Phoenix is a Juniors only development team, eligible to play in the Senior competition. Currently the Phoenix play in C Grade. Players are selected through a bespoke tryout process undertaken by the Head Coach and approved by the IHACT Board prior to the start of the season.

As such the Phoenix are exempt from the requirement to participate in the Draft.

6.6 D Grade Draft Special Rules

As D grade is the nominated beginner/entry grade for IHACT, preference shall be given to new players entering the sport and those dropped from higher grades over players from higher grades wishing to drop a grade for reasons other than skill.

The Draft List shall consist of 2 parts for D-Grade, as below:

Priority List	Secondary List
• New players • Players aged 19 as at 31 December of the relevant calendar year (i.e. junior players who have aged out) • Players who attended the C Grade Draft but were not selected • Players who have been involuntarily dropped by a C Grad and not selected by any other C Grade Team	• Players voluntarily dropping from a higher grade

Draft picks can only be made from the Priority List until it is exhausted. Teams may then continue to select players from the Secondary list within the limitations on team roster size.

If a team passes on a round in the Priority List, they may not re-enter the Draft for the Secondary List.

6.7 Player Transfers

The intent is that player movements are handled by the Draft Procedure to maintain transparency, fairness and balance in all grades.

6.7.1 Player Transfers Within a Season

Circumstances such as injuries, deployments or other life events may necessitate changes during a season.

If a player or team wishes to transfer a player in or out, they must propose transfer along with justification to the Grade Committee. The transfer must be supported by the player and all teams affected to be considered. The Grade Committee must vote unanimously to approve a transfer, else it is denied.

6.7.2 Player Transfers Between Seasons

If a player or teams wish to transfer teams between seasons, they must be included on the new teams playing roster when submitted to the Senior Delegate. As long as this is observed they can be treated as Returning Players in the Draft Process, providing they have played in that grade in the previous 2 seasons and otherwise meet the player eligibility requirements.

Providing these provisions are met, there is no approval process for such transfers.

7 Playing Rules

7.1 Current Rules

All games will be played in accordance with the IIHF published rules current at the start of that league, as modified by the below:

- All IHACT grades are non-checking
- Senior D grade does not permit slap shots

7.2 Equipment Rules

All players must have equipment that complies with all current IIHF, IHA and IHACT rules and Policies.

7.3 Bench Rules

Only players and team officials who are financial under IHACT and IHA and registered to that team in that league may be present on the bench during a game. Suspended players may not sit on the team bench.

7.4 Drugs & Alcohol

Players may not be under the influence of prohibited drugs or alcohol at any time while on the ice. Drinking alcohol or taking prohibited drugs immediately prior to games is expressly forbidden, and any players observed drinking alcohol or taking prohibited drugs immediately prior to a game will be excluded from that game.

It is the responsibility of Team Managers to ensure their players comply with these requirements.

7.5 Codes of Conduct

All players agree to abide by the IHA Code of Behaviour and Ethics, included as an Appendix to this document. Registering for a grade or tournament indicates acceptance of this Code.

7.6 Accumulation of Penalty Minutes

Players will incur supplementary discipline when they exceed the following thresholds of penalty minutes:

- 40 minutes – Warning letter
- 50 minutes – 1 game suspension, does not impact the players PIM
- 60 minutes – Immediate suspension of further participation in games.

Further sanctions such as subsequent season suspensions and denial of future application for membership with IHACT may be applied by a Tribunal or the IHACT Board for players who accumulate more than 60 penalty minutes in a season.

These totals include penalties accrued in finals games.

This section may be overwritten by the IHACT Disciplinary Policy.

8 Tribunal & Supplementary Discipline

All disciplinary matters shall be dealt with in accordance with the separate IHACT Disciplinary Policy. Refer to that Policy for all details.

9 Enquiries, Disputes and Complaints

Players should contact their Team Manager in the first instance for most issues for assistance in resolving them. In the event this is not appropriate, players should then contact the Senior or Junior Delegate as appropriate for the league.

For serious complaints such as abuse or harassment should be directed to the Member Protection Information Officer at mpio@ihact.org.au who is an independent officer for handling complaints in confidence.

If a player wishes for an explanation for an on-ice call from an official, they should firstly take their enquiry to their Team Manager who will then determine next steps. Any such enquiries to an official should be only be made by the Team Manager, Coach or Captain, with the affected player in attendance if needed. Requests for explanations by officials should not be made directly by players during the game.

10 ACT Representative Teams

Selections for and management of teams representing the ACT in tournaments such as Nationals shall be undertaken in accordance with separate IHACT Policies and Guidelines and are not covered by this document.

11 Annual Awards

IHACT maintains a number of awards that are determined at the completion of each season, as set out below.

- **Senator Margaret Reid Shield**: Awarded for a significant contribution by a player, coach or official
- **Norm Holtby Award**: Awarded for a significant contribution to officiating
- **Finnish Canadian Award**: Awarded for a significant contribution by a non-player
- **Dick Thompson Award:** Awarded for a significant contribution by a player
- **Bear McPhail Award**: Awarded for exemplifying the true meaning of sportspersonship, dedication and love of the game
- **President's Encouragement Award**: Awarded for best potential to become a future leader and contributor

Recommendations for award recipients will be made by the Grade Committee for consideration and a final decision by the IHACT Board.

Appendix A: IHA Player Code of Conduct

IHA Players Code of Behaviour & Ethics

In addition to Ice Hockey Australia's General Code of Behaviour & Ethics, IHA member players are required to meet the following requirements in regard to their behaviour during any activity sanctioned by Ice Hockey Australia, Member State Association or an Affiliated Club:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators;
2. Do not tolerate acts of aggression;
3. Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow players and competitors;
4. Care for and respect the equipment provided to you as part of your program;
5. Be frank and honest with your coach concerning illness and injury and your ability to train fully within the program requirements;
6. At all times avoid intimate relationships with your coach;
7. Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper and punctuality;
8. Maintain high personal behaviour standards at all times;
9. Abide by the rules and respect the decision of the official, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision;
10. Be honest in your attitude and preparation to training. Work equally hard for yourself and your team; and
11. Cooperate with coaches and staff in development of programs to adequately prepare you for competition at the highest level.