

**AUCKLAND HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (AHA)  
SENIOR CLUB COMPETITION 2012**

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**NUMBER OF TEAMS**

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General

- 8 teams in each competition grade.
- Grades named Premier, Premier Reserve, Division 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc.
- Entries to grades according to a Club's final placing in 2011. (Refer to the attached table of final placings for 2011 to gain entry to grades for 2012).
- The competition format is based on the very strong premise or expectation that the clubs will support the integrity of the competition format and will enter teams in the grades based on entitlement from the 2011 final placings. If clubs need to cater for growth in player numbers, new teams will be entered in the lowest grade. When entering two teams in one grade (where entitled to) or multiple entries at the lowest level, the club shall rank its teams.
- Should a club not enter a team in a grade to which it is entitled, or should a club, on the basis of exceptional circumstances request that the CEO consider an entry that differs from entitlement (both actions that the Competition Working Group (CWG) discourages because of the potential resulting uncertainties for all club entries, the draw and inconvenience for planning and organisational purposes to all clubs) the CEO shall have discretion, in consultation with CWG, to determine the final grade entries. The only reason to exercise this discretion would be to protect the integrity of the competition and in exercising this discretion, the CEO and CWG shall have regard to the principles of strong competition, effective administration, communication, transparency, consistency and certainty.
- Clubs can only have 1 team in the Premier grade, maximum of 2 teams in any grade except for the bottom grade which is made up of remaining teams.

Premier

- Close the loop hole to allow 'free entry' into Premier from 2012 onwards.
- 7 Teams currently in Premier Men
  - Increase this to 8 for 2012
  - This 8<sup>th</sup> team has yet to be decided, however this will be a new team and not a team moved up from the grade below.
- 9 Teams currently in Premier Women
  - Reduce to 8 for 2012
  - This will be achieved through the relegation of one team from Premier to Premier Reserve.

**COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

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League

- 8 team round robin
- 2 full rounds
- Points carried forward from first round to second round
- Final placings in this section of the competition determined on total points over

two full rounds

Followed by:

#### Championship

- New round robin
- Points are not carried forward from League rounds
- Split into top 4 and bottom 4 based on placings in League
- Top 4 placed teams play one full round robin
- Bottom 4 placed teams play one full round robin
- Semi finals: 1v4, 2v3, 5v8, 6 v7
- Finals :
  - Winner 1v4 v Winner 2v3
  - Loser 1v4 v Loser 2v3
  - Winner 5v8 v Winner 6v7
  - Loser 5v8 v Loser 6v7

Note:

- Awards are to be reviewed to recognise the new competition format.
- The present competition format promises a minimum of 18 games of hockey for each team while the above delivers 19 games:
  - 2 x 7 round robin = 14 games
  - 1 x 3 round robin = 3 games
  - Semi final = 1 game
  - Final = 1 game
  - Total: 19 games

Possible promotion relegation = 1 game

### **NO PLAY WEEKENDS**

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- Queens Birthday and Easter
- Finals weekend of U21 tournament for Premier grade only
- Travelling weekend for U18 for Premier Reserve grade only
- Taupo (NHL warm-up) weekend for Premier grade only
- 2 NHL weekends for all grades other than Premier and Premier Reserve whose competitions will have been completed

### **POINTS SYSTEM**

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- Win = 3 points
- Draw = 1 points
- Loss = 0 points

### **FINALS WEEKEND**

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- Extra time as per NHL rules: 9 aside for 6 minutes, 7 aside for 6 minutes, if a draw still remains the game is decided by penalty shoot outs.

## **PROMOTION RELEGATION**

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- Promotion relegation is based on placings in the Championship finals.
- The highest finishing team in the final placings of the 2012 Championship for each grade, that is eligible to play in the grade above, has the potential for promotion.
- The team that finishes 8<sup>th</sup> in the final placings of the 2012 Championship for each grade has the possibility of relegation.
- Promotion relegation consists of a playoff match for each grade between the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked team in the final placings for the season in the higher grade and the highest finishing team in the final placings for the season in the grade below that is eligible to play in the grade above.
- Extra time as per NHL rules: 9 aside for 6 minutes, 7 aside for 6 minutes, if a draw still remains the game is decided by penalty shoot outs.
- Promotion relegation weekend to be scheduled in the draw, 1 week after the finals weekend (for that grade), except for:
  - Premier – Premier Reserve promotion relegation game which, in 2012, is scheduled four weeks after finals (to allow for NHL)
  - Premier Reserve – Division 1 promotion relegation game which, in 2012, is scheduled one week after Division 1 finals.
- Promotion relegation matches will be played on the scheduled play day for the grade of the team facing relegation.
- After playing the promotion relegation match:
  - A club that wins a promotion relegation match will be promoted to the relevant grade.
  - A club that loses a promotion relegation match will be relegated to the relevant grade.

## **RULES**

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- Normal FIH rules and the local Auckland Hockey Association playing rules to be enforced.

## **PLAYER MANAGEMENT/HIGH PERFORMANCE**

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- Where possible, the intention is that the High Performance team organise its program and player management so that all NHL, U21 and U18 representative players are available to play premier hockey for their clubs on all play days.
- The Executive Council has indicated that while this will be the aim, it may not always be possible. It has decided that the High Performance program and player management requirements will prevail over the club competition. Current indications are that as well as the no play days indicated on page 4, U21 and U18 players will not be available for club competition five days before the start of the U21 and U18 national tournaments which covers the Saturday and Sunday before these events.
- Every endeavour will be made to ensure early communication from High Performance to club coaches of any other days that NHL, U21 and U18 representatives may not be available for their clubs, although it is anticipated that any further days of unavailability will only occur if exceptional, unexpected opportunities arise for High Performance athletes. It is noted that some High Performance athletes may not be available at any time throughout the competition due to injury should there be medical advice to this effect. The intention is that individual injury management plans for these athletes are

discussed between High Performance, the athlete and their club/school coaches.

- It is expected that forearmed with knowledge of competition format and calendar of dates, and improved communication and cooperation between High Performance, club coaches and school coaches, the clubs and coaches will be able to plan for the days that their representative players are unavailable and will build depth in their clubs by preparing other players to step up.

## **GENERAL**

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- Home teams are encouraged to supply ball boys/girls for Premier games. It is the home team's discretion whether to do this or not.

## **INTERCITY/CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FRAMEWORK**

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- To be held at the end of the season, after NHL.
- AHA to lead/run initially.
- Tight timeframe, say 4 weeks.
- First year focus on Premier grade but over time aim to include a second tier.
- 8 teams (men and women) initially.
- The top 4 AHA club teams (based on final placings in Championship for 2012). Composition of remaining 4 teams to be decided as part of developing the competition.
- Details and dates still to be finalised by AHA
- Indicative dates are included in the 2012 calendar of dates

## **OTHER**

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- A calendar of dates for 2012 is attached

## **DOMESTIC COMPETITION CALENDAR 2012**

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AHA Key Competition Dates (to be read in conjunction with the Hockey NZ 2012 Domestic Tournament dates which are attached):

a) No Play Weekends:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queens Birthday and Easter</li> <li>• Finals weekend of U21 tournament for Premier grade only</li> <li>• Travelling weekend for U18 for Premier Reserve grade only</li> <li>• Taupo (NHL warm up) weekend for Premier grade only</li> <li>• 2 NHL weekends for all grades other than Premier and Premier Reserve (assuming AHA is hosting NHL which it has agreed to in principle)</li> </ul>
b) Start of Competition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier: 10 March 2012</li> <li>• Premier Reserve: 18 March 2012</li> <li>• Divisions: 21-22 April 2012</li> </ul>
c) Finals Day/Weekend:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier: 11 August 2012</li> <li>• Premier Reserve: 12 August 2012</li> <li>• Divisions: 15-16 September 2012</li> </ul>
d) Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier/Premier Reserve: 8 September 2012</li> </ul>

relegation day/weekend:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier Reserve/Division 1: 23 September 2012</li> <li>• All other Divisions: 22-23 September 2012</li> </ul>
e) Intercity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier - indicative only: 4 weeks, 15-16 September, 22-23 September, 29-30 September, 6-7 October</li> </ul>

### **COMPETITION POINTS – AS PER HOCKEY NEW ZEALAND TOURNAMENT RULES**

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- a) In each grade, teams will be ranked according to the number of points each has accumulated in the competition.
- b) If at the end of the competition two or more teams have the same number of points for any place, these teams will be ranked according to their respective number of matches won.
- c) Should there still remain equality between two or more teams, then these teams will be ranked according to their respective goal difference (which means 'goals for' less 'goals against').  
A positive goal difference always takes precedence over a negative one.
- d) If there still remains equality between two or more teams, then these teams will be ranked according to their respective number of 'goals for'.
- e) If there still remains equality between two or more teams then the result(s) of the match(es) played between (only) those teams involved will be taken into consideration to determine the ranking of the tied teams.  
If more than two teams are involved, then a ranking based upon the results of the matches between (only) them shall determine their respective position.
- f) Should there still remain equality between two teams, then the matter will be settled by a penalty stroke competition between those teams
- g) If more than two teams are involved, then each team will play a penalty stroke competition against the other teams

### **COMPETITION RULES & CLUB COUNCIL**

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- Apart from the first section (Club Council Background), the current Club Council Policy document is essentially a set of competition rules.
- These rules are now a separate document titled Competition Rules 2012. The Rules include the final competition format, the competition calendar and the "Guiding Principles for the Draw".
- The Competition Rules will be reviewed annually as part of the CWG work.
- In respect of the Senior Club Competition, the Club Council's delegated role will be to oversee and administer the competition rules in conjunction with the AHA office. If for some reason the Club Council is not able to reach a decision on a competition matter, the AHA CEO will have the final decision making power.
- The Competition Rules 2012 are attached.