

# **Newcastle Men's Hockey Association Inc.**

## **Senior Grading Guidelines - Season 2010**

### **Section 1 – Grading Lists**

Prior to the commencement of the first round of each season, all Clubs are required to submit to the Grading Committee a Grading List that contains the full names of all players, both Senior & Junior, who will participate in the NMHA Senior Winter Season Competition.

If a Grading List is not submitted, the most recent Grading List for that Club from the previous season shall apply until a revised list is received by the Grading Committee.

Clubs are to submit a revised Grading List to a member of the Grading Committee at anytime during the season, as required for their list to remain in accordance with these guidelines.

Dependant on the number of teams a Club enters, players shall be graded as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Minimum of 9 players graded (1-9) plus any supplementary players
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Minimum of 11 players graded (10-20) plus any supplementary players
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Minimum of 11 players graded (21-31) plus any supplementary players
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Minimum of 11 players graded (32-42) plus any supplementary players
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Minimum of 11 players graded (43-53) plus any supplementary players
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Minimum of 11 players graded (54-64) plus any supplementary players

continuing in lots of eleven

### **Section 2 – Grading Rules**

Persons who are not registered as a player in the NMHA are NOT permitted to take part in any match.

Players who are not listed on their clubs current Grading List, for whatever reason, are NOT permitted to take part in any match.

Players are NOT permitted to play in a Grade lower than the grade they are graded in. This includes players graded supplementary.

Players, including supplementary players, are permitted to play up in a grade higher than in which they are graded.

Field Players (i.e. any player not graded as a Goal Keeper) are NOT permitted to play Goal Keeper in a Grade lower than the grade they are graded as a field player.

For example; No player graded 1st Grade as a field player can fill in for any lower grade Goal Keeper unless they are graded as a Goal Keeper in or below that lower grade.

Players graded as a Goal Keeper are NOT permitted to play in a lower grade then what they are graded as a Goal Keeper.

For example; if you are graded 3rd Grade Goal Keeper you cannot play 4th Grade Goal Keeper.

Players graded as a Goal Keeper are permitted to play up a Grade as Goal Keeper.

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Version 4.1

Last amended following 2009 AGM

All players are permitted to play Goal Keeper in the same grade they are graded in as a Field Player (without being listed as a Goal Keeper) EXCEPT if that player is graded in a higher grade as a Goal Keeper.

For example; if you are graded as a field player in 3rd Grade AND as Goal Keeper in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade you cannot play Goal Keeper in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade.

Players graded as a Goal Keeper are permitted to play on the Field in the same grade they are graded as a Goal Keeper (without being listed as a Field Player) EXCEPT if that player is graded in a higher grade as a Field Player.

For example; if you are graded as a Goal Keeper in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade AND as Field Player in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade you cannot play as a Field Player in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade.

Players graded as Goal Keepers who elect to play on the field in a different grade to what they are graded as a Goal Keeper MUST also be graded accordingly as a Field Player.

For example; if you are graded as a Goal Keeper in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and you want to play on the Field in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade you MUST be listed as a Field Player in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. This would also be counted as two (2) separate players.

Once a player plays in a higher grade in more than three (3) consecutive games, that player may be regraded to the higher grade. If a player plays in a higher grade in more than two (2) consecutive games more than two (2) times, the player may be regraded to the higher grade by the Grading Committee.

Players who do NOT play for three (3) consecutive rounds automatically become a supplementary grading and all players, except goal keepers, progress up the list. Revised Grading Lists can be submitted prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive round, otherwise the Grading Committee will issue a new list.

Players playing in more than two (2) grades on numerous occasions may be regraded to the higher grade by the Grading Committee.

In the event a club has two (2) teams in the same grade, players are NOT permitted to play across the grade, with the exception being the case of a graded goal keeper from one team being able to play as a field player in the other team.

A player's name is NOT permitted to be added to the match card after the commencement of the second half.

If in the first half of a match a goal is scored by a player whose name is not on the match card, the goal shall be disallowed and the game restarted with a 16 yard hit. If a goal is scored in the second half by a player whose name is not on the match card, the team is then in breach of the rules and shall be deemed to have forfeited the game.

For a match to be counted towards qualifying, the player must have his name on the match card, be present in playing uniform, and be ready to play.

The grading committee shall have the power to grade or regrade players at any time. The Executive Committee may act temporarily for them if necessary.

### **Section 3 – Grading Penalties**

Where clubs are detected breaching the grading rules, regardless of whether they win or lose the game; for the initial match in which a breach occurred, the team involved will be penalized three (3) competition points. For any subsequent breaches by any team in the same club, that team will be penalised four (4) competition points.

In any case the result of the match, prior to the penalty(s) being awarded, shall stand and all goals shall be credited to the team and players as per normal practice.

The Grading Committee must give written notice to the secretary and/or any listed delegates of any Clubs who have breached the rules (of these guidelines) no later than 21 days after the individual breach occurring.

Failure by the Grading Committee to give such notice shall negate any subsequent penalty for the breach in between the 21<sup>st</sup> day after the breach occurring and the day on which notice was submitted to the club by the Grading Committee.

Clubs are permitted to make an appeal, to the NMHA Appeals Committee, against a decision made by the Grading Committee regarding any penalty points. Notification, and a \$50.00 deposit, must be forwarded to the NMHA Secretary within 24 hours of having received notification of the decision made by the Grading Committee.

### **Section 4 – Grading Qualifications**

To qualify for the Finals series a player must either;

- a) Play in MORE than 50% of round matches, excluding byes, in the grade that he is seeking to qualify in.

OR

- b) Play in seven (7) out of the last ten (10) round matches, excluding byes, in the grade that he is seeking to qualify in.

Players may be granted exemptions for games missed due to representative commitments as a player, umpire, administrator or official at State (NSW), National or International Level. Whilst players may be granted these exemptions, as a minimum, players must play seven (7) matches in the NMHA Winter Competition to qualify for the Finals Series.

The ONLY exemption to the above qualification rules is where a player has missed games through an injury(s) sustained when training or playing in or for the NMHA, the NMVHA, the State of NSW or at National or International Level including indoor events.

Such injury must be notified, in writing, to a member of the Grading Committee only and be accompanied by a signed & dated doctors and/or physio certificate within fourteen (14) days of such injury occurring for it to be accepted. The Grading Committee is to acknowledge the receipt of any such certificate, in writing, within seven (7) days of having received it.

Juniors are permitted to play in the NMHA Finals series provided that they qualify as a senior player or they qualify for the Junior Finals series. Juniors selected for the Finals series are to be referred to the Junior Grading Committee for ratification.

Juniors who have been included in the clubs Senior Grading List at any time throughout the season MUST qualify as a Senior Player.

Junior players who do not qualify as Senior Player may only be approved to play in the Senior Finals Series in the event a qualified Senior Player is injured and the club have insufficient qualified senior numbers to fill that team(s). The approved junior players are to be selected in the lowest grade by their clubs, and approved by the Junior Grading Committee. It would be in all clubs best interest to ensure that their junior players qualify under the senior qualifications guidelines during the season.

The decision of the Grading Committee regarding qualifications for the Finals Series is final and is NOT subject to an appeal.

### **Section 5 – Substitutions in Finals Series**

For player substitutions within the Finals Series the fifteen (15) minute rule will apply whereby a player who has qualified in a lower grade may play as a substitute in a higher grade without prejudice to his lower grade qualifications, provided that he does not take the field in the first fifteen (15) minutes of the game except to replace an injured player.

A player who replaces a proven injured player in a higher grade during the Finals Series does not prejudice his qualification in the lower grade.

