



SOUTHERN GAUTENG HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

HOCKEY HANDBOOK

(Everyone's Guide to SG Hockey Rules)

FEBRUARY 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Membership of Southern Gauteng Hockey Association (SG Hockey) includes members (clubs), affiliate members and honorary life members as indicated by SG Hockey's constitution.
- 1.2 Members and affiliate members must be based within SG Hockey's 3 Gauteng districts as indicated in our constitution: City of Johannesburg, Sedibeng District municipality and West Rand District municipality.
- 1.3 Hockey clubs, within SG Hockey's 3 Gauteng districts, are eligible for membership as members while other bodies, also within the boundaries of Southern Gauteng are eligible to become affiliate members.
- 1.4 Any party seeking membership of SG Hockey shall make application in writing.
- 1.5 Membership will be considered by the executive committee (exco) on a case-by-case basis.

2 APPLICATION FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Any club seeking membership of the Southern Gauteng Hockey Association (SG Hockey) shall make application in writing to SG Hockey. Such application shall include:
 - 2.1.1 Club name.
 - 2.1.2 Physical address of club.
 - 2.1.3 Identification of 3 clubs in closest proximity and distances therefrom.
 - 2.1.4 Details of officials or elected committee including their roles and contact details.
 - 2.1.5 Confirmation of being not for profit (revenue or income earned may only be used for club running costs).
 - 2.1.6 Confirmation that there are no restrictions on membership (anyone can become a member of the club).
 - 2.1.7 Bank details (in the name of the club or the controlling body).
 - 2.1.8 Governing constitution or plans, with timelines, to develop one.
 - 2.1.9 Home turf details (for practices and matches).
 - 2.1.10 Proposed colours (shirt, short/skirt and socks).
 - 2.1.11 A list of current members if applicable.
- 2.2 The exco will consider membership taking the above items into account, including consultation with impacted clubs, if considered necessary, and will confirm in writing, within a reasonable time period, acceptance or rejection of membership.
- 2.3 Any other membership application would be considered by SG Hockey as an application for affiliate membership.

3 DUTIES OF MEMBERS

- 3.1 Abide by South African Hockey Association's (SAHA) and SG Hockey's constitutions and relevant regulations.
- 3.2 Abide by the decisions of SG Hockey's exco and its officers made from time to time.
- 3.3 Pay all levies and fees as laid down by the exco and its officers.
- 3.4 Maintain an up-to-date constitution used to govern the club or hockey body.
- 3.5 Members (clubs) are responsible for educating and making their members and officials aware of relevant contents of this policy.

- 3.6 Maintain office bearer information with SG Hockey as indicated above. This contact information will be shared with other clubs.
- 3.7 Maintain a membership and club official database, to be made available to SG Hockey and SAHA when requested. Information needs to include, as a minimum:
 - 3.7.1 First and last name
 - 3.7.2 Parent or guardian information where a player is under the age of 18
 - 3.7.3 Identity number
 - 3.7.4 Email address and phone number
 - 3.7.5 Date of birth
 - 3.7.6 Gender
 - 3.7.7 Ethnic group.
- 3.8 Ensure that all players under the age of 18 have parent or guardian consent.
- 3.9 Manage and maintain a member registration process that requires players, parents or guardians of players under the age of 18 and club officials to acknowledge understanding and acceptance of relevant policies and regulations and indemnify and hold harmless SG Hockey, SG Hockey members (clubs) and SG Hockey and club officials involved in or administering any form of Hockey activities.
 - 3.9.1 SG Hockey and clubs cannot be held responsible or liable for any personal injury sustained, or loss or damage to property or possessions arising out of theft or any cause whatsoever.
 - 3.9.2 On an annual basis, prior to field Hockey season start, require players, parents or guardians of players under the age of 18 and club officials to acknowledge understanding and acceptance of this policy and in addition, SG Hockey's safeguarding and safety policy and senior league Hockey rules if applicable.
 - 3.9.3 Indemnification and guardian consent information needs to be made available to SG Hockey if requested.
- 3.10 Attend all council and ad hoc meetings convened by the exco.
- 3.11 Advise SG Hockey of any players not in good disciplinary or financial standing with their club.
- 3.12 Advise SG Hockey in writing if the club wishes to change playing colours. Such application must contain a complete diagrammatic description of the new colours.
- 3.13 Appropriately manage the transfer of player when a player moves from one club to another.
 - 3.13.1 Players may only be registered with one club at any one time.**
 - 3.13.2 Players wishing to move from one club to another are required to obtain a clearance certificate from the club they wish to leave and are required to present this certificate to the club that they wish to move to.
- 3.14 SG Hockey recommends that clubs have sufficient event or public liability insurance or alternatively that the venue(s) they use for practices and/or matches have sufficient public liability insurance.
- 3.15 Members, associate members or SG Hockey officials may nominate honorary life members of SG Hockey.
 - 3.15.1 Nominations shall be made on the grounds and in appreciation of such person's services to Hockey (at any level) for a period of not less than 10 years and shall be submitted to the exco in writing with a motivation for such nomination.
 - 3.15.2 On approval by the exco the nomination shall be submitted to the council for approval.

- 3.15.3 Members wishing to tour internationally, require the prior approval of SAHA and should do so through SG Hockey. A member wishing to host a visiting international team requires the same prior approval.

4 DUTIES OF SG HOCKEY

- 4.1 SG Hockey collects and holds data on players, club and match officials for the sole purposes of Hockey administration and management activities as defined in the SG Hockey constitution, compliant with Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI Act) requirements.
- 4.1.1 Manage a master list of all club members not in good standing with any club and to make this information available to club committee members on request.
- 4.1.2 Ensure that SAHA policies and requirements where relevant are complied with, by both clubs and Hockey participants.

5 MATCH PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Overview

- 5.1 A match participant may be a player, coach, medical officer, umpire or a supporter. Team, match, club or SG Hockey officials are also Hockey participants.
- 5.2 Participant responsibilities are applicable to all forms of Hockey (events) administered by SG Hockey and also when players or officials represent SG Hockey at regional or national Hockey tournaments.
- 5.3 All participants are automatically bound by and required to comply with all provisions. Accordingly, such participant shall be deemed to have agreed that it is their personal responsibility to familiarise themselves with all relevant requirements of this policy.

Player registration

- 5.4 All players must be registered with one club at any time.
- 5.5 Any player wishing to move from one club to another is required to obtain a clearance certificate from the club they wish to leave and to provide that clearance certificate to the club that they are joining.

Betting

- 5.6 Participants shall not participate in any form of betting or gaming activities related to the event in which they are participants.
- 5.7 Any acts that appear to, or are intended to influence any participant or which may affect any decision or the outcome of any match (e.g. an inducement in the form of money or gift) are unacceptable.

Anti-doping

- 5.8 The FIH Anti-Doping regulations are established to promote fair and equitable play. They protect a participant's fundamental right to participate in doping-free sport and thus to promote health, fairness and equality among participants.
- 5.9 All participants are personally and individually responsible for compliance with FIH's Anti-Doping regulations.

- 5.10 Any possession of dope-related drugs or drugs on the list of prohibited substances as mentioned in the FIH Anti-Doping Regulations and/or the WADA List of Prohibited Methods and Prohibited Substances, or the commission of any criminal offence relating to drugs, shall be handled in accordance with the FIH Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 5.11 Sanctions for non-compliance may be levied against an individual, their team or their club.
- 5.12 The exco may provisionally suspend an athlete prior to the opportunity for a full disciplinary hearing based on an “adverse analytical finding”.
- 5.13 No player, coaching staff, management team or any support staff who is currently serving any active sanction/punishment for a positive drug test shall be permitted to be involved in any SG Hockey sanctioned event.
- 5.14 A violation of these anti-doping regulations in connection with an in-competition test automatically leads to disqualification of the individual athlete with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of all trophies and medals received in that competition.

Image rights

- 5.15 SG Hockey may use images of any Hockey participant over the age of 18, taken during any SAHA or SG Hockey event, tournament or league for non-commercial purposes only. The images may be used by SG Hockey to promote the sport of Hockey.
- 5.16 Image rights of children under the age of 18 are addressed in the safeguarding policy.

Conduct offences

- 5.17 Participants shall conduct themselves fairly, properly and in an acceptable manner on and off the field of play and when participating in any Hockey related event.
- 5.18 Participants shall not act (or fail to act) in any way which may harm the interests and reputation of SG Hockey or bring our game into disrepute.
- 5.19 The conduct described below, if committed by a participant at any event shall have committed an offence under this code and will be sanctioned during a match by match officials or after a match, if warranted by SG Hockey officials.
- 5.20 Match sanctions range from receiving a verbal warning to red cards, detailed in the league rules.
- 5.21 Post-match sanctions range from an official reprimand to a minimum of 1 to 5 match or more suspensions in response to specific offences, as detailed in the annexure below taken from FIH’s General Tournament Regulations for Outdoor Competitions.
- 5.22 For participant awareness and guidance, offences on which match and SG Hockey officials will take action include:
 - 5.22.1 Using **language** or gesture(s) that is obscene, offensive or of an insulting nature. This includes excessively audible or repetitious swearing or obscene gestures, spitting towards a participant including frustration at one’s own poor play or misfortune.
 - 5.22.2 Showing **dissent** at a match official’s decision. Dissent includes disputing, protesting, arguing or reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner.
 - 5.22.3 **Charging** or advancing aggressively towards a participant. Note that intimidation or threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) of a participant or other 3rd persons warrants harsher sanctions. Any physical assault of any participant, including a spectator warrants a minimum of a 5 match suspension.
 - 5.22.4 **Excessive appealing** of an official’s decision, including crowding of an official.

- 5.22.5 **Throwing a stick or ball** (or any other object or item of equipment) at or near another participant or any other person in an inappropriate or dangerous manner.
- 5.22.6 Deliberate, reckless or careless **physical contact** between players in the course of play including inter alia, carelessly pushing, walking or running into another participant.
- 5.22.7 **Feigning injury** or overreacting to an alleged physical contact from another player.
- 5.22.8 **Abuse of Hockey equipment** or clothing, venue equipment or fixtures and fittings both on and off the field.
- 5.22.9 **Public criticism** of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring at an event or any participant or team participating in an event, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.
- 5.22.10 Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that is either contrary to the **spirit of the game**, or brings the game into disrepute.

Annexure A: Specific offences

Level 1 Offence

The penalty shall be an official reprimand or a suspension of the individual for a minimum of 1 match with or without an official reprimand.

- a. Using language or gesture(s) that is obscene, offensive or of an insulting nature.

Note: This includes: (i) excessively audible or repetitious swearing; and (ii) obscene gestures which are not directed at another person, such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or misfortune.

- b. Showing dissent at an umpire's decision.

Note: Dissent will include disputing / protesting, reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner in an inappropriate way towards any decision made by an umpire or other official. This may include arguing or entering into a prolonged discussion with an umpire or a Technical official about the decision.

- c. Charging or advancing towards an umpire or technical official in an aggressive manner during a SG Hockey event.
- d. Excessive appealing of an umpire's or technical official's decision, or crowding an umpire or technical official.

Note: Excessive appealing shall include repeated appealing of the same decision / appeal.

- e. Throwing a stick or ball (or any other object or item of equipment) at or near another participant or any other person in an inappropriate and / or dangerous manner.
- f. Deliberate, reckless or careless physical contact between players in the course of play.

Note: Without limitation, participants will breach this article if they deliberately, recklessly or carelessly push, walk or run into another participant.

- g. Feigning injury and / or overreacting to alleged physical contact from another player.

Note: Without limitation, participants will breach this article if they deliberately fake an injury in order to penalise another participant against whom it is alleged committed a foul against him / her.

- h. Abuse of Hockey equipment or clothing, venue equipment or fixtures and fittings.

Note: This includes any action(s) outside the course of normal Hockey actions, such as hitting or kicking the goal posts and any action(s) which intentionally or negligently results in damage to the team benches, advertising boards, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.

- i. Breach of SG Hockey player uniform regulations.
- j. Public criticism of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring in a match or any participant or team participating in any SG Hockey event, generally, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.
- k. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either is contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the game into disrepute.

Note: This clause is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover any type of conduct of a minor nature that is not, and because of its nature cannot be, adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the *Code of Conduct*.

- l. Spitting towards another participant.

Note: Without limitation, participants will breach this article if they deliberately, recklessly or carelessly spit towards another participant.

Level 2 Offence

The penalty shall be a suspension of the individual for a minimum of 2 matches.

- a. Using language or gesture(s) that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or have a seriously insulting nature to another participant or any other third person.

Note: It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between players in the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, umpires or technical officials will be required to report such conduct that falls below an acceptable standard.

- b. Serious public criticism of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring in an SG Hockey event or any participant or team participating in any SG Hockey match, generally, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.
- c. Any attempt to manipulate any SG Hockey match for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons or for betting purposes.
- d. Intimidation of an umpire or other third person whether by language or conduct (including gestures) during a match.

Note: Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.

- e. Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on a participant or any other third person.
- f. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that is either contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the game into disrepute

Note: The above clause is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover any type of conduct of a serious nature that is not, and because of its nature cannot be, adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the *Code of Conduct*.

Level 3 Offence

The penalty shall be a suspension of the individual for a minimum of 5 matches.

- a. Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on an umpire or technical official.
- b. Physical assault of another participant or any other person (including a spectator).
- c. Any act of violence on or off the field of play during an SG Hockey event.
- d. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that is either contrary to the spirit of the game, or brings the game into disrepute.

Note: The above clause is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover any type of conduct of a very serious nature that is not, and because of its nature cannot be, adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the *Code of Conduct*.