

MEETING OF: Competition Committee
DATE: Monday December 11, 2023
TIME: 6.30 pm
VENUE: Stead Park, Corio



MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 6.34 pm with A. Climpson presiding.

2. ATTENDANCE

Alan Climpson (Chair), S. Climpson, A. Reilley, R. Frost (Saints), C. Barnes (Newtown), C. Medlin, S. Calder, M. Krusic-Golub (Geelong), B. Salvatore, C. Thompson (Torquay), K. Maloney (Kardinia)

Not represented – Golden Plains

APOLOGIES

D. Crowley, D. Glenn, K. Caldow, S. Storen

PROXIES

M. Krusic-Golub for D. Glenn.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion: that the Minutes of the Competition Committee meeting held August 17, 2023 be accepted.

Moved: A. Reilley

Seconded: K. Maloney

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

4.1 None

5. CORRESPONDENCE INWARD

5.1 Torquay HC re 2024 junior competitions. See General Business 6.2

5.2 P. Frost, Umpires Committee Recommendations. See General Business 6.5

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 GHA Competition Surveys Summary

- **GHA Junior Competition options for 2024** – 62 responses of 342 junior members of GHA = 18%
 - Preferred competition venue
 - Stead Park 43 (69% of responses)
 - Lloyd Reserve 9 (14%)
 - Either SP or LR 6 (9%).
 - Preferred playing times, noting that many people indicated that more than one time was acceptable
 - Friday 5 to 9 pm – 21 (33%)
 - Saturday am – 56 (90%)
 - Saturday pm – 8 (12%)
 - Sunday am – 9 (14%)
 - Sunday pm – 1 (1%)
 - Midweek 4 to 6 pm – 7 (11%)
 - Midweek 6 to 9 pm – 4 (6%)
 - regular time slots are preferred, with U17 not played at the early game time
 - Game format
 - 5 a side – 5 (8%)
 - 7 a side – 13 (20%)
 - 9 a side – 6 (9%)

- 11 a side – 45 (72%)
- 5 a side would allow for all girls teams
- Most of the preferences for 7 a side were from U8/ U10 players
- o Competition length
 - 14 week season club teams as currently – 56 (90%)
 - Sportsmanship league – played picked each week – 3 (4%)
- o Team format
 - Mixed gender – 52 (83%)
 - Female only – 10 (16%)
 - Male only – 1 (1%)
 - Realise there are not enough girls for girls only full field teams
 - Set a minimum number of girls for each team?
- o Other comments
 - Evenly matched teams where possible
 - Hockey 5s will mean more teams entered
 - U17 competition is problematic for girls who are playing against boys aged 18
 - Enter an U12 HG Sharks team in HV Metro competition
 - Poor surface at Lloyd Reserve
 - Good atmosphere at Lloyd Reserve
 - 2 different venues creates problems for families with children in different age groups
 - Allow coaches on pitch in U12
 - Transport from Northern Suburbs not always easy
 - Run school holiday camps
 - Quarters were very short in U17 (12 minutes x 4 = 48)

● **GHA Review of 2023 season and Grand Final Day**

- o 40 responses received. Generally, the feedback was positive, with suggestions for improvement relating to:
 - Grand Final
 - Better PA system needed
 - earlier notification of finals days/ fixtures
 - Reduce length of presentations
 - Facilities
 - play areas for children
 - upgrade pitch and pavilion facilities and clear communication re the current state of planning
 - larger toilet facilities
 - shelter and seating for pitch 2
 - paint the pavilion interior
 - volunteer working bee to maintain the facility
 - Competition
 - players' attitude to umpires
 - more teams for senior competition
 - hockey 5s, U8/ U10 at SP
 - training of umpires
 - clear promotion/ relegation procedures for senior competition
 - U17 age group = problem for girls
 - game times for junior competition – youngest to oldest with U17 on Sunday
 - Player development and coaching
 - Community
 - improving links between local competition and Sharks
 - crowd management in front of the canteen
 - Communication
 - preferred method of communication included email, website, Facebook, Instagram
 - promote the website

- **GHA 2024 Senior Competition Options**

- 40 responses received.
 - Competition
 - Saturday or Sunday afternoon most preferred
 - full pitch preferred, with 9 a side ok if necessary
 - teams competing at similar levels

ACTIONS:

- Coaches will be permitted on the pitch during games but not inside the 25 yards areas unless there is a breakdown in play.
- GHA Grand Finals should be played on one day only, and the date communicated early in the season when fixtures are prepared.
- Inform HV pre-season when GHA finals are planned, to request complementary scheduling of HG Sharks finals games.
- An improved PA system should be hired for Grand Final Day.
- Various improvements to the pavilion are being considered, with a working bee planned for February 3. We expect to receive information from SRV in January regarding the status of any upgrades to facilities which were promised initially for the Commonwealth Games.
- GHA should consider hiring portable toilet facilities for Grand Final Day to alleviate the shortage of permanent facilities.
- GHA Executive will consider all comments received and plan actions to address them.

6.2 Possible Competition options for 2024

Proposal: that GHA offer the following competition options for 2024

- Friday
 - informal Stick2Hockey program for those not ready to join a team as yet
 - age 7 to 12
 - regular timing - 6.00 pm
 - Free to attend first 2 sessions, then one off registration for each term
 - no uniforms needed, use bibs
 - equipment available for loan
 - would need someone to run it
 - HG Sharks games begin at times from 7.00 to 8.45 pm.
 - Need to be mindful of 'dead time' when lights are on but there are no games for some time.
 - Need to allow time to pack up Hockey 5s boards
- Saturday
 - U8 and U10 at Stead Park, Lloyd Reserve and Torquay with 5 a side format
 - 8.00 am U8 and U10 at Stead Park
 - 9.00 am U8 at Lloyd Reserve, 10.15 am U10 at Lloyd Reserve
 - U12 full field at Stead Park 9.00 am - depending on game length for U8 and U10
 - U14 full field at Stead Park 10.05
 - U17 full field at Stead Park 11.15
 - Does this create problems for junior players who have weekend work or commitments with HG Sharks senior teams?
 - If U17 games were played on Sunday, does this create conflicts with State team trials and training

- Continue usual format for senior hockey, with the possible alteration to 9 a side if teams are short of players
- Monday
 - Hockey 5s girls only competition – age 12 to 17
 - 6.30 pm - same time as Monday Social games
 - minimum 20 players (4 teams) needed – ideally entered as club teams but could be combinations to make adequate teams
 - 1 umpire/ game
- Consider whether Grand Finals should be run on 1 day or 2 days so that Finals are played on the same day as the home and away games

Things to consider

- Junior competitions for U8 and U10 at Stead Park, Lloyd Reserve and Torquay?
 - Reduces travel time and transport difficulties if games are played near where you live
 - Reduces time for families who have children at other sporting commitments in the same area
- Hockey Victoria recommend Hockey 5s - U8 games on 1/8 field (28 x 23 m), U10 games on ¼ field (28 x 46 m)
 - Our U8 fields at Lloyd Reserve as currently marked are 18 x 40 m
- Hockey 5s considerations
 - Hockey 5s field requires rebound boards around the entire field
 - Cost of obtaining barriers - \$27500 / set. 4 sets of barriers = \$110,000. Or 2 sets and games played at 2 different times using same setup
 - Different court size needed for U8 and U10
 - Time and labour to put the barriers out and pack them up before the next game begins
 - Field placement – normal field is 91 x 55 m
 - Hockey 5s Field size 28 x 40 m minimum to 42 to 55 m maximum
 - 2 goals per field. Would need 4 goals for 2 courts 6 goals for 3 courts, 8 for 4 courts
 - No circle markings, central line divides the field into two halves plus 2 dotted quarter lines, penalty spot
 - Dividing nets required between courts on the same full field
 - 4 Hockey 5s fields on 1 normal field – 45 x 27 m with courts running in the same direction as the normal field. Would have a marking for half way (i.e. 25 yard line) but no dotted quarter lines
 - If courts ran the other way (across the normal field) could fit 3 courts (30 x 55 m) but no markings for half or quarter lines
 - Game time is 20 minutes total (10 minute halves with 2 minutes half time)
 - 4 field players plus 1 goalkeeper and up to 4 substitutions at any time in the game = 9 players
 - Rule changes
 - Can score from anywhere in the field
 - Penalty corners replaced by a challenge for any foul by a defender in their own half which is intentional or which denies the attackers a clear goal scoring opportunity
 - Ball is placed on the quarter line, with only 1 attacker and the goalie in the half, all other players in the other half of the field. Once the attacker moves the ball, other players can join in.
 - Of the junior players registered in 2023, 50 would be aged U8 in 2024 and 70 aged U10.

Question: Should we run Hockey 5s as per above rules or run 5 a side using modified version of our summer hockey rules?

- U8 – 5 a side on ¼ field, Rules as currently used, 20 minute halves

- U10 – 5 a side on ½ field, or 6 a side including goalkeeper on ½ field, 25 minute halves
 - Summer hockey rules used with hits/ slap shots and lifted balls allowed depending on danger.
 - 2 umpires per game
- A. Climpson to check portable barriers which could be used – cost and availability, ease of putting out and packing up
- Umpires
 - coaches umpire in U8
 - 1 umpire/ game for U10
- Match fees – normal match fee at Lloyd Reserve is \$27.50 for U8, \$33 for U10. \$65/ junior team at Stead Park.
 - Equivalent match fee for Hockey 5s teams on 1 pitch would be \$17 for 8 teams, \$22 for 6 teams

ACTIONS:

- Proposed Stick2Hockey program was not supported by the committee members. Clubs may encourage Hin2H members who are not ready to join a team to come to their regular training sessions.
- GHA to offer U8 competition at Stead Park, 7 a side on ¼ pitch. Scheduling options include:
 - 5.30 pm Monday
 - 5.30 pm Friday
 - 8.00 am Saturday
- GHA to offer U10 competition at Stead Park, 7 a side on 1/2 pitch. Goalkeepers optional.
 - Scheduling options include:
 - 5.30 pm Monday
 - 5.30 pm Friday
 - 8.00 am Saturday
 - Rules as per summer hockey with some modifications.
 - Goalkeepers optional
 - Hits and slap shots permitted
 - Lifted balls allowed subject to danger
 - Short corner rules as per summer with regard to players moving from the centre line
 - Long corners to be taken on the 25 yard line, perhaps marked by cones
- Clubs to consult their members re the preferred day for these competitions and report back to GHA by Sunday January 7
- Match fees for U8 and U10 competitions at Stead Park to be determined by the GHA Executive Committee
- 5 a side U8 and U10 competitions will be offered at Lloyd Reserve as separate GHA competitions. Times 9.00 am and 10.00 am Saturday.
- Match times for older age groups at Stead Park will be:
 - U12 – 9.00 am Saturday
 - U14 – 10.05 am Saturday
 - U17 – 11.15 am Saturday
- Girls only competition. The Committee members agreed that there was not enough interest to support a program of this type.

6.3 Membership and recruiting report

	2021	2022	2023
HV Roadshows schools visited	5	12	12
GHA Roadshows schools visited	6	16	8
Sporting Schools programs conducted	6 (partial cancellations)	6	4
Total students participating	2357	6081	3791
GHA Coaches involved	5+	15	17
Hookin2Hockey programs	9	7	6
Clubs with Hookin2Hockey programs	4	5	5
Hookin2Hockey Registrations	58	75	38
GHA registered members at December 31	833	906	811 at 27/11/23
Get Back 2 Hockey registrations			8
New members	390	330	173
Income (Sporting Schools & sponsorship)	\$3648.75	\$8390.67	\$7450.52
Expenditure	\$3908.75	\$7959.80	\$6816.00
Surplus/ loss	-\$260.00	\$430.87	\$634.52

ACTION:

- Review the list of schools and club allocations provided by HV and revise as appropriate.
- Clubs to inform GHA which suburbs they would prefer to work in, with this information used to revise the lost of school allocations
- Provide a list of schools currently on the HV list allocated to Torquay HC. Torquay to advise if there are additional schools which should be added.

6.4 Roadshows for 2024

GHA has been allocated two weeks for HV supported Roadshows in 2024, compared to three weeks in 2023.

- February 12 to 16
- February 19 to 23

Rachel Moon has been appointed by HV as the lead coach for the Roadshows.

HV are working on the school bookings and we expect confirmation in the next week or so. The signup has been set up with details of the provisional bookings but these are subject to change. HV have been asked to include more schools for Saints and Torquay.

HV will contact schools to offer GHA funded Roadshows at other times as we are aware that this timing will not suit many schools. As Rachel Moon is available for Term 1, hopefully, we will be able to schedule more schools in this time.

6.5 Umpires Convenor Report

The Umpires Convenors have made the following recommendations for 2024.

Umpires Committee

We are planning on organizing a committee of umpires to be able to get together a few times throughout the year. Things we can focus on would be addressing any issues arising as well as any improvements as we move through the season. If there is any interest from people wanting to be part of this committee, they are to email Pearce Frost or Tom Molyneux. We would like clubs to offer this out to all umpires please.

Umpires group chat

A great idea brought forward in the umpires final briefing of the year was to have an umpires group chat on either Facebook or WhatsApp. This would allow the umpires and convenors to communicate more informally and easily amongst the whole umpiring community. This would be helpful for quick updates to the group, last-minute game changes, emergency requests for rostering, etc.

Courses and accreditations

There was a suggestion for beginner umpires to have an opportunity to have a course day to learn all the rules. There have been talks of the association trying to organize a day to maybe get someone from Hockey Vic to run a course, as we currently don't have anyone accredited at that level. There has been a big overhaul on how Hockey Aus accreditation for umpires, coaches, umpire coaches and tech officials. There is an ongoing problem with old accreditations not getting transferred over to the new system. This issue is being worked on, and we have been sent the instructions to attempt to align your accreditation. It would be great if we could have an expectation that everyone wanting to umpire should be doing the free foundation support course prior to taking the field to umpire next season. We would require all umpires wanting to umpire div 1 or Shark games to either have acquired or looking towards acquiring the foundation lead course. This is a \$60 payment, and you are required to be assessed on 1 or 2 competition games.

Reminder of personal penalty rules

When a card is given during the game, players aren't always following the correct ruling as to what that penalty means. For a green or yellow card sitting on the designated chairs for the required time as deemed by the umpire. Sometimes they will just be sitting with their team the whole time.

For a red card, (which we had a few this year), the rules state, the person must immediately leave the premises and further action may be required. Sometimes the person has stayed around their team or the pavilion.

It needs to be addressed to the teams going into next year, the expectations as per the rules when given a card. We would strongly suggest if a red card has been given that a report is filed within the next couple of days and further action is taken to ensure that the hockey community understands the severity and reduces the red card action further.

Past umpires

Is there a possibility of following up with some past umpires, reaching out via email or phone or an anonymous survey to see why they stopped. Is there a way we can entice them back. Thoughts?

End of season acknowledgement

An acknowledgement should be made either at the grand final or an email at the end of the season to thank all the umpires throughout the season. Maybe with how many games they umpired for the year or an achievement, or even their improvement to umpire a higher level.

It was a little disappointing for the umpire group this year, and perhaps in previous years that this didn't happen. We just assume the umpires will turn up week in, week out. There is no game without them. It would be great as an association for people to be striving to be a part of the umpire community. I believe we can do better.

Entering umpires with teams

To increase the numbers of umpires going forward, starting next year, when clubs are entering a team, could they provide at least 1 umpire per team. They don't have to be playing for that team, just someone interested. Also list at least 1 up and coming umpire either someone new or needing more help or a junior choosing to learn to umpire. A harder one to address however is the number of female umpires in Geelong. At the moment we have 1 or 2 female umpires that are qualified to umpire senior games. There are also a couple junior females who have started to umpire. We would like to encourage these girls/women and find a way to get more interest.

Pay structure

Should we be getting paid using pay id like all Melbourne clubs, so teams don't have to worry about cash? The canteen is cashless, it's easy to set up and at the start of season briefing maybe run through how to. Have brought this up with

Saints and their main concern was that the accounts for paying umpires would have to be accessible to all the team managers, or you come up with another solution. Should ask both umpires and teams for a vote on which they prefer to get a consensus. Perhaps for next year we have both available and see how it goes.

Pay structure was brought up for this season with how the senior men's payments were handled. The first 9 rounds where the division was joined the payment was div 2 rates no matter what teams were playing. Even if you umpired 2 teams that were entered as a div 1 team, you were paid at a Div 2 rate. A lot of the games ended up being really skilful and we didn't feel we were getting paid the correct rate for the level we were umpiring. Hopefully the men's divisions will be split next year rather than combined, and we won't have this problem. If the decision is made to join the men's division again, the payment structure will need to be looked at.

Rostering of junior games

U17 games are rostered really early in the morning followed by u14 and then u12s. We are trying to get some younger umpires developed and the best way to do this is with us watching them or shadowing them on some lower grade (div 2) games. With the games being so early, the U17 kids are less likely to stick around for seniors at 12.30 to umpire. Also harder for the umpire coaches to go out and watch them umpiring so early. Perhaps next year we trial rostering the junior umpires or at least overseeing it. There has been a big gap between juniors and seniors umpiring this year.

Format idea: u12 first game, then u17 so they don't have to be on the latest slot, then u14s.

A lot of beginners start umpiring the junior games and haven't always been taught properly. They have the potential to pick up bad habits or aren't having the rules explained properly. It then becomes really hard to retrain them.

Umpire interest form?

I have made a rough draft for a form that would be sent out before the start of next season. It would include things like which team you play for and what times you would like to be rostered on. Hopefully with enough umpires involved it will mean not needing every umpire to be rostered on every weekend and they can have a break. This form would be a great tool to assist in the rostering to show when people are available. There can also be a calendar to assist when people know they will be away or unavailable for particular time slots. I'm not the most tech savvy person and would hope someone else would be able to assist with this form.

Umpire uniforms

Would be good for the umpires to all look the same with the uniforms. Do we decide to get 1 or 2 colours only for the season. These shirts could be pre ordered to get an idea on the amount we are looking at. Something pointed out was that some local soccer umpiring has a different colour shirt for new umpires for players and spectators to know, similar to how P plates work on the road. I would suggest rather than a completely different colour and not looking like they are a part of the group, they could have a striped shirt instead or some sort of pattern. E.g., regular umpires wear fluoro yellow, an umpire that is still learning wear fluoro yellow with black stripes. This may have to be something we look at getting made up ourselves to have Hockey Geelong shirts. Could we get a grant/ sponsorship for this? Should touch base with Andrew Crowley as he had mentioned trying to get a grant for the indigenous shirts. We could also try and get rain jackets that look nicer than the massive ones in the clubrooms. These suggestions were brought up from the umpires meeting however Tom and I agree that our focus is one shirt with maybe a second colourway for everyone to look the same. People shouldn't need to see a learning umpire to change the way they play or behave towards the umpire. We want to advocate for an environment where no umpire abuse is acceptable, whether they are learning or not. Umpiring should be a happy and safe experience for all.

Summer hockey rules

Throughout summer hockey, there has been a lot of inconsistency with the umpiring, and the rules. One reason for this is the difference in umpire experience, having beginners who barely know the rules up to people umpiring at Geelong's highest level. Also, some rules not being enforced properly i.e., the raised ball. Based on what I've been told, if at any point the ball is raised above knee backboard height it is to be called against. Another rule not enforced properly is the slapping/hitting rule. There needs to be more clear understanding of what the difference is. We need to have another look at the rules to enforce them better and maybe have an email or briefing at the start of summer for the differences to winter. Summer is supposed to be fun for all involved.

One suggestion I also have is now that long corners have been changed during the regular season, it feels silly to take them all the way in the corner. Maybe we should bring them out in line with the top of the circle or some sort of defined 25m line. The "25" is something that needs clarification also. For example, on a free hit between the half line and the circle, at what point can the ball go straight in. what do we call the "25".

ACTIONS:

- Umpires Committee to set up What's App chat group for umpires
- Pearce Frost to investigate the conduct of an Umpires Course in Geelong.
 - Provide Pearce with contact details for HV Umpire Co-ordinator and Western Wildcats Umpire Co-ordinator.
 - GHA to offer subsidy to course participants.
 - Executive Committee to approve – either 50% subsidy or 100% subsidy for first ? people to register
- Personal penalty rules to be placed on the website. Clubs to be reminded of these rules.
- Preliminary Final Day to be used as 'Umpires Appreciation Day', with afternoon tea or similar function held.
 - Pearce to supply GHA Executive with a list of all those who have umpired during the year, which would enable a note of thanks to be sent with an invitation to the event.
- The team entry form for 2024 should include a requirement to nominate umpires, with clubs requested to provide at least 1 umpire per team entered
- When/ if any senior competitions are combined divisions, the umpires fee will be paid at the higher D1 rate.
- Umpire interest form to be produced (Pearce), emailed to all members and placed on the website (Claire). The form will include indication of shirt size.
- GHA to obtain new shirts for all umpires, with 2 colours available.
 - Purchase from Just Hockey, and seek a sponsor whose details can be printed on the shirts.

6.6 Summer hockey notes

Completion of team sheets and results for the summer competition has been problematic from some teams.

Team sheets are required for the following reasons:

- Allows checking current HV registration of all players
- If a claim is made against the insurance provided by the registration, the team sheet can provide evidence of the player's participation.

Results are submitted each week to the Geelong Advertiser, which provides the opportunity to let people in the Geelong community know that hockey is played during the summer, and potentially enables new members to contact us.

While the results themselves are not particularly important as there are no trophies at stake, submitting a report with no results or with every result being a draw would be odd.

Clubs are asked to remind their team managers that a team sheet which includes both first and second names of all players should be submitted for each match, with a result clearly recorded.

Next Meeting Tuesday January 9, 6.30 pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm.