

# VANCOUVER ISLAND LADIES' FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. JURISDICTION

The Association shall have jurisdiction for Ladies' field hockey within that area represented by its membership.

### 2. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 2.1 The Ladies' teams shall play in divisions consisting of teams of a similar skill level. These divisions shall be numbered beginning with the highest skill level as Division 1.
- 2.2 A team finishing at the top of a division may make application to move into a higher division, with the commitment that they attempt to maintain the calibre of that division. All teams may be reviewed by the Executive to determine if relegation of a team is required. This decision will be based on the calibre of the team's play.
- 2.3 Any new teams wishing to play in the league may be required to play a series of exhibition games. The calibre of the new team(s) will be assessed by a committee appointed by the Executive.

### 3. REGISTRATION

#### 3.1 Team/Player Registration

- a) For signing purposes, the playing season shall commence on the 1st day of September, and terminate on the 31st day of August, next ensuing. Clubs/teams shall be allowed to retain their players until their respective league and/or playoff competition commitments have been fulfilled, after which time such players, shall be free agents.
- b) Team representatives shall submit to the Director of Membership of the Association one (1) complete list of team officials and players (including relevant contact and personal details) and fees. All players shall be registered with the Association prior to participating in any scheduled game. Registration is covered under BYLAW 2.3.
- c) Association fees shall be paid by the deadline set by the Executive.
- d) Additional or new players (those not registered with the initial team registration) must register with the Association twenty-four (24) hours prior to any league game. New player information (including relevant contact and personal details) is to be forwarded to the Director of Membership along with the proper fees.
- e) No player shall be allowed to register for more than one team at any one time.
- f) A Club with more than one team in the League may bring up players from a lower division team. These players must be listed on the game card with the name of their registered

team.

- g) A Club with more than one team in the League may use players from a higher division team within their Club on a lower division team. A maximum of three (3) higher division players may play down one division for any one game. First Division players cannot play in any Third Division games. These players must be listed on the game card with the name of their registered team.
- h) A Club with more than one team in a division may use players from a same division team within their Club A maximum of three (3) same division players may be played laterally by any one team in any one game.
- i) Any active member, who has no club team in the higher division, may be allowed to play as a "permit" player, with any teams in that higher division. These players must be listed on the game card with the name of their registered team.
- j) Any team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the game.

### 3.2 **Player Transfers**

- a) No registered player shall be allowed to transfer her services to any other team without first giving seven (7) days notice in writing to the Association and to the team for which she is registered.
- b) A player is entitled to her transfer as hereby provided and the transfer cannot be withheld except in cases of indebtedness to the team holding her registration.

## 4. **DISCIPLINE**

### 4.1 **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

The Association shall deal with all players reported by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct.

- a) Any registered player who is red carded for misconduct shall automatically be suspended from participating in her team's next game, but having served this one game shall be eligible to play until her case is dealt with. On games involving player misconduct, umpires should notify the President immediately.
- b) The Executive shall have the power to deal with violations of the laws of the game, the rules, regulations and by-laws of the Association. Any infraction of the foregoing, any action tending to jeopardize the Association of any action deemed not to be in the best interest of field hockey shall be dealt with by the Executive. The Executive shall have the power to expel from the Association or suspend for a stated period any club, team, player, team official, or official proved to have been guilty of such violations. (See BYLAW 2.4)
- c) Fines shall be imposed on any team:
  - For not turning in game cards or reporting games scores \$5.00

- For not wearing a skirt during a game \$5.00
- For not having a Team Rep at Council Meetings/and or General Meetings \$25.00
- For failing to name 2 umpires/umpires in training \$25.00
- For a team failing to give seven (7) days' notice with respect to a game change or cancellation, a fine will be levied to cover the operational costs of the field/turf and umpires.

Fines shown are for first offences. The Executive may levy incremental fines if a team commits the same offence more than once, and/or may suspend the team. Fines will be levied at Executive Meetings. Payment must be received before the next Executive Meeting. Offences are to be noted on the back of game cards and shall be signed by both umpires and both captains.

#### 4.2 **Protests**

- a) The Executive shall deal with all protests rising out of any scheduled game.
- b) Protests shall be in writing to the President or Director of Operations within two days (48 hours) of the date to which it relates.
- c) The decision of the Executive shall be binding.
- d) In dealing with any protest, the Executive may take into consideration the possession by the protesting party of any knowledge, which, if properly used, might have obviated the protest.

### **5.0 LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION**

#### 5.1 **Scheduling & Results**

- a) Any team unable to fulfil a scheduled game must give the Director of Operations seven (7) day's notice and reason for postponement request. The executive will decide if such reason constitutes a satisfactory excuse.
- b) The Director of Operations will reschedule any games postponed as per 5.1 a).
- c) Teams are responsible for notifying the Director of Operations of extra-ordinary field closures. The Director of Operations will attempt to find alternate fields.
- d) Results of games must be recorded on game cards and submitted to the Director of Operations on the day of the match. Game cards from evening games should be submitted that evening. Any team unable to submit game cards should phone the results to the Director of Operations. Game cards for results phoned in should be forwarded to the Director of Operations.
- e) The number of points accumulated during the playing season shall determine league standings. Three (3) points shall be awarded for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and

zero (0) points for each loss. In the event of a tie in the standings, goal aggregate in league games shall be the deciding factor. (An e.g. goal for minus goals against, the highest value is declared the winner). If teams are still tied, then the results of the games played between the tied teams will be considered and the winner will be the team with the majority of wins.

## 5.2 **Game Regulations**

- a) Each team is responsible for supplying a proper game ball.
- b) Games shall begin at their scheduled time; and a team shall begin play as soon as seven (7) players are present. If there are fewer than seven (7) players for a team ten (10) minutes after scheduled game time, then that team shall lose the game by default.
- c) The duration of all league games shall be two (2) periods of thirty-five (35) minutes each. No overtime shall be played in league play.
- d) Game cards are mandatory. Each team will submit a complete list of all participating players to the umpire before the start of the game. The umpire will use the list to keep track of goal scorers. Team captains and umpires should endeavour to write comments on the game cards. Each team is responsible for forwarding game cards to the Director of Operations.
- e) A player shall not wear anything which is dangerous to herself or other players (i.e. jewelry, earrings, watches etc.) The attire of a player shall consist of a shirt, skirt, socks and boots. Shorts are not an acceptable alternative to skirts. Wearing a mouthguard is highly recommended and shinguards are mandatory. Team first aid kits are recommended.
- f) Where team colours conflict, the team that was established first shall maintain their colour. The other team shall arrange for a change in uniform colour. No permanent change in team colours shall be made without the permission of the Executive. New teams must have their colours ratified by the Executive.
- g) For Divisions 1, 2 and 3, teams are permitted unlimited substitutes.

## 5.3 **Playoffs**

- a) In each division, the four (4) highest finishing teams after league play shall be eligible for playoffs. For the semi-final playoff games the first placed team shall play the fourth placed team, and the second placed team shall play the third placed team. Final playoff games shall be comprised of the winners of the semi-final games.
- b) In semi-final playoff games, if a game is tied at the end of regulation time, a five (5) minute break is allowed followed by one (1) sudden death overtime period of ten (10) minutes. If no team has scored at the end of sudden death overtime, penalty strokes will be taken following FIH rules.
- c) In final playoff games, if a game is tied at the end of regulation time, a five (5) minute break is allowed followed by one (1) sudden death overtime period of ten (10) minutes. If

still tied, the trophy will be shared by both teams.

- d) Players are ineligible for playoff games unless they have played at least three (3) games with that team in the playing season, except in the case of a lower division player within the same club who must have played at least three (3) games with their registered team.

#### 5.4 **Umpires**

- a) Each team shall name within two (2) weeks of the beginning of the playing season a minimum of two (2) players (umpires or umpires in training), who may be allocated to the umpiring roster.
- b) The Umpiring Association will schedule umpires for all league and playoff games.
- c) In the event of bad weather, the condition of the pitch shall be the deciding factor in cancellation. The decision shall be made by the Director of Operations and/or President with the home team captain, a minimum of one (1) hour prior to scheduled game time. In extraordinary circumstances, the umpires at the game shall make the decision.
- d) If there are people capable of umpiring they should be approached before players are selected for umpiring. If only one umpire has shown, then each team will supply one player (or players) to umpire one side of the field for half the game each. If no umpires show, then each team will supply one player to umpire (or players) the whole game.

### 6. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### 6.1 **Legislation**

All games scheduled by the Association shall be played in accordance with the most current "Rules of Hockey", issued under the Authority of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

#### 6.2 **Representative Teams**

The colours of the Association shall be light blue and navy blue. No player shall be eligible to represent the Association on a representative team unless she has paid in full all outstanding fees.

### 6.3 **Trophies**

League and playoff trophies are the property of the Association. If the trophies, while in the possession of a team, are destroyed or damaged or lost, it shall be the responsibility of the team to refund to the Association the replacement value or cost of repair. Any team withdrawing from the Association shall be required to return any trophies in its possession to the Association immediately. Trophies shall be returned to the Association prior to March 1st of the Current season. The contact person for trophies will be the Second Vice-President. (See Appendix A for a complete list of Association trophies.) Permission from the Executive must be obtained before a new trophy can be adopted.

7. **AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Association shall be provided to the membership fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the General Meeting.