

2025 Youth Competition Rules Summary

Please note all rules covered in this summary document refer to the Auckland Hockey Senior and Youth Competition Rules and Auckland Hockey Local Competition Rules. A youth rule written in this Youth Competition summary supersedes any rule youth rule in the 2024 Senior & Youth Competition Rules.

This rules documents serves as a summary for all relevant Youth Rules, however in any instance where the rule is not covered in this summary document, please refer to the 2025 Senior and Youth Competition Rules.

Auckland Hockey Youth Competition Rules are run in accordance with the rules and regulations listed in this document along with the following:

- The current FIH Rules of Hockey – Outdoor
- Auckland Hockey Code of Conduct
- Auckland Hockey Local Competition Playing Rules
- Hockey NZ Safety Policies
- Hockey NZ Anti-Doping Code
- Hockey NZ Concussion Policy – 2018
- Hockey NZ – National Code of Conduct

These documents are available on the Auckland Hockey or Hockey NZ websites.

The Auckland Hockey Competitions Manager, acting as the Competition Director, shall deal with any matters arising that are not specifically dealt with in the regulations below or in the documents listed above. If possible, the Competition Manager should consult with the Auckland CEO, CAG and Administrators to deal with the matter. Any decision reached by the Competition's Manager will be final.

1. Dates and Format

All Grades Sunday mornings 9am-12.45pm

Format Premier Boys:

- Week 1: Festival of Hockey
- Double Round Robin followed by Finals
- Finals Format: 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v 6
- *Minimum 3 round robin games must be played to be eligible to play in finals.*

Format Premier Girls:

- Week 1: Festival of Hockey
- Double Round Robin followed by Finals
- Finals Format: 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v bye
- *Minimum 3 round robin games must be played to be eligible to play in finals.*

Format Championship Boys:

- Week 1: Festival of Hockey
- Week 2 onward: Competition round as follows:
 - Round 1-7: Round Robin
 - Round 8-10 Grade splits Grade 1 and 2 Round Robin
 - Grade 1 – Top 4 from Championship
 - Grade 2 – Bottom 4 from Championship
- Finals:
 - Grade 1 & 2
 - Game 1 Final: 1 v 2
 - Game 2 3rd/4th : 3 v 4
- *Minimum 3 Games must be played to be eligible to play in finals*

Format Championship 1 Girls:

- Week 1: Festival of Hockey
- Week 2 onward: Competition round as follows:
 - Round 1-9: Round Robin
- Finals:
 - Finals Week 1
 - Game 1 Semi Final: 1 v 4
 - Game 2 Semi Final: 2 v 3
 - Game 3 Playoff: 6 v 7
 - Game 4 Playoff: 8 v 9
 - 5th v Bye
 - Finals Week 2
 - Game 5 Final: Winner Game 1 v Winner Game 2
 - Game 6 3rd/4th: Loser Game 1 v Loser Game 2
 - Game 7 5th/6th: 5th v Winner Game 3
 - Game 8 7th/8th: Loser Game 3 v Winner Game 4
 - Loser Game 5 v Bye
- *Minimum 3 Games must be played to be eligible to play in finals*

Format Championship 2 Girls:

- Week 1: Festival of Hockey
- Double Round Robin followed by Finals
- Finals Format: 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v bye
- *Minimum 3 round robin games must be played to be eligible to play in finals.*

There will be one bye friendly match scheduled for Youth Girls in the Youth Bye Friendlies Grade each week.

Game Duration/Format:

15 minute quarters, no stoppages (apart from serious injury).
2 minute quarter breaks and 5 minute half time break.

Finals Tiebreaker

Shoot Out

No Play weekends:

- Kings Birthday Sunday 1 June,
- Matariki Weekend Sunday 22 June
- School Holidays Sunday 29 June and 6 July

2. PlayHQ - Player Registration, Match Day Requirements, Draws & Results:**Player Registration**

All players must be registered with their relevant Team and Club via the PlayHQ system. If a player is not registered in PlayHQ they are not eligible to play. The penalty for playing an unregistered player is a default loss.

Youth Championship players playing up into Premier Youth are to be registered in their Youth Championship team and added as a 'fill-in' player to the relevant Premier match day team list.

Any player registered with their Club and Association who is eligible within the rules can take the field of play, provided they are listed on the physical Match Sheet.

Draws and Results: Draws and results will be available via AKH website www.akhockey.org.nz or our PlayHQ website.

PlayHQ – Game Day Requirements

Team line-up's must be completed prior to any match.

Team Managers/Coach/Admin must enter their team score in PlayHQ within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

Teams are required to enter their own scores, even if there were no goals scored.

Entering Results

Teams are to enter their own scores, goal scorers and cards to PlayHQ. This will ensure quicker reporting of results.

Competition points

Competition points will be recorded as follows:

| Result | Competition Points |
|--------|--------------------|
| Win | 3 points |
| Draw | 1 point |
| Loss | 0 points |

- Default Wins shall be awarded 3 points and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 in favour of the winning team.
- If both teams are deemed to have defaulted, then the score line shall be 0-0 and no points shall be awarded to either team.

Youth Grade Eligibility

- Youth Grade is for Secondary School Students (i.e. Year 9 and Above) who are 16 years of age as at 1st January 2025
- A player registered to play in the Senior Competition Premier or Premier Reserve grade who is 16 years of age or under is not eligible to play in the Youth Competition.

Grading

When grading the following principles will be applied:

- No player may play in any team lower than that in which he or she is registered.
- For all Youth Grade Teams, a minimum of 12 players must be registered per team.

Grading of players

- All Youth Championship grade players can play up into the Premier grade an unlimited number of times per season and may play both Youth Premier grade and Youth Championship grade teams per weekend.
- All Youth Players can play up into any Divisional Senior grade an unlimited number of times but may only play 1 Senior game per weekend. Youth players over the age of 15 may play up to three Premier Reserve games a season but may only play 1 Senior game per weekend. A Youth player under the age of 15 may not play up to Intercity/Auckland Premier Grade or Intercity/Auckland Premier Reserve Grade.

Interchange Rule

- Where a club has two or more teams registered in the same grade the club shall nominate one team the A team, the next the B team (and so on), AK Hockey will assign team rankings if a club fails to do so.
- The players in the lower team may play up into the higher team, but the players in the higher team may not play down into the lower ranked team.

3. Number of Games per Weekend

For this regulation, a weekend is defined as Friday to Sunday.

All Youth players can play up into any Senior Division grade an unlimited number of times but may only play one Senior Division game per weekend.

All Youth players who are over 15 years old as at 1st April of the current season may play up to Premier Reserve a maximum of three games a season but may only play one Senior game per weekend.

Youth players may only play two games per weekend which may include only one Senior Grade game. One of the two games must be for their registered Youth team.

A Youth player may play: One Youth game and one Senior game or two Youth games (subject to the Interchange Rules) per weekend.

4. Discipline and Judicial

Penalty Points: Players accumulating 6 Abuse/Foul Language Points and/or 12 penalty points will be subject to an automatic one game suspension.

Team Penalty Points:

Teams that reach:

- 12 points specifically for abuse and foul language (including coaches, managers and team officials) will have an automatic deduction of 4 competition points.
- 18 points will have an additional 8 points deducted.
- 24 points will be requested to attend a Judicial Hearing for the Judicial Committee to decide any further punishment, points deduction, game forfeiture, finals cancellation, monetary fine or other punishment deemed appropriate.

Key documents:

2025 Full Senior & Youth including Local Playing Rules

[Competition Rules 2025 - Senior Youth FINAL](#)

Hockey NZ New Rules

<https://akhockey.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/HNZ-New-Rules.pdf>

Code of Conduct

<https://akhockey.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/AK-Hockey-Code-of-Conduct-March-2015.pdf>

Player forms including serious injury reports and dispensation sheets

<https://akhockey.org.nz/player-forms/>

Play HQ Auckland Hockey website link

<https://www.playhq.com/hockey-new-zealand/org/auckland-hockey-association/26a0c1b5>