



## SA Masters Hockey Association

### IPT Tournament Rules and Regulations 2023

The following Rules and Regulations are applicable to the annual Inter-Provincial Hockey Tournament arranged and played under the auspices of the South African Masters Hockey Association (SA Masters Hockey). The rules and regulations will be reviewed annually and modified in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of SA Masters Hockey.

#### **1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

- The SA Masters Hockey Executive will determine the date, venue and number of teams that may enter the tournament on an annual basis as well as the composition of the sections and the pools.
- Men's section has eight pools and the ladies section has four pools.
- The tournament is classified into two sections: Medals Section and Spirit Section for both men and ladies' sections.
- The tournament takes place over a 3-day period in alternating coastal and inland venues across the country. The tournament generally takes place in August but can be subject to change.

##### **1.1 POOLS & AGE CATEGORIES**

**MEN:** (All players to be aged 34+ as 31 December 2023)

**Medals Section: (Medals to be awarded to teams placed first, second and third in each of these age categories)**

Colts Section:       Ages 34+

Stallions Section:   Ages 39+ (Teams are allowed two players between the ages of 34+ and 39+)

Mustang Section:   Ages 49+ (Teams are allowed two players between the ages of 44+ and 49+)

**Spirit Section:** (All players to be aged 34+ as 31 December 2023)

Although the minimum age for all the spirit pools is 34+, SA Masters Hockey recommends that the team's average age at the tournament should fall in the age categories stipulated in brackets for the participation in the pools. SA Masters Hockey shall be monitoring the average age of teams (Calculated by dividing the sum of the player ages at the date of the tournament by the number of players) and reserves the right to move teams to more appropriate pools.

Pool A:       34+ (34 to 44)

Pool B:       34+ (44 to 54)

Pool C:       34+ (44 to 54)

Pool D:       34+ (44 to 54)

Pool E:       34+ (55+)

SA Masters Hockey approval is required for any underage player, irrespective of the pool.

The following provinces: Northwest, Free State, Southern Cape, Mpumalanga and Zimbabwe will be allowed to field teams with players below the age limit. This is however limited to no more than two players and the

players may not be more than two years below the age limits of 34+ for Men. Please apply for dispensation to [saipt@samastershockey.co.za](mailto:saipt@samastershockey.co.za)

## LADIES:

**Medal Section:** (Medals to be awarded to teams placed first, second and third in each of these age categories)

Gazelles: Ages 34+

Impalas: Ages 44+ (Teams are allowed two players between the age of 42+ and 44+)

## Spirit Section:

Pool A: 34+ (34 to 44)

Pool B: 34+ (34 to 44)

Pool C: 34+ (45+)

The following age categories are applicable to all provinces. Ages will be strictly monitored. SA Masters Hockey approval is again required for any underage player, irrespective of the pool.

The following provinces: Northwest, Free State, Southern Cape, Mpumalanga and Zimbabwe will be allowed to field teams with players below the age limit. This is however limited to no more than two players and the players may not be more than two years below the age limits of 34+ for Ladies. Please apply for dispensation to [saipt@samastershockey.co.za](mailto:saipt@samastershockey.co.za)

Teams wishing to move up or down pools may approach the SA Masters Local Tournament member and motivate their case. The decision to move teams up or down pools lies solely with the SA Masters Local Tournament member as it is dependent on a reciprocating team moving up or down. Please apply for dispensation to [saipt@samastershockey.co.za](mailto:saipt@samastershockey.co.za)

## 1.2 PLAYING FORMAT

### Medals section

Men Colts, Men Stallions & Mustangs, Ladies Gazelles – These are competitive pools; players are however expected to adhere to the spirit and ethos of Masters Hockey. Please ensure that all players shirts have playing numbers clearly marked.

- All games will be played on Astro.
- **“A maximum of 18 players may be used by a team in a match and during the IPT, of whom 2 must be goalkeepers wearing full protective equipment. If one of the goalkeepers becomes injured or is suspended during a tournament, that team can continue to use 17 players including only 1 goalkeeper. If a team chooses not to include a second goalkeeper in the 18 players, they are limited to using 16 players in a match.”**

In short, if a province selects:

- 18 players per team, they must include 2 goalkeepers.
- 17 players per team, they must include 2 goalkeepers.
- 16 players per team, they can include 1 or 2 goalkeepers.

The goalkeepers must be nominated as part of the registration process and may not change during the tournament. These individuals must remain in protective goalkeeping gear during matches if they are part of the match day squad. It follows that these individuals may not play out and

other individuals may not play goalkeeper unless prior authorisation is obtained from the Tournament Director.

- Managers, Coaches, and non-playing umpires are allowed.
  - Umpires are allocated by the host province at R1 500 per team.
  - FIH rules and standards apply.
  - Cards will be issued.
  - Penalty Flicks will be awarded.
  - A winner will be declared in the medal pools.
  - Points allocation: Win = 4 points; draw = 2 points; Score 4 or more goals = 1 bonus point; Lose by a margin of 1 goal = 1 bonus point.
  - Points are tallied from the results of the league and the following applies to the play-offs that are scheduled for Day 3:
    - Gold medal match contested by positions 1&2.
    - Bronze medal match contested by position 3&4.
    - 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> position play-off.
- 8 second tiebreaker will be applied to matches tied at full-time during the play-offs.

### **Spirit section**

#### **Men A, B, C, D, E and Ladies A, B, C**

- All teams will play a minimum of 5 Games.
- Age categories do not apply. Refer to relevant paragraph: (Although the minimum age for all the spirit pools is 34+, SA Masters Hockey recommends that the team's average age at the tournament should fall in the age categories in brackets for the participation in the pools. SA Masters Hockey shall be monitoring the average age of teams (Calculated by dividing the sum of the player ages at the date of the tournament by the number of players) and reserves the right to move teams to more appropriate pools).
- Maximum 16 players per team.
- Each team will play the 5 matches in their pool.
- Umpires will be supplied, if required by the team, but the cost of R 1000.00 will be for the teams account.
- FIH rules and standards apply, however Umpires will apply the Masters Hockey ethos.
  - No cards will be issued unless there is a blatant violation of the laws or spirit that could affect the outcome of the game or cause injury to a player.
  - No penalty flicks will be awarded unless there is a blatant violation of the laws or spirit.
- Players are expected to play within the spirit of Masters Hockey.
  - Players are expected to own up to rule contraventions.
  - The umpires and opposition players are to be treated with respect.

### **1.3 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

#### **Spirit section**

- Although hockey is played in the spirit of masters, results will be recorded.
- The winning team of each pool at the end of the tournament will be determined and may be promoted to the pool above in the succeeding tournament.
- The losing team may be relegated to the pool below.
- Spirit pools A – E, will remain with the current province teams allocated, and will be reviewed annually.
- SA Masters Hockey Tournament Liaison has full discretion to promote or relegate a team or teams where the competitiveness within the current allocated pool, is affected.

#### **1.4 NEW TEAM ENTRIES**

- Although the tournament is restricted to a certain number of teams per pool, SA Masters will call for applications from time to time.

#### **2. MEDICAL**

Medical staff must be certified as capable of handling a sports injury, dislocations, blood trauma, head injuries, and stitches if required. They must be able to stabilise a patient immediately.

- **Physio/Masseuse's**

All effort will go into arranging physio services next to the fields. Costs will be for the players own account.

#### **3. TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION PROCESS**

- Team managers or appointed representatives are responsible for the registration and confirmation of their team for each tournament.
- The registration process will be done via the SA Masters Hockey website.
- Registration will only be finalised once team lists, including all required information is submitted.

#### **4. LEVIES**

##### **4.1 TOURNAMENT LEVIES**

- Team managers or appointed representatives are responsible for submission of all levies to the Local Organising Committee of the hosting province (LOC) within the time period stipulated by either the LOC or SA Masters Hockey. Any team that does not pay the levies by the deadline date will be considered to have withdrawn from the tournament and will not be able to participate in the tournament, unless otherwise agreed.
- All team managers, umpires and any other non-playing support staff will be liable for the full levy, unless otherwise agreed. Partners who only attend the after-match functions will qualify for a reduced levy as determined by the LOC or SA Masters Hockey, as applicable.
- Teams who experience last minute withdrawals or injuries where a player no longer participates in the tournament can apply to the LOC for a refund. It is at the sole decision of the LOC as to whether the refund can be granted.
- Any team that withdraws from the tournament, within one month of the date of the tournament will still be liable for the full levy. The levy applicable is equivalent to a minimum of 14 players.

##### **4.2 SAHA LEVIES**

- Every player that participates in the Masters IPT needs to be affiliated to South African Hockey (SAHA). The affiliation fee needs to be paid by the individual player to SAHA through the SAHA app. This affiliation fee is separate to, and not included in the annual Masters Tournament levy amount.

#### **5. TOURNAMENT WAIVERS AND INDEMNITIES**

The team manager, appointed representative and all participants are required to submit and/or complete the personal and team waiver documents as part of the tournament registration process. Any individual or team that has not completed the required documentation will not be permitted to participate. The submission of the Personal and Team waivers will be done through the registration process on the SA Masters Hockey Website.

## **6. TRANSGRESSION OF THE RULES**

Any individual or team that transgresses the above rules or acts in a manner that brings the LOC or SA Masters into disrepute, may be barred from future tournaments. Any decision to bar an individual or team is at the sole discretion of SA Masters Hockey.

This is applicable to both on and off the field of play.