
AIRSWING

NEWCASTLE MASTERS HOCKEY 2014 PROGRAMME

STATE MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

55 & 63 - GRAFTON March 21-23

Nominations close 15 Feb. Playing fees will be between \$150 and \$180 depending on the number of players per team. Accommodation - Fitzroy Motel.

50s - Taree, April 11-13

Nominations close 28 Feb. Playing fees will be similar to 55s. Accommodation tba.

45s Wollongong May 16-18

Nominations close 15 March

40s Newcastle June 25-27

Nominations close 7 April

35s Armidale July 25-27



Mark Jeffrey - Grafton 2013

Welcome to the 2014 hockey year. The year will hit off with the resumption of our summer competition on the 15th January. We hope to have a short Over 38s competition from the end of January until early March.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 10 February at the hockey centre at 7pm.

The first of the state championships is the 55/63s at Grafton in March and your co-operation is sought to ensure that your intention to participate is known as early as possible. We may need to book extra accommodation, depending on the numbers of participants. It will be a great weekend with the Association's catering and entertainment Maestros, David Birt and Margy Nowak already planning the evening.

Over the past two years we have struggled at times with player numbers and commitment. For example



FIH RULE CHANGES

The International Hockey Federation announced last year of two changes to the rules that would take effect in 2014.

- The much-disliked OWN GOAL rule will be removed from 1 February 2014. We will introduce the change from 14 January 2014.
- The rule that allows a defender - other than a goalkeeper - to stop a shot at goal using the stick above his head will be removed from 1 September 2014. We will seek advice as to when Hockey Australia will make the change in Australia.
- You may have seen players in open field play in international matches in recent months stopping the ball above their heads with the stick. This rule change applies to international matches only.

UMPIRES

We need umpires for every match. However, they should not be subject to the type of abuse and whinging that has been prevalent in our competitions of late. It's time for players to raise their standards.

we have players tardy with lodgement of nominations and payment of fees, some have not been in proper uniform, others have been unwilling to be available for all three days. All these circumstances make it very difficult to efficiently run our representative teams, and as a result, the following rules will apply to the 2014 representative teams -

- Players must be available to play on all three days of a championship.
- Players must lodge nominations on time and pay the nomination fees at the same time.
- Please lodge your nominations and pay your fees as soon as possible. Further, we will advise you of the procedure for NSW Registration and Insurance as soon as we know the amounts for 2014.

DOBBIN WALSH - 60s Jackets



THE NSW MASTERS AGM

The NSW AGM will be held in Sydney on Saturday 15th February. There will be an election for the Chairman's position and for three committee members. It is important that Newcastle holds one of those positions and I ask for interested persons to let either myself or our President, Bob Farrow know. We need to lodge the nominations by 24 January.

The Umpiring Issue

It was mentioned earlier and it needs some elaboration. Umpires are a very integral part of our game. You will all know the annoyance of being unable to commence a match because there are no umpires in attendance, and the added frustration of having to forego playing in order to umpire the match which you had been looking forward to playing.

We have been privileged to have a number of players who have volunteered to umpire our games over the past twelve months, including Scott Tyrrell, Neil Morgan, David Ross, Marc Ballico, Col Whittaker, Brad Stanbury, Gary Jordan and Mick Martin.

However, umpires can only take so much abuse of the type that is too frequently pointed at them in our competition. Regrettably, the situation has continued to become worse - it's time to stop!

The umpires in our masters competitions are now instructed to use their cards as follows:

- First instance in a match - 5 minute yellow;
- second instance by any player - 10 minute yellow;
- third instance by any player - 15 minute yellow, and so on.
- Repeat offence by a player who has already had yellow card - red card

Additionally, umpires are asked to be similarly severe on stick hacking and generally poor tackling.

We need to lift our standards.

Cheers, Peter Sweeney, secretary/treasurer.