Activity scope
This document relates to student participation in Hockey as a curriculum activity including skills development, team training and competition matches conducted by schools.

Special considerations
This document does not relate to student participation in other lead-up games, including Minkey or Hookin2Hockey. Refer to modified rules available from Hockey Australia (registration necessary), as appropriate.

Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors
- For a registered teacher:
  - Get Active Queensland Hockey Coaching Accreditation OR
  - Competence (demonstrated ability/experience) in the teaching of hockey, OR
- For a leader other than a registered teacher, Beginner coach qualifications from Hockey Australia or Get Active Queensland Hockey Coaching Course.

Minimum activity-specific equipment/facilities
- Wherever possible, fields should be orientated as close as possible to north-south.
- The playing surface must continue for a minimum 3 metres at the ends and 2 metres at the sides of the field. Refer to International Hockey Federation (FIH) Pitch and Equipment for more information.
- On natural grass fields, the goal posts may be fixed into sockets. On synthetic turf the complete goal structure should be placed in position on the playing surface and should be sufficiently heavy and/or secured at its rear to avoid easy movement.
- The inside surface of metal backboards must be covered with a shock-absorbing material such as thick rubber sheeting, to reduce ball rebound. It is dangerous for players if the ball rebounds at speed from the backboard.
- Hockey goals should comply with the requirements of the Rules of Hockey, European Normation: EN750, refer to FIH Pitch Furniture for more information.
- Goals should be constructed from steel or heavy-duty aluminium (do not use lightweight aluminium). Aluminium should be sufficiently heavy to avoid movement of the structure. The internal cross-section of aluminium posts and cross-bars should be reinforced to avoid denting and splintering on impact. Reinforcement should preferably be of the same material and manufactured as an integral part of the cross section. Reinforcement with wood is not recommended because the timber may rot.
- The goals should not have any additional fittings that could cause danger to players.
- Safety equipment should be worn in all games and practice sessions.
- Players should wear shin guards. Correctly fitted mouth guards should be worn for playing and practising.
- Jewellery is not permitted on the hockey field and must be removed or covered by tape if unable to be removed.
- Goalkeepers must wear protective equipment comprising of (at least) headgear (i.e. helmet with face mask, throat protector), leg guards, kickers, leg pads, foot pads, chest protector, ‘box’ (male) and gloves. Goalkeeper protective equipment is described in the FIH Rules of Hockey.
- Note that it is recommended that every synthetic hockey pitch is surrounded by a barrier.
- Ensure that the method of fixing nets to the goal-posts and cross-bar is secure and safe. Metal cup-hooks should not be used and any spring hooks should have screw caps.
- Corner posts should be made of non-injurious material.
Activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures

- Rules regarding physical contact should be enforced to prevent rough play.
- Assess suitability of playing field (e.g. level, debris, potholes/divots in ground, line markers, corner flags, buildings, pedestrian traffic and other activities) before and during activity. Please note that if field is wet, special care should be taken when hitting ball to prevent dangerous undercutting.
- Consider erecting a safety screen of chain-link mesh behind each goal, the location where balls are most likely to leave the playing area, often at speed. Spectators seated or standing near or behind a goal are clearly in danger of being injured by a ball travelling at high speed.
- Check all equipment for damage, wear and tear, splintering and rough edges before play, and remove where necessary.
- Goalkeepers should defend their goal against only one ball at a time during skills practice.
- Retrieve balls simultaneously when using several balls during practice sessions.
- Guidelines/codes of practice are established for this activity, refer to FIH for further information.

Useful activity-specific links

- Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program
- Hockey Australia
- International Hockey Federation(FIH)
  http://www.fih.ch/en/home

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