



Season 2016

Members Handbook and Rulebook

Incorporated in NSW as East Coast Superleague Inc. (INC9892297)

ABN 42 238 661 972

Revision 2016.01 Released 14-Feb-2016





Season 2016 ECSL Handbook

A message from our Club President

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone involved in East Coast Super League and the broader hockey community. From the players, to the volunteers who keep the league running, and to our loyal spectators and followers. Thank-you for being a part of this fantastic league.

The East Coast Super League is New South Wales' premier full-contact ice hockey league. It operates as a separate grade within the Ice Hockey NSW competition. The league is open-age, catering for players from 2nd year Midget (17-year-old) upward.

From this season each ECSL team's roster must comprise 40% 25-and-under aged players.

For season 2016 IHNSW has instructed us to drop one team from the competition. This season East Coast Super League will comprise just four Sydney-based teams plus one regional team from Newcastle. The Sydney-based teams are formed using a player draft system. The draft is used to ensure that all teams in the competition are of a similar strength, thus providing a more even competition. The Sydney-based teams are not aligned with any of the IHNSW Junior Clubs.

The 5 teams for season 2016 are: -

Bombers	Rebels
Northstars	Sting
Raptors	

For the league's younger players, East Coast Super League is where they hone their skills before moving up in to the Australian Ice Hockey League (AIHL).

Each season a number of our ECSL players are selected for the AIHL.

Les Adams

Club President

Executive Committee

The East Coast Super League Executive Committee for season 2016 is:

President	Les Adams	president@ecsl.com.au
Vice-President	Sharon Kelly	vice-president@ecsl.com.au
Secretary	Jason Kvisle	secretary@ecsl.com.au
Treasurer	Craig Air	treasurer@ecsl.com.au

Where can you find us



www.ecslhockey.com



www.facebook.com/ECSLhockey



info@ecsl.com.au



Season 2016 ECSL Handbook

Fees

East Coast Superleague season fees cover:

- Pre-season training ice time
- Game fees
- IHNSW fees (club affiliation, team registration and cost of on-ice officials)
- Player Membership and Club Administration

The Committee strives to keep fees as low as possible each season. The actual fees payed by each player will fluctuate slightly from season to season based on the cost of ice time charged by the rinks, as well as the number of teams and players participating in the ECSL competition.

Fees are broken down in the following player categories:

<u>Midget</u>	<u>AIHL U23*</u>	<u>AIHL 23+*</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Casual</u>
Midget-aged players participating in the IHNSW Midget league as their top priority, and playing up in to ECSL when there is no clashes with their Midget games.	Under 23 players participating in AIHL as their top priority, and playing across to ECSL when able. Players in this category can play unlimited games in AIHL and ECSL.	Players 23 years and above participating in AIHL as their top priority, and playing across to AIHL when able. Players in this category are unable to play any further games in ECSL once they have played 5 games in AIHL this season.	If you hold a roster position on an ECSL team and don't fit one of the previous fee categories then you are in the Standard fee category.	From time-to-time an ECSL team may call up casual players from either the Midget or Senior leagues to supplement team numbers.

Details of the actual fees and due dates each season are published in a separate Fees Information Bulletin. Please contact the [Club Treasurer](#) if you would like a copy of the Fees Bulletin for the current season.



Season 2016 ECSL Handbook

Rulebook

The East Coast Super League operates under the control of Ice Hockey NSW (IHNSW). ECSL is a separate grade within the IHNSW competition.

Ice Hockey NSW's rules and regulations are documented in the Members Handbook, the latest version of which can be found on the [Risk Management](#) page of the IHNSW website (www.nswicehockey.com.au).

Within IHNSW's rules there is provision for special rules relating to particular grades. The Special Rules relating to East Coast Super League are included in this section of our Handbook.

All players and team officials associated with ECSL are to appraise themselves of the IHNSW rules and the special rules for East Coast Super League.

Rules Addendum – This update (2016.01) to the Special Rules for East Coast Super League was published on 14-Feb-2016 and supersedes any previous version of the ECSL special rules, including those appearing within the IHNSW Handbook itself.

Special Rules for East Coast Super League

This league is regarded as NSW Premier Full Contact Senior league.

Number and Time Periods of League Games

The objective of IHNSW is to provide a minimum of 20 competition games for each ECSL team (excluding play-offs / finals), subject to available ice time.

All ECSL games have a maximum duration of 90 minutes and are played in three timed periods as follows;

- First two periods: 20 minutes running time
- Third period: 15 minutes running time and up to 5 minutes stop time, or the game limit of 90 minutes, whichever is first.
- There will be an ice-cut after period 2.

During running time, the time clock will only stop when the referee calls time-out.

In the event that a game exceeds or looks like exceeding the maximum game duration, or is running late due to a late start, the final decision on the game being played out or called off lies with the rink management and solely the rink management. In the event that rink management seeks to liaise on this with an on-ice official, the on-ice official will at ALL TIMES follow the directions of rink management.

Uniform Design Changes Procedure

This procedure is to apply to all new ECSL teams being admitted to the ECSL competition, plus any existing teams wishing to change the design of their uniform.

A uniform design change covers jersey, socks, cover pants and any other items worn by players on-ice that includes team-identifying colours, wording or artwork.

Procedure:-

1. A colour mock-up of the proposed uniform needs to be submitted to the ECSL Committee by a recognised Team Manager/Official. Even if only 1 item of the uniform is changing (say Sock design) a full uniform mock-up must be submitted. The request must include a reason for the change; a description of what is being changed (ie, just logo, jersey colours etc), and whether the mock-up covers the team's primary/secondary strip.
2. The ECSL Executive will review the design to ensure it meets ECSL and IHNSW standards - including use/position of IHNSW and ECSL logos, colour not clashing with any other teams, team logo and wording, sponsorship artwork etc.
 - Rejection: If the proposed design is rejected by the Committee, a reason for the rejection will be provided. The team is at liberty to resubmit a revised uniform mock-up if desired.
 - Approval: The proposed design may be approved on a restricted-use basis (ie a secondary strip to be used against named teams only) or approved on an unrestricted basis for use in all games. If approval is granted, it will be conditional on the team providing logo artwork for use by the league for promotional and branding purposes. If the artwork is not provided, then approval for the uniform will be withdrawn.

Interclub Transfers

New and/or returning players to ECSL must provide a clearance from their previous club as per the *Interclub Transfers* section of the IHNSW Handbook. Penalties



Season 2016 ECSL Handbook

apply for players who have not completed the appropriate paperwork.

Team Roster

From season 2016 onward each team's roster must comprise at least 40% players aged 25-and-under. The player's age is determined as of 31st December of the current year.

- For Sydney-based teams, only players on non-casual fee plans are counted toward the 25-and-under limit. Casual play-ups are not regarded as roster players.
- If a team carries more than 2 goalies on their roster, then only 2 of those goalies count toward the 25-and-under limit. The additional goalie(s) are counted as over-25 regardless of age.

Player Draft and Team Roster

Prior to the start of each season ECSL will hold tryouts. On completion of the tryouts a player draft will be held with each team taking a turn to select new players for vacant positions on their roster. The details of the rules of the draft are documented separately and will be distributed to each team prior to tryouts.

After the draft, and up until an ECSL team has played 10 games in the current season, a team may make changes to their roster. The requested changes must be made in writing to the ECSL Committee. The Committee will vote on the changes and advise the team whether the changes are approved or not. If a roster change is not approved by the Committee, the team will be advised of the reason.

Once a team has played 10 games for the season their roster is frozen.

ECSL Team Officials

Each ECSL team is expected to be self-sufficient with regard to team officials and support personnel.

Prior to the start of the season the ECSL Committee will send a form to each team requiring them to demonstrate that they can provide:

- Accredited Coach, Team Manager and bench officials for every game, and
- Separate scorekeeper, timekeeper and penalty box attendant for each home game

The ECSL Committee reserves the right to disband any team that fails to demonstrate that they can provide team officials for the season.

ECSL Players

All ECSL players will be required to ~~sign an ECSL Player Contract with the league and~~ commit to paying their fees per the official structure of instalments issued. Failure to complete these requirements in a timely manner could

lead to a player's roster position being made available to another player.

Once drafted, a player remains the asset of that team until such time as;

- ~~The player is traded with another ECSL team;~~
(player Trades will be allowed once a proper framework has been developed)
- The player, upon consultation with the team manager and written advice to the ECSL Committee, relinquishes their place on the team. If this option is taken the player cannot return to play in any other ECSL team until they have;
 - Attended the draft prior to the commencement of a new season or
 - 2 consecutive seasons have passed without playing any games within the ECSL
- The player re-enters the draft prior to commencement of the next season.

The only exception to the above is Sydney-based teams travelling to Newcastle. In this case teams are required to travel with a minimum of 10 players to Newcastle. Should a team be unable to supply 10 players they may, with written permission from the ECSL Committee, draw upon players from other Sydney-based teams to make up the shortfall. Newcastle teams travelling to Sydney cannot draw players from other ECSL teams as the Northstars' player roster is larger than the Sydney team's rosters and hence more resilient to player shortfalls.

Temporary Substitute Goalies

IIHF rules state that for a team to play a game it must be able to put on the ice at least five skaters and one goaltender at the beginning of the game.

To avoid the risk of teams having to forfeit games ECSL rules provide for the use of a temporary substitute goalie if a team's regular goalie is not available.

If an ECSL team's regular goalie is not available, then the team manager must:

- Where possible use one of the nominated reserve goalies or, if unavailable
- Attain the services of a suitable ECSL-capable goalkeeper from the Senior B Division or Midget Division provided that
 - The Senior B Division or Midget Division goalkeeper does not participate in the ECSL game over his own team and
 - The Senior B Division goalkeeper does not breach any of the rules specified in the IHNSW Handbook *Special Rules for Senior B Divisions* such as playing-up limits.

- iii. All substitutions are advised to the ECSL committee within a reasonable time prior to the game being played and are subject to final approval of the Committee.
- iv. If no ECSL-capable goalies can be secured under points (i) or (ii) above (and all goalies on the ECSL Goalie Contact List have been contacted) then the ECSL Committee may approve the use of a goalie from another ECSL team, or another League, providing that:
 - a. The goalie is registered with IHNSW, and
 - b. The goalie has completed and submitted, where necessary, play-up paperwork, and
 - c. In the case of an ECSL goalie, the goalie's current team manager agrees in writing (email or SMS is sufficient) to release their goalie for the requested game(s).

A temporary substitute goalie from Senior B Division can only play a maximum of 5 games in ECSL. A temporary substitute goalie from Midget League can play an unlimited number of games up in to ECSL.

A team may apply to the ECSL Committee for special exemption to the 5 game rule if no other goalies are available. Note that Senior B Division has their own play-up limits which may render the goalie unable to play back in to Seniors. Any consideration for special exemption by the ECSL Committee should be carried out in parallel with a request to the Senior Committee for exemption from their play-up rule.

Unless stated otherwise, ECSL Committee approval to play a Temporary Substitute Goalie is only valid for one game. If a temporary substitute goalie is required for multiple consecutive games then this must be clearly stated in the team's request to the Committee, and in the Committee's approval back to the team.

Generally, temporary substitute goalies are exempt from paying ECSL casual player fees. However, check the ECSL Fees Information Sheet for the current season for details on this season's fee structure.

Temporary Substitute Players

ECSL Teams are able to fill short-term vacancies in their roster through the use of Temporary Substitute Players.

Eligible Temporary Substitute Players include players that the ECSL Committee has deemed ECSL-capable and:

- Attended the draft and were listed as reserves by the ECSL Committee;
- Are Senior B Division players that have been approved by the ECSL Committee;
- Midget-aged players who turn 17 or older in the current year

Temporary players are permissible under the following circumstances:

- Sydney-based teams travelling to Newcastle that have less than the minimum of 10 players required under ECSL rules for Newcastle home games;
- Teams who are left short due to injury and/or suspension;

If an ECSL team requires the use of Temporary Substitute Players, then the team manager must:

- i. Identify any ECSL-capable Midget players who might be available to play, or if no Midget players are available
- ii. Identify ECSL-capable Senior B Division players provided that
 - a. The Senior B Division player does not participate in the ECSL game over his own team and
 - b. The Senior B Division player does not breach any of the rules specified in the IHNSW Handbook *Special Rules for Senior B Divisions* such as playing-up limits.
- iii. All substitutions are advised to the ECSL committee within a reasonable time prior to the game being played and are subject to final approval of the Committee.

Unless stated otherwise, ECSL Committee approval to play a Temporary Substitute Player is only valid for 1 game. If a temporary substitute player is required for multiple consecutive games then this must be clearly stated in the team's request to the Committee, and in the Committee's approval back to the team.

The ECSL Committee will not approve a temporary substitute player if

- i. The player is not deemed to be ECSL-capable; or
- ii. The player's skill level exceeds that of the player they are substituting for, thus stacking the team.

Newcastle teams travelling to Sydney cannot draw players from other ECSL temporary player pool as the Northstars' player roster is larger than the Sydney team's rosters and hence more resilient to player shortfalls.

Midget-aged players are required to have a completed playing-up form submitted to IHNSW before they can play up to ECSL. Please also refer to the section on *Age Eligibility and League Priority* below for other rules applying to Midget-aged players.

A temporary substitute player from Senior B Division can only play a maximum of 3 games in ECSL. A temporary substitute player from Midget League can play an unlimited number of games up in to ECSL.



Season 2016 ECSL Handbook

Temporary play-ups are not considered to be part of any team, either for the current season, or when it comes to that player participating in the draft in subsequent seasons.

Temporary play-up players can only be used in regular rounds. They cannot play in the ECSL Finals Series.

Generally, Senior B Division players will be charged a game fee for each game they play; and Midget-aged temporary substitute players are exempt from paying ECSL casual player fees. Check the ECSL Fees Information Sheet for the current season for details on this season's fee structure.

Age Eligibility and League Priority

Players turning 23 or older in the current calendar year are limited to playing 5 games up in to the AIHL. Once the player plays a 6th game in AIHL they will not be permitted to return to the ECSL until the following season.

Players turning 22 or less in the current calendar year are permitted to play unlimited games up into the AIHL.

Minimum age for ECSL is players turning 17 in the current season. I.e, 2nd year Midget and up.

Midget-aged players participating in both the Midget and ECSL leagues must play their Midget games as priority whenever there is a clash of game times between the 2 leagues. Any ECSL team who breaches this rule will be regarded as playing an illegal or ineligible player. Refer to the separate IHNSW Handbook section titled *Penalties for Playing a Suspended, Illegal or Ineligible Player* for the appropriate penalty. This rule regarding Midgets playing up in to ECSL takes precedence over the general playing-up rules documented elsewhere in the IHNSW handbook.

Team Officials

All ECSL teams with player(s) under the age of 18 must have a minimum two non-playing officials on the bench at each game. Including:

- An accredited coach 18 years or older; plus
- An adult 18 years or older with at least NPO (non-playing official) registration.

ECSL teams where all players are 18 or over are required to have a non-playing adult manager on the bench for each game. The team must also have an accredited coach, but in the case where there are no under 18-year-old players on the team the Coach can also be a player as long as his first priority is to leave the ice in the case of an incident that requires assistance.

The designated coach and manager must also be listed on the game sheet as such. In the instance of a player coach then the person must be listed in both the players section and the coaching section of the team sheet.

A team that fails to adhere to the rules regarding bench officials will be deducted 1 competition point, and a game forfeiture should the offending team be the winning team (ie score recorded as 5-0). Should a team fail to provide the above on 3 occasions throughout one season, it will automatically be referred to the Committee for review and determination on the suitability of their management structure.

Playoff Eligibility

Full-time rostered ECSL players and goalies must have played a minimum of 7 ECSL games to be eligible for playoffs.

Players and goalies who also participate in either the Midget or AIHL leagues must have played a minimum of 7 games in their other league and minimum of 5 games in ECSL to be eligible for playoffs. The IHNSW website and AIHL website will be the used as the information source for games played in other leagues.

Players who are un-financial as at 5pm on the Friday prior to Finals will be ruled ineligible to play in the entire Finals series. Teams will be notified of un-financial players by the Club Treasurer in the week leading up to Finals.

Team Standings for Finals Series

The top four teams in the ECSL point score proceed to the Finals Series.

Should any teams be on equal points at the end of the regular season, a count back will be decided by ECSL in conjunction with IHNSW, and the finals birth will be awarded to the winner of those two teams. The rules for the countback are described in the IHNSW Handbook under the section *How Team Standings Are Determined*.

Finals Format

The ECSL Finals series consists of:

- i. A 2 game semi-finals series involving the top 4 teams (1st vs 4th, and 2nd vs 3rd). The scores from the first game carry over to the second game.
- ii. A best-of-3-games Grand Finals series comprising the winner of the 1st vs 4th semi-final versus the winner of the 2nd vs 3rd semi-final.

All Finals Series games are played in three timed periods as follows;

- First two periods: 20 minutes running time
- Third period: 15 minutes running time and 5 minutes stop time.
- There will be an ice-cut after period 2.

Finals Series games that are drawn at the end of regular time will be determined by overtime not penalty shoot outs.



Season 2016 ECSL Handbook

There will be a 5-minute warm-up time prior to the game. The clock will begin immediately counting down at the scheduled time as per IHNSW Guidelines.

Each team will be home for one game; therefore, that team will be responsible for game pucks, nets, scorekeepers and timekeepers for that game.

During running time, the time clock will only stop when the referee calls time-out.

The ECSL Semi Finals are a cumulative aggregate based series, where the scores that are recorded at the end of the first game carry over to the second game. The score from Game 1 is put up on the scoreboard at the beginning of Game 2. If at the end of Game 2 the score is tied then the game will go into sudden death overtime until a winner is declared. There is no overtime at the end of game 1.

Semi-Finals Handshake protocol: Even though the score carries over from game 1 to game 2, the end-of-game handshake with the officials and opposing team must be carried out after each game.

The ECSL Grand Final series is not aggregate but rather a best out of 3 game series. The first team to win 2 games will be declared ECSL Champions.

Each game in the Grand Final series must have a result, therefore a Draw at the end of regular time will be decided by sudden-death overtime, and not penalty shootout.

Financial Status

Players who have not paid their fees in full by 31st July, and who do not have a signed Payment Plan agreement will be ineligible to play any further ECSL games until their fees are paid.

Players who have not fully paid all their ECSL fees by the end of the season will be declared un-financial and the League will apply to IHNSW to have these players prevented from partaking in any IHA or IHNSW-sanctioned activities until the outstanding amount is paid in full.

At the start of each season, players who have been deemed un-financial will not be allowed to participate in any ECSL activities, including tryouts, draft, pre-season training, and the regular season competition until their outstanding fees are paid. For debts run-up outside of the standard Club structure, and hence not covered by the standard Clearance Form procedures (eg AJIHL or State team representation) ECSL will rely on being notified in writing by IHNSW.

Any team who breaches this rule will be regarded as playing an illegal or ineligible player. Refer to the separate IHNSW Handbook section titled Penalties for Playing a Suspended, Illegal or Ineligible Player for the appropriate penalty.

Team/Player Fines

IHNSW rules provide for fines against teams and/or players for certain rule breaches. Under these circumstances IHNSW invoices the Club (ECSL in this case) directly.

East Coast Super League will re-invoice the team/player responsible for the rule breach for payment of the fine.

Failure of any team/player to pay the fine within 30 days of the offending game may result in the ECSL Committee declaring the team/player un-financial.

Rule Interpretation

Where there is doubt or uncertainty over the meaning of any rule under which ECSL operates then the arbiter will be determined as follows.

- 1) Where the rule is one that applies broadly to all IHNSW leagues then the IHNSW Committee will be called upon to clarify the rule.
- 2) Where the rule is specific to ECSL then the current ECSL Executive Committee will provide clarification.



Player Draft Rulebook

This section, Player Draft Rulebook, is currently a work-in-progress. It is anticipated that documentation of the rules will be finalised prior to the season 2016 draft.

The East Coast Super league uses a draft system to allocate players to teams. The draft is used to ensure that all teams in the competition are of a similar strength, thus providing a more even competition.

This section describes the rules of the draft.

About the ECSL Player Draft

The ECSL Player Draft is open to the 5 Sydney-based ECSL teams - Bombers, Heat, Raptors, Rebels and Sting. The Northstars ECSL team does not participate in the draft.

The ECSL Player Draft consists of:

1. At least 2 pre-season on-ice Tryout sessions; and
2. The Player Draft, which normally takes place on a weeknight in the week immediately following the last Tryout.

Representative(s) from each Sydney-based ECSL team are expected to attend each Tryout in order to assess the players and formulate a strategy for their draft picks.

Representative(s) from each Sydney-based ECSL team are expected to attend the Player Draft to participate in the player selection process.

ECSL Committee Responsibility

Prior to the start of each season the ECSL Committee will

1. Book ice time for at least 2 pre-season Tryout sessions. Each team will be notified of these dates. The general hockey community will also be notified via the ECSL website, ECSL Facebook page(s) and the IHNSW website. Every effort will be made to avoid clashes with scheduled AJIHL games involving Sydney teams, and other hockey events involving players of the same demographic as ECSL. Some clashes may be unavoidable.
2. Book a venue (meeting room etc) suitable to convene the Player Draft. Every effort will be made to hold the Draft on a weeknight during the week immediately following the last Tryout. Each team will be notified of the date, time and location of the Player Draft.
3. Book ice time for pre-season Training sessions for each team and publish a team training schedule. The aim is to hold at least three sessions for each

team. However, ice time availability and the number of weeks between the the Player Draft and the start of the season may mean three sessions is not possible.

Prior to the Player Draft the ECSL Club Secretary will distribute a spreadsheet to team representatives listing all players eligible for the draft.

Player Eligibility for the Draft

A player is eligible for the draft if they meet any of the following criteria:

1. They attended at least one of the ECSL pre-season Tryout skating sessions.
2. They were not able to make any of the ECSL pre-season Tryout skating sessions due to work commitments, illness/injury etc, and they advised the Committee in writing prior to completion of Tryouts.
3. They are currently on a team roster (have played at least 1 game for their rostered team in the past 2 consecutive seasons) but have advised both their Team Manager and the ECSL Committee in writing of their intention to re-enter the draft. The player is also expected to satisfy point (1) or (2) above.
4. ... will keep building on this list ...

How the Player Draft Works

<need lots of words to fluff out this section>

Trades

Trading of players between teams is not allowed. *This may be revised for future seasons once a proper framework has been developed.*

Trading Draft Picks

Trading of draft picks between teams is not allowed. *This may be revised for future seasons once a proper framework has been developed.*



Season 2016 ECSL Handbook

*** End of Document ***