

Key Points of the Proposed Experimental Bye-laws Changes (initial 2-year implementation)

Proposed Competition Bye-law changes for more flexible player registrations and other points to note if such changes are introduced – NB: these are all taken from Bye-laws from other countries.

1. [Existing Bye-law] Remove Designated Under 21 Players Rule;
2. [Existing Bye-law] Maintain Dual Registration Nominated Players for Goalie and Outfield and such players cannot move up or down in their respective outfield or goalie registered team without WS committee approval (i.e. this is the current rule anyway)
3. [New] **General Rule (core / non-core players) – League only:**
 - I. Each registered team will have named “Core” players who cannot move up or down (Definition on Core Players TBC)
 - II. Remaining players in the registered team (“non-Core”) may move up or down by one grade within their club (e.g. registered C team player cannot play higher than B or lower than D team).
 - Should a club wish the player to be able to play for A then they must seek WS consent to move the player’s registration from C to B – same for going down.
 - Note above – Dual Registered Players are an exception to this rule (either they are a Core player anyway and if a non-Core player cannot move up or down either.
 - If a non-core player is registered with a HKHA development team (Bauhinia /HKUHC), then they may only play up one team.
 - If a non-core player is registered with the HKHA Masters, then they may only play up one team and no doubling up.
 - III. Up to [4] non-Core players from any team can play up to two games in a match week¹ (“Doubling-Up”)
 - IV. The Lower ranked team for whom a player is doubling up cannot have more than [12] registered players for that team in relevant match (including the doubling up player)
 - V. Doubling Up not permitted in last 4 league matches of the season of any team.
 - VI. However, teams may allow up to (no more than) 2 non-Core players to play in the last 4 league matches of the season of a team but those two players cannot play more than 1 match in that match week.
 - VII. This General Rule does not apply to any knockout tournaments (should be cup tied to first team player has played for etc as no player movement is permitted between teams for KO unless exceptional circumstances and no unfairness to rest of league etc)

Definition of a Core Player (TBC)

- Current HK Senior Squad Players

¹ Consider if all non-Core players can play two games in any given match week or if (i) a designated number e.g. 4 are nominated to play twice and the remaining non-core players can move up/down one team etc any week but cannot play two games in one day.

- Anyone who has played junior or senior international or provincial/state (or equivalent) in last x years (tbc and bearing in mind impact e.g. of an ex SA U21 player on div 1)²
- Top goal scorer of said team in any of the previous two seasons.

- In exceptional circumstances the WS may consider allowing a Core Player to move up and possibly play two games in one fixture week (if unanimous consent of WS and extraordinary unforeseen circumstances justify this i.e., general injuries, travel or school exams not valid as not exceptional or unforeseen and other players could be used).
- To reduce workload for WS and office – Teams may change their Core Player list no more than [3] times in any given season.
- We expect clubs to cooperate and adhere the experimental Bye-law in the spirit of Fairness - see the Aims of Fair Selection attachment below.
- All clubs agree that WS reserves the right to determine at any time whether a club is in breach of the Aims of Fair Selection. (Different penalties for first and subsequent breaches will be considered and drafted)
- Selection of a player to a higher team – no restriction
- Selection of a player to a lower team than their registered team – subject to restrictions (to be considered and drafted) and must not strengthen a lower team intentionally.
- Clubs agree if these rules come into play they expressly agree that HKHAWs can monitor team selections and movements on a weekly basis – obviously WS must act reasonably when exercising discretion – more details to be included about the type of circumstances when WS would intervene/apply penalties.

FAIR SELECTION & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY POLICY

1. Aims of Fair Selection

- 1.1. For Affiliated Clubs to have reasonable flexibility in managing player selection.
- 1.2. For an Affiliated Club's league teams to be selected in hierarchical order and be composed of players that reflects their level of ability within their club based on a) their availability on any one day and b) not being selected at a lower level than usual to strengthen a lower team.
- 1.3. For all clubs to feel competition is “fair” and that clubs are not disadvantaged by the application of these Bye-laws.
- 1.4. For players to be able to play and not be “unselectable” due to the Bye-laws.

Specific penalties for not complying with 3 principles of fair selection (Different penalties for first and subsequent breaches will be considered and drafted)

² Most countries refer to 2 years experience but given size and level of the HKHAWs league it is clear players after 5/6 years still have a big impact.

Club Alliance (schedule to competition Bye-laws – interim measure for 2 seasons only)

Two single team Affiliated Clubs may submit with two weeks' notice a joint written request to the HKHAWs to form a "Club Alliance" either (a) two weeks prior to the start of the first winter league match of the season or (b) if (a) has passed, between [1 – 15 December]. The Committee has two weeks to accept or refuse such request. Any refusal must be justified by the WS particularly if the following conditions are met:

- The teams of each single team Affiliated Club are in different divisions;
- There is no more than a two division gap between the two teams;
- Neither team is in the Premier Division;

If the request is accepted the Club Alliance shall operate as follows:

- For the purposes of the player registration and player movement rules only the two clubs shall be deemed to be a single Affiliated Club with two teams.
- Team A shall be the team in the higher division and team B in the lower division.
- Team A and Team B shall each nominate 9 Core Players subject to the same conditions as other clubs. The Non-Core Players shall be able to move between Teams A and B as per the Bye-laws and subject to the same restrictions therein.
- Team A and B will also be able to benefit from the dual registered goalkeeper rule (Nominated Player) rules.
- Fines are team specific. If a player is suspended they would be suspended from both teams etc.

Player Passport – Experienced Players (schedule to competition Bye-laws – interim measure for 2 seasons only)

- Only available to the three teams promoted into Premier Division in 2023/24 season;
- Similar premise as what Bauhinia had this season in premier;
- Only available to them when playing any of the top 3 teams of 2022/23 season (HKFC A, Coyotez, KCC A);
- No more than 3 on match card and no more than 2 on pitch at any time (similar to Bauhinia);