
NZIHA NATIONAL COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The Objective.....

To establish a National Competition as a way of development and promotion of inline hockey in New Zealand. The league would need to be recognized as the highest level of competition for all those involved in the sport.

What is the National Competition (NC).....

The National Competition is based on a series of tournaments held during the NZIHA season, including the annual National Championships. The National Competition is open to all NZIHA affiliated clubs with Regions looking to host at least one round in a season. Dependent on the number of tournaments played in a year The National Competition tournaments could be an opt-in scenario if five or more tournaments are played.

The Goals.....

To establish and grow a National Competition that:

- Provides a sustainable, competitive experience for inline hockey players, coaches, managers and administrators throughout New Zealand,
- Is run in accordance with NZIHA rules and policies as part of the development structure with the involvement of inline hockey supporters who are passionate about the game,
- Adapted to form part of NZ National team development pathway

The Solution.....

The development of a National Competition Structure will greatly improve the opportunities offered to players in NZ. Teams/clubs will be able to play more inter-regional teams in their age bracket that may not be afforded to them in their regional leagues. At the development end it also provides a sustainable platform for talent identification for our representative teams as each round can be used to assess players.

The format can also be adapted to be used at a Regional level to help maintain local competitions and provide meaningful hockey at a local level.

The Recommendation.....

What is required in order to move forward?

- NZIHA to approve, in principle, the creation and implementation of the National Competition Structure,
- NZIHA to approve the establishment of a sub-committee that will oversee the operation of the National Competition Structure,
- NZIHA to approve budget to assist with start-up.

OVERVIEW

Format – Competition to be considered

*Ultimately based on the number of teams available

Four Rounds:

- Three round robin tournaments to be held during the year plus the final round to be at Nationals.
- One tournament held Northern, Central and Lower North Region as part of season.
- Finals series at National Championships.

Five Rounds:

- Four round robin tournaments to be held during the year plus the final round to be at Nationals.
- One tournament held Northern & Lower North Region; Central to host two (Hamilton & New Plymouth) as part of season.
- Finals series at National Championships.

Format – General:

- Points based on finishing at end of each Round tournament. Placings to be used as seeding for the next round of games.
- Teams able to play in local regional tournaments on weekends not allocated for National Competition.
- Addition of divisions (Gold, Silver, Platinum or Atom, Bantam) for the junior grades and possibly Women's; similar to those utilized at NARCh
- Format can be applied at a Regional level to help provide more games to clubs in-between National Championship dates.

Grades:

- Format can be applied to all grades

Teams/Players:

- NZIHA member clubs can only contest all tournaments,
- Players to play for teams which they qualify for with their club,
- Minimum squad of six; maximum of 15 (including goalies),

Potential dates:

- End date will always be NZIHA National Championships
- Use of existing tournaments as rounds for games for certain grades - Mt Wellington Invitational, Queens Birthday, Tauranga Juniors
- If not using existing tournaments then calendar of set dates based on school holidays, winter sports calendar

ISSUES

Some key issues in choosing whether or not to participate in Inline Hockey:

- Access to inline hockey – clubs, rinks, teams, coaching.
- Other sporting codes outside of hockey.
- Competition and growth of ice hockey, especially in Auckland.
- Cost of taking part in tournaments – travel, accommodation etc.
- Lack of preparation/coaching.
- Lack of sustainable competition.
- No incentive to keep playing hockey in adulthood.
- No incentive to play representative hockey, whether regional or national.

NATIONAL COMPETITION BENEFITS

The benefits will be presented in relation to the goals of the NEL.

1. Provides a sustainable, competitive experience for inline hockey players, coaches, managers and administrators throughout New Zealand.
 - The National Competition will form the highest level of organized inline hockey in NZ.
 - Form part of team New Zealand talent identification, development and preparations for national teams. This will include players, referees and coaches.
 - Provide more competition across regions to strengthen the development of the game.
 - Emphasis placed on strengthening Clubs through competitive leagues.
 - Promotion of the game to the public based around tournaments.
 - Creating a more exciting competition will allow for more marketability of the game.
2. Is run in accordance with NZIHA rules and policies as part of the development structure with the involvement of inline hockey supporters who are passionate about the game,
 - Governed by the current NZIHA Rules and Regulations as applicable.
 - National Competition Structure would sit alongside current Regional Leagues and can form part of these seasons.

3. Adapted to form part of NZ National team development pathway

- Basis of long term development model for the sport of Inline Hockey in New Zealand.
- Coaching pathway created to link club to international teams.
- Player identification for National sides can become an ongoing process across a season allowing for a training squad to be named at the end of each season.
- Players can be monitored by coaches at tournaments across a season and provided work-ons during the season.

