

## Age Grade and Eligibility Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of the New Zealand Inline Hockey Association Age Grade and Eligibility Policy is to outline the criteria for participant eligibility within age grades at all IHNZ hosted, organised or sanctioned events. This policy incorporates all age grades.

1. All players in National, Conference League, National Premier League or other competitions sanctioned or organized by IHNZ must be registered as an IHNZ player.
2. Players will play within their age grade as determined by their age as of Jan 1 of the current playing year and outlined in the current year age chart.
3. Age grades if available are:
  - a) 8 year and Under
  - b) 10 year and Under
  - c) 12 year and Under
  - d) 14 year and Under
  - e) 16 year and Under
  - f) 18 year and Under
  - g) Junior Women (12 years and Under)
  - h) Intermediate Women (13 – 16 and 12 year old players that have been playing for 3 or more years at their parents request and upon IHNZ approval)
  - i) Senior Women (17 and older)
  - j) Senior Men (17 and older)
  - k) Premier (17 and older)
  - l) Masters (35 years and Over)
4. During the playing season, women can play for an age grade team and one women's age based team only.

5. Integrity of Age Grade:

- a) Where a club does not have enough players within an age grade to make a viable team, IHNZ will combine clubs to create teams to play within the appropriate age grade.
  - Combination of clubs is at the sole discretion of the IHNZ Board
- b) Only in the unique situation where 5 (a) is not feasible then at the sole discretion of the IHNZ Board, IHNZ may combine age grades within a club or move specific players up an age grade to create viable teams.

6. Exceptional Player

- a) All players will start play within their age grade at the start of the season. If during the season the IHNZ Board determines that one single player is dominating their age grade to the point where it is creating an unequal playing field for all other teams then that player may at the sole discretion of IHNZ, in consultation with the club and the parents, move that player up an age grade.

<b>IHNZ Board</b>	
Policy Creation Date	February 2024
Policy Approval Date	13 February 2024
Policy Revision Date	February 2026