

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 or sanctioned events. This policy incorporates all age grades and is based on the IHNZ Rulebook.

1. All players in National, Regional or other competitions sanctioned by the IHNZ must be registered as an IHNZ player.
2. Age Grades are determined as follows:
 - 10 years and Under
 - 12 years and Under
 - 14 years and Under
 - 16 years and Under
 - 18 years and Under
 - Junior Women (14 years and Under)
 - Senior Women
 - Senior Men
 - Premier
 - Masters (35 years and Over)
 - Veterans (40 years and Over)
3. During the playing season, women can play for an age grade team and one women's based team only.
4. Ages are determined as at 1 January of each year.
5. The IHNZ National Championship events will be held annually (except in unforeseen circumstances) and it is recommended that competition dates are advised at least 6 months prior where applicable.

6. IHNZ reserve the right to restrict the number of teams/entries in any division if it considered the entry too large to properly conduct a championship.
7. All New Zealand Championships and National leagues will come within the control of the IHNZ. Permits must be applied for in writing and submitted by the due date advised by IHNZ.
8. In the course of a competition year, a player may only play in teams representing that club that first registers them in that competition year.
9. Notwithstanding clause 8, in the course of a competition year, a player may transfer and play for another club providing the transfer process is followed and agreement is given by IHNZ. The transfer is not effective until IHNZ have been advised in writing, consultation has taken place if deemed necessary and a decision has been advised by IHNZ.
10. Players must play at least 60% of their regional league for the club team they intend to attend Nationals with as per the Events Notice.
11. Players of other Nationalities may play in major NZ competitions with an NZ club if they meet clause 10.
12. There shall be no more than three (3) players per team who are not primarily living in New Zealand and are not of NZ nationality. If in doubt the club should seek clarification and a ruling from IHNZ on any individual cases.
13. All team officials with teams entered into IHNZ sanctioned competitions shall be registered with IHNZ.
14. Any player who is currently a registered member of the IHNZ as a player may be eligible for New Zealand Representative teams in their age grade subject to the selection process and international sanctioning authority and its eligibility criteria.
15. Clubs wishing to host a club event and apply for sanctioning may request a dispensation to offer age grades not listed in this policy when submitting to IHNZ.
16. Unless otherwise stipulated by an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the NZIHA, the competition year will commence on 1 January each year and conclude on the 31 December each year.

International Competition

The age eligibility will be determined by the international sanctioning authority, in all international competition participation regardless of hosting within New Zealand or in another country.

Policy Application

1. This policy is to be applied in all IHNZ competitions, any IHNZ sanctioned event or tournament.
2. IHNZ Executive shall advise affiliated clubs at the beginning of each year which grades will be contested for New Zealand National Championship Events.
3. Players attending an IHNZ hosted or sanctioned competition may be required to provide proof of their age through the production of a driver's license, passport or birth certificate.

Request for Policy Dispensation

1. Any changes to the administration of this policy by any club affiliated to the IHNZ must be requested in writing to the IHNZ Board .
2. This request must clearly outline the reasons for this submission.
3. Any decision to move away from this policy will be decided by the IHNZ Board who may consult with affiliated clubs and/or IHNZ sub committees.
4. All outcomes of these decisions will be advised in writing through the IHNZ Board.

IHNZ Board	
Policy Creation Date	January 2021
Policy Approval Date	18/04/2021
Policy Revision Date	April 2024