

**Inline Hockey New Zealand:
National Club Championships Event Notice 2023
And
Junior Festival of Hockey 2023**

Organising Authority:

The Organising Authority of the 2023 National Championship and the Junior Festival of Hockey is the IHNZ Board. An organising committee will consist of representatives from the IHNZ Board, the host club and any other IHNZ members appointed for the purposes of running the event.

Note: IHNZ reserve the right to make administrative changes if/as necessary.

Rules:

The 2023 National Club Championships (Grades 16U and above) and Junior Festival of Hockey (Grades 14U and below) will be conducted under a collaboration of the following; the IHNZ Constitution, IHNZ Policy, the Official IHNZ Rule Book and this document.

Where the Official Rule Book and this event notice conflict, the Event Notice will take priority.

The Conference League(s) will be used as the qualifier for the National Club Championships (where applicable) as determined by each Conference committee.

1. Sportsmanship:

All Players, Coaches, Officials and Spectators will be expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that promotes a positive environment that complies with the provisions of the relevant IHNZ Code of Conduct and Event Notice Rules.

The Event/club organisers hosting any IHNZ or club run event will take all matters of physical and verbal abuse seriously and will not hesitate to manage this appropriately, which may include being evicted/trespassed from the facility.

All parties are expected to observe the following, on and off the rink:

- Treat each other with respect.
- Observe appropriate standards for developing our members.
- Provide a safe playing environment for all participants.
- Show proper respect for referees, coaches, and all other officials.
- Refrain from using inappropriate language.

* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1

- Show respect for facilities provided for inline hockey.
- Abide by rink rules.

2. Drug free Policy

<https://drugfreesport.org.nz/national-sports-organisations/the-anti-doping-rules/>

3. Eligibility – Teams and Clubs:

- 3.1 All players must hold current IHNZ registration for the club they are playing for prior to competing in any Conference or qualifying inline hockey games in order to be eligible for participation at National Club Championship 2023.
- 3.2 All team officials must also be registered with IHNZ.
- 3.3 For age grade eligibility players must be at or under the designated age on January 1, 2023.
- 3.4 Players can play for **one team** at the National Club Championships, with the exception of the Junior and Senior Women grades, 18U players and Senior level goaltenders.
 - (a) Female players 18 and under may play in their age-eligible grade (if applicable) and a Senior/Junior Women team from the same club.
 - (b) Female players over the age of 18 may play Senior Women and one other Senior grade from the same club.
 - (c) Goaltenders can play two grades with no more than a one grade dispersion per the grade hierarchy chart*.
 - (d) 18U players can play in the 18U grade and for another senior level team during conference play and at Nationals if there are sufficient teams for an 18U competition as determined by IHNZ
- 3.5 Every club intending to enter a team at Nationals may only enter a team in the grade they have entered and participated in their local Conference League.
- 3.6 During the Conference League, players may be called upon by the next grade up in their club to play in Conference League games. This may be done throughout the conference league as required, however, will not be permitted at the Junior Festival or the National Club Championships. This may include:
 - (a) Premier grade may call up players from Senior A, Senior Women, Senior B, Masters or 18U.
 - (b) Senior A may call up players from Senior Women, Senior B, Masters or 18U.
 - (c) Masters may call up players from Senior Women and Senior B who meet the age requirement.
 - (d) 18U may call up players from 16U.
 - (e) 16U may call up players from 14U etc.

* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1

- 3.7 A player may be called up a maximum of four times during the Conference League competition or over one competitive weekend that exceeds four games. A team utilising a player beyond the aforementioned will forfeit the game the player played in.
- 3.8 In the case that 16U calls up players from 14U, those 14U players will not be permitted to play in both the Junior Festival of Hockey and the National Club Championships.
- 3.9 Players are not permitted to play down grades.

Junior Festival of Hockey

- 3.10 All players must hold current IHNZ registration for the club they are playing for prior to competing in any Conference or scheduled inline hockey games.
- 3.11 All team official must also be registered with IHNZ.
- 3.12 Players can play for **one team** at the Junior Festival of Hockey, except for females playing Junior Women and their age grade for the same club.
- 3.13 Junior Festival of Hockey will be played under the guidelines and principles of Sport NZ's Balance is Better philosophy.

4. National Club Championship Qualification:

- 4.1 Qualification for the National Club Championships will be open to the top two teams in each Conference for each grade on the completion of the Conference League (IHNZ reserve the right to review based on Team entries/Conference).
 - (a) For Senior A the Top 2 teams from Kōkako and Tūī and the top 3 teams from Kererū will qualify for National Club Championships
 - (b) Wildcard entries, if applicable, will be determined by "win percentage" per Rule 4.2.
- 4.2 Qualification will be determined by "win percentage" of the scheduled Conference League games (teams may not all play the exact same number of games).
- 4.3 If teams are tied within conference win percentage, then tie breaking rules as per IHNZ rule book will be used.
- 4.4 Conference Leagues will be organised by Conference Committees.
- 4.5 Players must play for a club within the Conference in which they reside. Players not covered by Rule 4.7 will be deemed illegal players during the Conference League competition.
- 4.6 Players must play at least 60% of scheduled Conference League games within a grade for their club in order to be eligible to participate at National Club Championships 2023.
- 4.7 Players that have been playing for a club outside of the Conference area where they reside prior to 1 January 2023, shall be exempt from rule 4.5 until:

* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1

(a) they decide to play for a club in the Conference area which they reside, or

(b) they move to another/new club.

4.8 If a player wishes to play for another club after having registered or commenced playing in the Conference League, they must apply for a transfer.

4.9 If a transfer has been granted, they are no longer eligible to play in the Conference League or qualify for Nationals for their previous club. Transfers must be applied for and granted prior to the commencement of the National Club Championships event.

5. Junior Festival of Hockey

5.1 Entry to the Junior Festival of Hockey is open to all clubs. Clubs may enter multiple teams in the available grades as per rule 3.13.

5.2 Clubs may add players to a team during the Conference League as required and in accordance with rule 3.10, however, players already playing may not change teams unless in the case of a club transfer.

6. Dispensations:

Conference Leagues:

6.1 May occur at times subject to the agreement of the National Dispensation Committee. All dispensations for the Conference League(s) may happen at any time before or during the Conference League. This is to enable a fair and viable competition to be played across all grades.

6.2 Dispensations that are approved for Conference League participation will be binding on National Club Championship eligibility and/or participation.

National Club Championships and Junior Festival of Hockey:

6.3 Dispensations for players at National Club Championships and the Junior Festival of Hockey must be submitted prior to 31st August 2023 and be submitted on the IHNZ dispensation form in the time frame specified.

7. Grades:

7.1 The 2023 Junior Festival of Hockey grades are:

- 10U
- 12U
- 14U
- Junior Women (14 and under)

7.2 The 2023 National Club Championships grades are:

- 16U
- 18U

* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1

- Senior B
- Senior Women
- Senior Men
- Premiers
- Masters

7.3 Grades may be removed where there are insufficient entries.

8. Entries and Fees:

- 8.1 Each club shall enter their team using the official entry form to be made available online. Team rosters can be updated until the first game at which point no players may be added.
- 8.2 Entry fees are \$750 + GST per team. Fees are due by 10 September 2023.
- 8.3 Should a team withdraw after officially entering, the team will forfeit the entry fee and may have an additional withdrawal penalty imposed at the discretion of the IHNZ Board.

9. Wild Card Entry Information:

- 9.1 Wildcard entries are only applicable to the National Club Championships.
- 9.2 Wild Card entries, if any, are issued at the discretion of IHNZ.
- 9.3 Win percentage will be used in accordance with Rules 4.2 and 4.3 to determine Wildcard entry for teams wishing to be considered that did not secure National Club Championships entry under Rule 4.1.

10. Draw:

- 10.1 The Conference League will run between the dates of 10 June and 27 August 2023. The final date for the Conference competition shall be no later than the weekend of the 26/27 August 2023. The first two weekends of September may be used for rescheduled games.
- 10.2 The draw for the National Club Championship will be posted on the Inline Hockey New Zealand website (www.inlinehockeynz.org.nz), and emailed to all clubs.
- 10.3 Changes to the draw will be made available on notice boards at the rink and the website.
- 10.4 Any changes or amendments to any draws are at the discretion of IHNZ.

11. Score Book and Results:

- 11.1 The IHNZ official score sheet shall be used for all games including those forfeited.
- 11.2 Each team may request a copy of the score sheet from the Event Manager.

* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1

- 11.3 Score sheets for all National Club Championships games and Conference League games are to be made available to IHNZ officials upon request.
- 11.4 It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure the team roster is correct before the start of the game at National Club Championships.
- 11.5 Final game results are recorded on the official score sheets. Copies are to be available to both teams participating in each game and must be uploaded at the completion of the game.

12. Stop Time:

- 12.1 For the **final game** of the Senior Women, Senior Men and Premier grades, stop time will be played for the entire game.
- 12.2 All other games will be run time except in the last 2 minutes **if the scores get within 1 goal** difference or tied.

13. Results:

- 13.1 In each grade during National Club Championships the points awards shall be as follows.

Win	2 Points
Draw	1 Point
Loss	0 Points
Forfeit	-2 points to the offending team

Two Team Tie Breaker

- 13.2 **Most Points** - The placement of teams within each pool shall be according to *the highest number of points accumulated in round-robin play*. If after addition of points, two or more teams are determined to possess an equal number of points in the round robin, the team's position is determined as follows:
 - i. **Head-to-Head** - The victor of the head-to-head competition in the round-robin shall be awarded the higher placement position.
 - ii. **Most Wins** - If a tie remains, the highest total of wins among the tied teams, during all games in the round robin.
 - iii. **Goal Differential** - If a tie remains, the best goals differential between goals-scored and goals-against in the round robin (ex. GS 8, GA 3 - Result +5).

* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1

- iv. **Goals Against** – If a tie still results, the team with the lowest number of goals-against for the entire round robin shall be used to determine position for the tied teams.
- v. **Goals For** – If a tie still results, the highest total of goals scored for the entire round robin shall be used to determine for the tied teams.
- vi. **Shootout** – If teams are tied after applying the above criteria, a shootout will take place as defined in Rule 1.3(e) of the IHNZ Rule Book.

Three or more team Tie Breaker

13.3 Most Points - The placement of teams within each pool shall be according to *the highest number of points accumulated in the round-robin*. If, after addition of points, two or more teams are determined to possess an equal number of points in round robin, the team's position is determined as follows:

- i. **Most Wins** – If a tie remains, the highest total of wins among the tied teams, during all games in the round robin.
- ii. **Partial Goal Differential** - If a tie remains, the best goals differential between goals-scored and goals-against among tied teams.
- iii. **Total Goal Differential** - If a tie remains, the best goals differential between goals-scored and goals-against in the round robin.
- iv. **Goals Against** – If a tie still results, the team with the lowest number of goals-against for the entire round robin shall be used to determine position for the tied teams.
- v. **Goals For** – If a tie still results, the highest total of goals scored for the entire round robin shall be used to determine for the tied teams.
- vi. **Shootout** – If teams are tied after applying the above criteria, a shootout will take place as defined in Rule 1.3(e) of the IHNZ Rule Book.
- vii. **Most Wins** - If a tie remains, the highest total of wins among the tied teams, during all games in the round robin.

13.4 When one team is eliminated in the criteria listed above, the remaining teams (if 3 more, then 2) will start from Point 1: **Most Wins**.

14. Play Off Tie Breakers:

14.1 Game results are required in Final and Elimination games tie breakers will be carried out as per Rule 1.3 of the IHNZ Rule Book.

15. Forfeit:

* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1

- 15.1 If a team does not turn up, plan to turn up or does not step on the rink for the scheduled game, play illegal players or is unable to field the required number of players to start or continue the game, then the game is lost by forfeit (8.1.a of Official Rule Book 2023).
- 15.2 A forfeit shall be recorded as a 5:0 win to the non-offending team. The forfeiting team, while still in round robin play, shall be penalised minus 2 points for that game.
- 15.3 If a Conference League game is cancelled or rescheduled within 72 hrs, and/or a substitute game is organised so that a (forfeit) game is still played, no financial penalty will apply (Rule 15.2 will still apply). A fee of \$250.00 will be applicable to any team that loses a game by forfeit in either the Conference competition without the 72-hr notice period/substitute game, OR at National Club Championships. This fee must be paid prior to any further participation in IHNZ sanctioned games or events.

16. Disciplinary Procedures:

- 16.1 The IHNZ Disputes and Disciplinary Policy 2021 shall be used at the Inter Conference Event.

17. Protests:

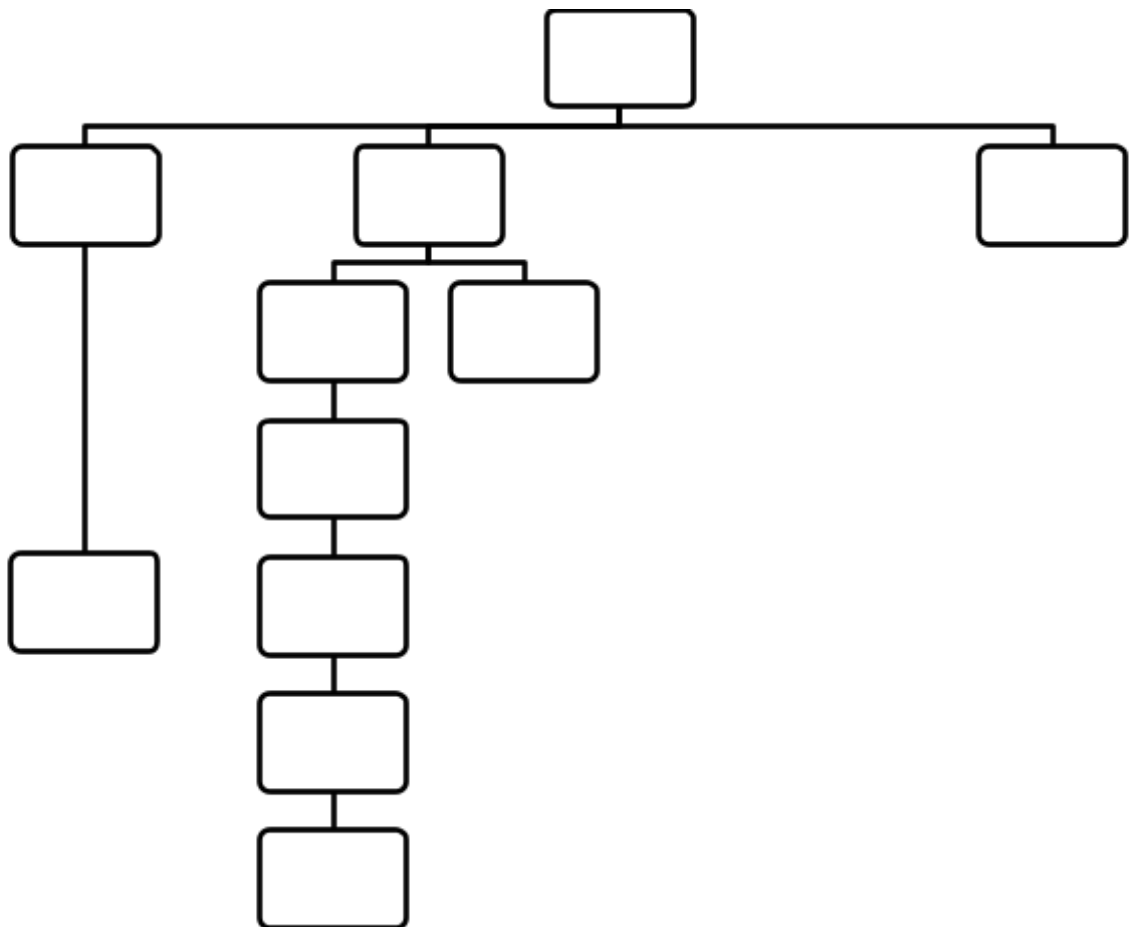
- 17.1 Protests must be notified in writing to the Event Manager by the Team Manager, Coach, or other club official no later than 60 minutes after the completion of the game.
- 17.2 All protests are to be accompanied by a fee of \$200 which is refundable if the protest is upheld.

18. Sponsorship

- 18.1 Any person wishing to or intending to use any commercial sponsorship, advertising, or promotion at any IHNZ sanctioned events must gain the prior written approval from IHNZ.
- 18.2 Sponsorship on club/team uniforms will generally be exempt from rule 18.1 unless advised otherwise by IHNZ.
- 18.3 IHNZ reserves the right to permit or refuse any application for commercial sponsorship, advertising, or promotion.

* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1

Appendix 1 – Grade hierarchy chart.



* Grade hierarchy chart – appendix 1