

EVENT NOTICE

2024 National Club Championships

(replacing prior combined Event Notice)

The 2024 National Club Championships (“Nationals”) will be played 28 September to 6 October 2024 in New Plymouth. It is expected that Junior games will be scheduled towards the front of this period and Senior games towards the end.

This is the new Event Notice for the 2024 National Club Championships and replaces the earlier combined Conferences and Nationals Event Notice. Note that the other components of the combined Event Notice (e.g. the 2024 Conference) remain unchanged where applicable.

Key Dates

July 14, 2024	Last date for dispensation applications that require a decision by July 31, 2024 (last-minute dispensations can be entered up to 31 August).
July 31, 2024	Last day for players to be registered with IHNZ (if they wish to compete at Nationals)
July 31, 2024	Last day to enter teams for Nationals and pay registration fee <i>(team grades being entered only, not the roster of players)</i>
August 7, 2024	Block Schedule confirmed for each grade <i>(eg what days a particular grade is likely to compete during the Nationals period¹)</i>
August 31, 2024	Last day for last-minute dispensation applications
7 September, 2024	Clubs to submit team rosters for Nationals using the prescribed format.
10 September, 2024	Nationals draw released
28 Sept - Oct 6, 2024	National Club Championship

Version 1.0 – Released May 2024

¹ Note that Junior grades are likely to be earlier in the Tournament, senior grades later in the Tournament

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2024 Nationals Summary

Note that this page is for information only and does not form part of the rules for this event. Where information on this page differs from the Event Notice, the Event Notice takes precedence.

Key points about the 2024 National Club Championships:

- National Club Championships (“Nationals”) run from **28 September – 6 October 2024**.
- **Entry is available to all affiliated clubs**, who may enter teams at any or all junior and senior grades. Junior Festival of Hockey has been discontinued.
- In 2024, the National Club Championships are **open entry** to all clubs without qualification.
- Every club may enter up to **one team at each grade**. *Clubs may also Express an Interest in entering a second team at any grade, should the overall draw allow it.*
- In some circumstances and subject to conditions, **players may play in 2 teams**, e.g:
 - Players may play in one of Senior A, Senior B or Prems, as well as Masters grade
 - 18U-eligible players may play in 18U and another senior grade
 - Female players may play in an age-grade team as well as a Women's team
 - Junior players may play in two age-grade teams if it is necessary for team viability
- **Junior Women** will be randomly selected mixed teams created from individual entries from 10U and newer 12U players, and will play showcase games on the smaller rink.
- **18U grade** will feature mixed teams created from individual entries (ie entry of players, not full teams). These players may play in both 18U and senior grade teams.
- Where appropriate **junior players may play up one grade** and 16U players may choose to play in senior grades, however specific criteria must be met (including the written approval or parents and explicit approval of their club’s committee).

While not listed in the Event Notice, Nationals will also have plenty of associated social functions for both juniors and seniors.

After a disrupted season, the 2024 National Club Championships will be the premiere Inline Hockey event of the year.

Let’s Unite, Collaborate and Compete!

1. General Matters

Organising Authority and Committees

- 1.1 The Organising Authority of the 2024 National Club Championships is the IHNZ Board.
- 1.2 The organising committee for the National Club Championships will consist of representatives appointed by the IHNZ Board, or the caretaker board member if a full Board is not in place, and shall include representatives from the relevant host club and any other IHNZ members appointed for the purposes of running the event.
- 1.3 IHNZ reserve the right to make administrative changes as necessary, including modification of rules such as game length, to ensure a smooth-running tournament.

Rules

- 1.4 The National Club Championships will be conducted under the [IHNZ Constitution](#), [IHNZ Policies](#), the Official [IHNZ Rule Book](#), and this Event Notice, except where otherwise noted. Where the Official Rule Book and this Event Notice conflict, the Event Notice will take precedence.
- 1.5 As this is a transitional year, the current IHNZ Age Grade and Eligibility Policy **does not** apply in its entirety. See section 2 of this event notice for age grade eligibility for Nationals.

Grades of Play

- 1.6 The official grades during the National Club Championships (if sufficient teams register) are:
 - **Age-Grade:** 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U
 - **Senior Grades** (Men and Women): Senior A, Senior B, Premier, Masters (35+)
 - **Women's Grades:** Junior Women (10U and newer 12U players), Intermediate Women (12U-16U), Senior Women
- 1.7 **Junior Women** will be played with mixed teams on the smaller rink. Teams will be made up of players who have entered individually, rather than as a team, via their club.
- 1.8 **18U grade** will be played with mixed teams. Teams will be made up of players who have entered individually, rather than as a team, via their club. 18U players may choose to play in both an 18U team and a senior club team.
- 1.9 IHNZ reserve the right to withdraw any grade where there are less than 3 team entries, or insufficient individual entries for Junior Women or 18U grades to make at least 3 teams.

Entry and Fees

- 1.10 Each club shall enter their eligible teams for each event using the official entry forms online, or such other manner as IHNZ prescribes.
- 1.11 Entry fees for National Club Championships will be advised on or prior to July 1 2024.

- 1.12 Entry fees are payable at time of team or individual registration and, in all cases, at least 4 weeks prior to the commencement of the tournament. If a grade does not proceed, this fee will be refunded.
- 1.13 Except as provided for in 1.12 above, should a team withdraw after officially entering, the team will forfeit their entry fee.

2. Player Eligibility for Nationals

- 2.1 To be eligible to compete in the National Clubs Championship, players must be a current member of an IHNZ-affiliated club and have paid their IHNZ registration fee on or prior to 31 July 2024. Players registering after this date will require a dispensation to play.
- 2.2 Except for as provided elsewhere in this event notice, players may only play in a team from the IHNZ-affiliated club of which they are a member.
- 2.3 Nationals is intended to be a tournament for New Zealand-based players. Any player who will not have been physically located within New Zealand for at least 60% of days from 1 July 2024 to 28 September 2024 must receive dispensation before appearing on a team roster.
- 2.4 2024 will be treated as a transition year for the updated [Age Grade and Eligibility Policy](#) for the purposes of this Event Notice. Subject to 2.5 below, the following will apply:
 - (a) Age eligibility shall be determined by a player's age on the **1st of January of the year** in which they compete, such that they are:
 - (i) **10U**: Aged 10 years old or younger
 - (ii) **12U**: Aged 11 or 12 years old
 - (iii) **14U**: Aged 13 or 14 years old
 - (iv) **16U**: Aged 15 or 16 years old
 - (v) **18U**: Aged 17 or 18 years old
 - (vi) **Junior Women**: 10U players, and 12U who have played for 2 years or less
 - (vii) **Intermediate Women**: 12U-eligible to 16U-eligible female players
 - (viii) **Senior A, Senior B, Senior Women and Premier Grades**: Aged 17 or older
(see below for 16U playing up)
 - (ix) **Masters Grade**: Aged 35 or over
 - (b) Age-grade players **may play up** a maximum of one age-grade at Nationals, subject to meeting the conditions outlined in clause 2.5 below. Once they appear on that team's roster, they will be considered a player at that grade and must remain at that grade for the remainder of the tournament except where a Dispensation has been granted.
 - (c) 16U-eligible players as outlined in (a) above may play in a Senior grade, subject to meeting the conditions outlined in clause 2.5 below.
 - (d) All other provisions of the IHNZ Age Grade and Eligibility Policy will apply.

- 2.5 The provisions contained in 2.4(b) and (c) may only apply where:
- (a) The informed consent of the player, their parent or guardian, and coach if appropriate, has been obtained by the club in writing; and
 - (b) With the explicit approval from the club's committee, who must first consider:
 - (i) Safety of the player above all other factors;
 - (ii) Physical size and development;
 - (iii) Skill level;
 - (iv) Any implications on other players (such as whether other players will miss out on competing at Nationals); and
 - (v) The nature of the league in which they are seeking to play.
 - (c) The team roster for an impacted team is reviewed and approved by a committee determined by IHNZ to ensure the criteria outlined in 2.5(a) and 2.5(b) have been met.
- 2.6 Except where provided for elsewhere in this Event Notice (such as 2.8 below), players may play in a **maximum of two teams** for which they are eligible at Nationals, provided they only play for a maximum of one team in each of the following groups:
- An Age-grade team (10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, or 18U)
 - Junior Women, Intermediate Women, or Senior Women
 - Senior A, Senior B, or Prems
 - Masters (35+)
- By way of example, a player could play in: Senior A and Masters; or 18U and Senior B; or 14U and Intermediate Women; but not in: Senior A and Senior B (same group); or 12U and 14U without dispensation (same group); or 16U and Intermediate Women and Senior B (3 teams).*
- 2.7 Dispensations may be given for junior players to play in both **their own age-grade plus one age-grade higher** where it can be shown as necessary for team viability reasons, and all other requirements in 2.5 and 2.6 above are met.
- 2.8 Senior goalies may play, as a goalie only, for **two teams** for the same club, but this may only be at two different but consecutive grades². In order to play for two teams, a Senior goalie must appear on the rosters for both teams.
- 2.9 Players must play for a club within the Conference in which they reside (see Appendix B), unless they have been playing for a single club outside of the Conference area where they reside continuously since prior to 1 January 2023.
- 2.10 Unless dispensation has been granted, any player in breach of 2.1 – 2.9 will be deemed an illegal player. Any games played by a team with an illegal player will be forfeited by that team.

² See Grade Hierarchy Chart in Appendix 1. *Grade* must be different and *Grade Level* must be the same or consecutive (eg Level 2 and 2, 2 and 3, or 3 and 4, but not 2 and 4).

3. Club Qualification for Nationals

- 3.1 The National Club Championships are open to all IHNZ-affiliated clubs.
- 3.2 For Premier grade, the entry requirements outlined in the [NPL Event Notice](#) apply.
- 3.3 For all other grades, no additional qualification is required to enter a team in any grade.
- 3.4 Clubs meeting the criteria in 3.1 may enter one team at each or any grade listed in 1.6 above.
- 3.5 Should a club have a large membership at a particular grade to the extent they are in a position to enter two equally skilled Nationals-level teams, they may Express an Interest in entering a second team.
- 3.6 If the overall draw allows, additional teams may be accepted at some grades based on a ballot drawn from clubs who have Expressed an Interest. A second team will only be accepted where a club provides an assurance that their teams will be of approximately equal strength.

4. Cross-club Teams

- 4.1 Where a club does not have sufficient eligible players to form a viable team in a grade, clubs may form a team across clubs.
- 4.2 Cross-club teams must be approved by IHNZ (via a committee to which the IHNZ National Board delegates) and will only be approved where:
 - (a) It is clear that the intent of combining players is solely to form a viable team and/or ensure all players have a team in which to play, not to try to create a soul-crushing maxi-smashy super strong team.
 - (b) The clubs attest that no players at that grade across the constituent clubs will be prevented from competing at Nationals due to the forming of a cross-club team. i.e. clubs cannot just take the best players across clubs and leave out other eligible players.
 - (c) Players may only play in a cross-club team if their own club are not entering a team at that grade.
 - (d) The combination will not significantly and unfairly disadvantage another team.
- 4.3 Players in a cross-club team remain members of their own club.
- 4.4 The cross-club team must play in the name of, and uniform of, one of the constituent clubs. The constituent clubs must agree on this and related matters such as fair cost allocation for registration fees.
- 4.5 In all respects, the rules in this Event Notice will apply as though the cross-club team were made up of players from one club.

5. Team Rosters

- 5.1 Prior to the start of Nationals, clubs must submit a team roster of players for each team they intend to send using the format and timeline as prescribed by IHNZ.
- 5.2 As per rule 3.1.1 of the Rule Book, a team roster must have a minimum of six players, including the goalie, and a maximum of 14 floor players and two goalies. The team roster must have a minimum of one goalie.
- 5.3 All players must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2 of this Event Notice.
- 5.4 The team roster may not change after the start of the first game the team plays at Nationals.

6. Points, Ties and Stop-time

- 6.1 The placing of teams within each pool will be determined by the highest number of points accumulated during round-robin play. Points will be awarded as follows:

Win	+2 Points
Draw	+1 Point
Loss	0 Points
Forfeit	+2 points to the non-offending team -2 points against the offending team <i>The game will be recorded as a 5-0 win to the non-offending team and a 0-5 loss against the offending team</i>

- 6.2 At the end of round-robin play, if two or more teams possess an equal number of points, the teams' positions will be determined in accordance with the tie-breaker process in Rule 9 of the IHNZ Rule Book.
- 6.3 Results are required for play-off and finals games. If a play-off or finals game results in a tie, Rule 1.3(b) of the IHNZ Rule Book will apply.³
- 6.4 The finals of the Premier and Senior A grades will be played stop-time for the entire game. All other games will run in accordance with Rule 1.2(b) of the IHNZ Rule Book.⁴

³ 10 minutes sudden death extra time, followed by shootout

⁴ "If a game is within 1 goal or tied in the last two (2) minutes of regulation time, the remainder of the game will be played stop time."

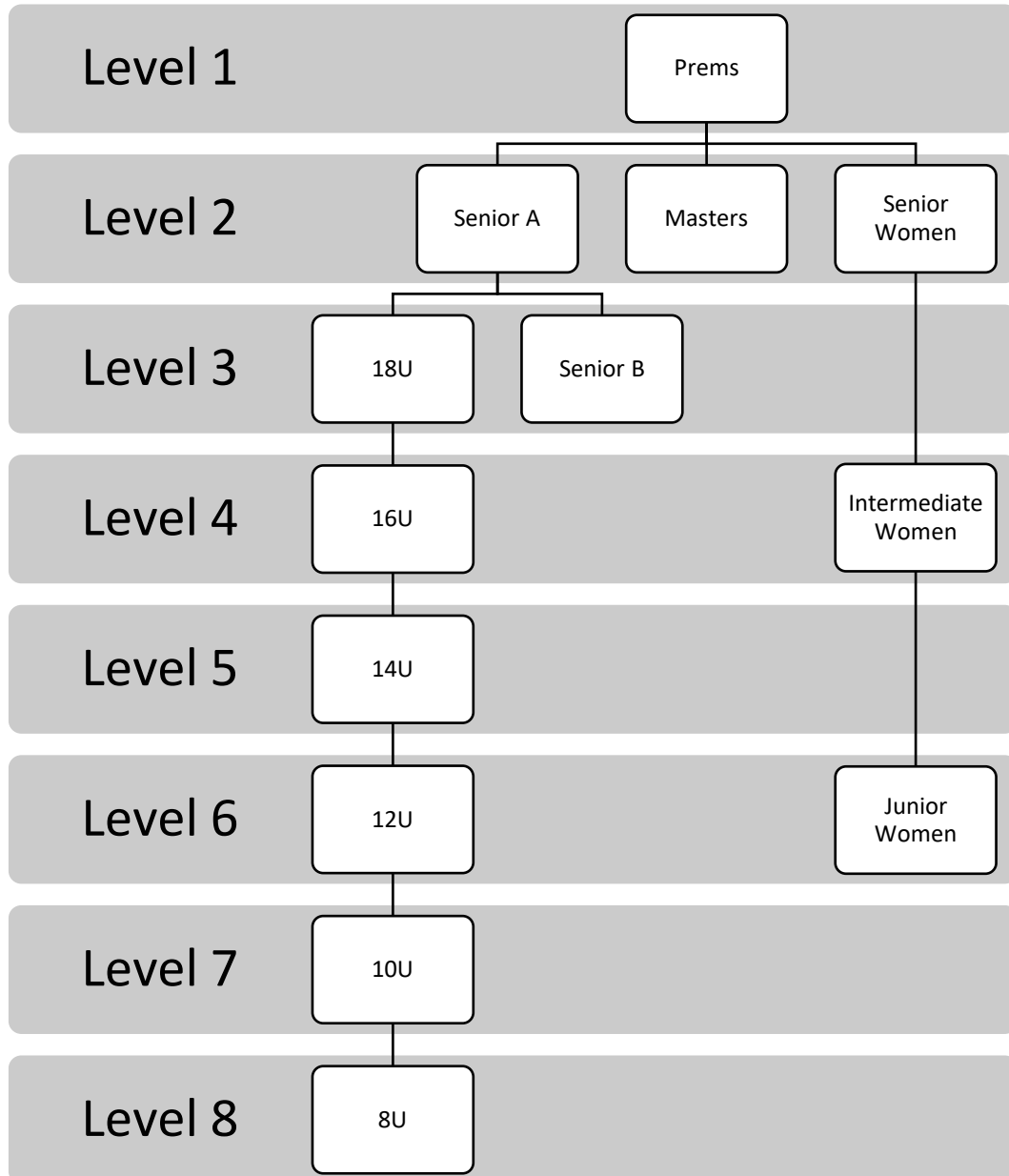
7. Protests

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 All protests are to be accompanied by a fee of \$200, refunded if the protest is upheld.

8. Dispensations

- 8.1 A club may apply for a dispensation for an individual player to be exempt from any rule in this Event Notice or the IHNZ Rule Book, due to a particular set of circumstances.
- 8.2 Dispensation applications must be made to the IHNZ Dispensation Panel in a manner as specified by IHNZ, and must be accompanied by a \$20 administration fee.
- 8.3 Dispensations may be granted where, in the opinion of the IHNZ Dispensation Panel, awarding the dispensation:
 - (a) is in the spirit of the game and rules,
 - (b) supports participation,
 - (c) does not provide an unfair advantage to any player or team, and
 - (d) does not create an undue safety risk to any player or team.
- 8.4 Dispensations that have been approved for the IHNZ Conference League automatically apply to National Club Championships, except where these are withdrawn in accordance with the Conference League Event Notice.
- 8.5 Dispensations for the National Club Championships must be submitted prior to **31st August 2024** to allow the IHNZ Dispensation Panel time to consider the request.

Appendix 1 – IHNZ Grade hierarchy chart



Appendix 2 – IHNZ Conference Boundaries

Conference Boundaries 2024

