

Kia ora Hockey Whānau,

As we wrap up the 2024 NPL season, I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making this season such an outstanding success. The competition throughout the season was nothing short of inspiring.

First and foremost, congratulations to the Capital Penguins on an incredible season and for taking home the championship! I really enjoyed watching the stream of the series between the Penguins and the Panthers.

We need to recognize everyone who was a part of the NPL this year. The players, the referees and officials, the coaches, the clubs, the supporters – both at the rink and at home. You all added to the story of the Dion Bunt Cup.

I'd also like to give special thanks to Angela, Brendon, Sheree, and Nadia, whose hard work behind the scenes was instrumental in making this event run smoothly. Your dedication and effort were key to ensuring the success of the 2024 NPL, and we are deeply grateful.

As we look ahead to 2025, excitement is already building. IHNZ has begun the process of planning for next season and booking rink time. 2025 promises to be even bigger and better. Our goal is to grow the NPL, and to make winning the Dion Bunt Cup even more special.

It's time to start thinking about next season! In 2025, we are aiming for an eight-team competition, though that number is subject to change as we finalize our plans. We'll soon be issuing a call for expressions of interest, and we encourage clubs to start the conversation now. If you believe your team has what it takes to compete for the Dion Bunt Cup in 2025, now is the time to speak with your club president and have them reach out to IHNZ to begin the process of securing a spot in the NPL.

Thank you again to everyone who made 2024 a season to remember. We can't wait to see what's in store for the NPL as we head into 2025!

Ngā manaakitanga,
Asbjorn.



Club Spotlight: Northland Stingrays

The Northland Stingrays run a weekly rookie Learn to Play programme for children 5 to 14 years old. With the club providing all the inline hockey gear for the players to use and the first 4 sessions being free its proving popular !

The coaching team mentor the 14/16u players to assist the rookies. These players gain leadership and communication skills for future coaching roles within the club.

The initial focus starts with basic skating and small area games, building on development of skills and gaining confidence all while having fun. Rookies are further encouraged to attend skate sessions free of charge to practice their skating.

Once the rookies are proficient at skating and have basic puck handling skills they move into regular age grade training sessions.

The Stingrays also cater for the Junior women who have their own training sessions and the club has goalie specific training to encourage & develop junior goaltenders for the future!





Welcome to the Team

Joanne Taylor is the new IHNZ Communications Manager!

Joanne is a senior communications professional with nearly 10 years experience in not-for-profit communications, and more than 10 years as a B2B and community journalist (sport journalism included!).

To complement her communications skills and experience Joanne completed a Diploma in Digital Marketing in 2023.

"My favourite part of communications is analysing audience data to inform strategies, analysing digital analytics to inform content strategies, and optimising websites for organic search results."

Joanne joins Nadia and Mitchell in as part of the IHNZ Communications team!



ALN Strategy: Our first strategic plan for the Athlete Leaders Network as an independent "By Athletes, For Athletes" organisation where success will be measured by well equipped athlete leaders who influence decision making for their sport and fellow athletes increasing engagement, satisfaction and wellbeing.

Athlete Leaders Network Forum

IHNZ are looking for 2 Athlete leaders to be the voice of Inline Hockey at the Athlete Leaders Network Forum.

They would need to be able to attend the **Athlete Leaders Network Forum 2024** on **Monday 18th November from 8.30am - 5pm** in Auckland. The forum has a full day of presentations, collaborations and activities for Athlete Leaders from a number of sports to attend.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please send an email to gm@inlinehockeynz.org.nz and provide a summary of all leadership activities undertaken (i.e. club team captain, school captain, played for NZ at Narch) that would help you to represent and provide a voice for Inline Hockey within the Athlete Network by Sunday 29 September.

The Board will review all applications and announce the successful candidates during the IHNZ 2024 Nationals Championships.



National Event Concludes in Hamilton

The National Premier League Finals and the Inter Conference Championships were held over the same huge weekend of inline hockey in Hamilton, September 13-15. Inline Hockey at its best with our youngest players working hard for Interconference honours while our Premier players challenged for the new NPL Dion Bunt Cup.

These young players were given the opportunity to watch the NPL in action providing valuable insights and inspiration, leading to their own future development and pathway in our sport.

What a fantastic weekend, all players did us proud! Capital Penguins winning the NPL Dion Bunt Cup and Tui Conference winning the Inter Conference Trophy.

Check out the pictures on facebook IHNZ, Tui and Kokako. We have an amazing group of photographers from various clubs who openly share their photos to support our sport.



Nationals Update

Nationals Schedule Update

Due to a team withdrawing from NZ National Championships there has been an update (Version 4) released today.

The link to the new V4 version is here

Goal Cameras:

At Nationals 2024, IHNZ is introducing Goal Cameras!

In alignment with other sports who are utilising camera technology, Goal Camera's cover the front line of the goal enabling video review of goal/no goal calls.. The camera is protected from damage by a removable, padded steel box that provides survivability from contact with the puck. It is an unobtrusive unit placed above the back of the net and connects wirelessly to a tablet on the scorebench.

Rule 6.4.37 Video Review outlines the process for a goal review.

In the case where IHNZ approved goal cameras are in use for an event a Coach's Challenge will be available: The video review mechanism triggered by the Coach's Challenge can only be utilized in GOAL/NO GOAL situations and is intended to be extremely narrow in

scope. In all Coach's Challenge situations, the original call on the rink will be overturned if, and only if, a conclusive and irrefutable determination can be made on the basis of video evidence that the original call on the rink was clearly not correct. If a review is not conclusive and/or there is any doubt whatsoever as to whether the call on the rink was correct, the original call will be confirmed. Each team can request one Coach's Challenge per game. In the event that the Coach's Challenge is unsuccessful the team making the request will be issued a bench minor penalty for delay of game.

Huge thanks to Steve Scott and Rivet New Plymouth for helping bring this to fruition!

Preparations are well underway in New Plymouth

The New Plymouth Rollersports Club and New Plymouth Ravens are leading their team of volunteers and helpers to ensure the rink is ready for the New Zealand Nationals Club Championships starting Sept 28.

The rink walls have been repainted, damaged tiles replaced and the Perspex has been "buffed" to improve visibility. Special vents to improve air circulation will be located in the roof, scaffolding will be in place to assist with the live streaming camera placement and commentators will be able to call the action on a selection of finals.

The club have More FM interviewing few days out to promote the event and will most likely interview on site at the rink next week.



Nationals Update

Preparations continued...

Mad Media have come on board with amazing support package aimed at promoting rollersports. There are 3 billboards in New Plymouth and Mad also extended their proposal to include Whanganui. The boards are huge.

The billboard shown below features two of the Junior Women goalkeepers who recently competed in the “All Female League” in Wellington.



The billboard in Whanganui is one of the biggest. With permission from Lightning to use their logo, the graphic were prepared by the local club to advertise on each board.

James O'Donnell (Lightning) took a photo and sent it through.

The other New Plymouth billboards are located at New World in the city and the other is in Fitzroy.



Nationals Update

Preparations continued...

Other preparation includes a café set up on the mezzanine with a menu to come next week. Opening hours will be notified with drinks available downstairs when the café is not open.

A new electronic water fountain is hoped to be in place by the end of next week.

The club have advertised for “market” type stall holders and have a selection of stalls being offered covering portable and “forever” aluminium sipper straws, hand made craft, doggie treats, home made chutneys etc. The stall spaces will be located on the ground floor of the venue.

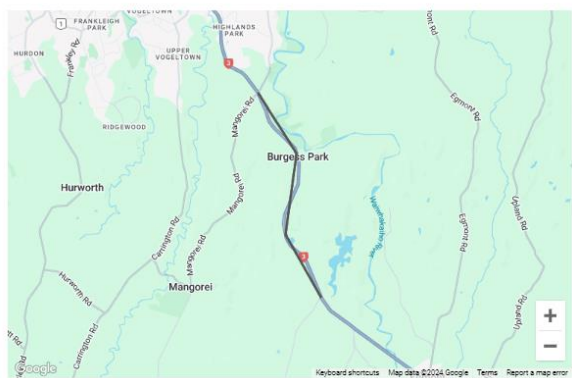
Also, subject to weather conditions, BUMPER BALLS may be available outside on the grassed area adjacent to the venue. (Please note the outdoor café is currently closed until labour Weekend)

Bumper Balls are available to children aged 6yrs and older. The smallest bumper ball is 1.2 metres in size. The balls can only be used on dry grass.



The local club have been notified of roadworks that will disrupt two way traffic south of New Plymouth. There are restrictions in place but also detours.

SH 3 Burgess Park, between the intersections of Kent Road and Mangorei Road



Road Closure

SH 3 Burgess Park, between Kent Road and Mangorei Road

Due to road rebuilding works, this section of road will be closed to southbound traffic between 12am (Midnight) and 12pm (Midday) and closed to northbound traffic from 12pm to 12am 24/7 from Monday 16th September for approximately 8 weeks. Plan your journey accordingly allowing extra time for travel along the alternative routes.





INLINE HOCKEY

NEW ZEALAND

REFEREE CALLS

Updates and reminders from our Referee in Chief regarding National Championships 2024

Pants

Player pants cannot have rips or tears that expose girdles or shin guards. Small tears that can be covered with tape are acceptable but any rip or tear that exposes protective equipment is not allowed and the pants need to be replaced. Pants need to be either the same colour pattern as their team or of a neutral colour (i.e. black). Pants that, in the opinion of the referee, are significantly different than the rest of the team or could be considered confusing to the opposition are not allowed.

Jerseys

Jerseys must be of the same colour and similar design. Slightly different designs are allowed (i.e. if both designs are for the same club). Players cannot wear a jersey that shows the jersey of another club.

Jersey sleeves must be pulled down to cover elbow pads.

Numbers

Each player must wear an individual number – two players on the same team cannot share the same number.

Captains

Every team needs to have a captain allocated on their team list, who should have a “C” clearly shown on their jersey. Teams can also name up to 3 alternate captains, who should have an “A” clearly shown on their jersey.

Referee Abuse

The 2024 National Championship is a zero tolerance event for referee abuse, and we are encouraging all referees to manage any verbal abuse accordingly.



Expressions of interest for Nationals Disciplinary Panel

In the event of a Game Misconduct or Match penalty issued in any game, a Disciplinary Panel will need to review the penalty/penalties. If you are interested in being a member of the Disciplinary Panel for Nationals, please email brendon@inlinehockeynz.org.nz. You do not have to be attending the full event, as we will create a pool of people to choose from depending on the teams involved in any incident requiring discipline.

The board have approved a new Minimum Suspension Guideline for both players and coaches that can be found here on the [policy page of the Inline Hockey New Zealand website](#).



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