



28 August 2024

www.inlinehockeynz.org

Kia ora Hockey Whānau,

Over the past few years, inline hockey has faced significant challenges. Our community is working hard to reengage, rebuild player numbers, and secure the financial future of our governing body. We also need to recognize that some members have genuine grievances that must be addressed.

Because of those factors, I find myself spending over 75% of my time dealing with issues that predate my involvement with the Board.

Newcomers to our sport quickly encounter the discontent within our community, often hearing more about the negatives than the positives. It's clear that we must come together and move forward cohesively. While many concerns are valid, and deserve to be heard, the way we communicate them matters. We must consider the whole message that we are sending.

Are we encouraging growth through our actions by showcasing the positive aspects of our community? Over the past few months, I've encountered incredible people and opportunities (such as Matariki, NARCH, and EWL) that highlight the potential within our sport. My outlook on our community is positive, and I believe we have much to offer.

To build a thriving future for inline hockey in New Zealand, we need to embrace the spirit of *kaitiakitanga*. In that spirit, the Board has been working on some exciting new initiatives that we hope to share more about soon. In a nutshell, they are about listening more, putting robust structures in place, and making more hockey happen.

While we have issues to address, it's time to draw a line in the sand and focus on moving forward together.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Asbjorn.