

**22 August, 2024**

Kia ora Hockey Whānau,

The Board has been listening to feedback from our community. One key piece of feedback that has come through loud and clear is the desire for more consistency in IHNZ's decision-making process. Today, I want to share one example of how the Board is taking that advice to heart.

Recently, the Board has been working through affiliation requests. At first glance, this might seem like a straightforward task. I'll admit, when I first joined the Board, I thought affiliation requests would be an easy part of the job. I was naïve. While some of these discussions are indeed simple, others are far more complex, involving logistical challenges and significant numbers of submissions from stakeholders, both in support and opposition. The number of voices isn't what makes these decisions challenging—there will always be differing opinions. The issue is that the Board lacks a clear, transparent, and fit-for-purpose set of criteria for making decisions about affiliation requests.

Consistency in decision-making over time is impossible without clearly defining the criteria that guide those decisions. Recognizing this gap, on July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Board decided to pause our consideration of new affiliation requests. This pause is necessary so that we can develop a standards framework that will establish a clear and criteria-based path to affiliation. You can read a copy of that standards framework proposal [here](#).

Our goal is twofold: to provide clubs seeking affiliation with a more defined path toward their goals, clearly outlining the necessary steps and success criteria, and to offer the Board and our community the assurance that there is a transparent, consistent set of standards that all new affiliate clubs must meet to join our organization.

In essence, this effort is about leveling the playing field and ensuring that our decision-making process is fair and balanced, even amidst the passionate voices within our community.

We believe this is a crucial step towards the consistency that the community has asked for.

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Asbjorn.

- **IHNZ National Championships Draw:**

At this stage we are awaiting one club confirmation prior to releasing the draw. We understand the impact this has on all clubs and players in regards to making arrangements.

- **IHNZ Merchandise:**

We are delighted to release our fantastic new merchandise range of IHNZ developed on rink and off rink clothing - tees, hoodies, shorts, playing jerseys and pants all going live next week. Look out for the link and announcement next week!

All items are available for purchase via Esports – pictures and sizing charts will be available and if you order by Friday 6 September, items will be guaranteed to be available for delivery at Nationals.

- **IHNZ NPL Round 3:**

Anyone in new Plymouth this weekend drop past the rink and see our premiers in action!

We have the event live streamed and there promises to be some fantastic hockey as we have all 6 teams vying for finals honours where only the top 4 will make finals weekend on September 14-15 in Hamilton.

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE			
<b>ROUND 3</b>			
<b>24-25 AUGUST</b>			
NEW PLYMOUTH INLINE HOCKEY RINK			
	HOME	AWAY	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	1:50PM	<b>RAVENS</b>	<b>PENGUINS</b>
	2:40PM	<b>PANTHERS</b>	<b>DEVILS</b>
	3:30PM	<b>MINERS</b>	<b>STINGRAYS</b>
	6:00PM	<b>RAVENS</b>	<b>MINERS</b>
	6:50PM	<b>PANTHERS</b>	<b>STINGRAYS</b>
	7:40PM	<b>PENGUINS</b>	<b>DEVILS</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:50AM	<b>MINERS</b>	<b>PENGUINS</b>
	9:40AM	<b>STINGRAYS</b>	<b>PANTHERS</b>
	10:30AM	<b>DEVILS</b>	<b>RAVENS</b>
	12:10PM	<b>PENGUINS</b>	<b>PANTHERS</b>
	1:00PM	<b>STINGRAYS</b>	<b>DEVILS</b>
	1:50PM	<b>RAVENS</b>	<b>MINERS</b>

- **Junior Interconference:**

Interconference team announcements are now out on their respective Facebook pages! These players are proudly going to be wearing our new interconference jerseys during the finals of the NPL.

We invite you to come support and watch our up and coming players battle it out for Interconference supremacy and being the first grades to wear our new Interconference jerseys!

This event will be run in conjunction with the InterConference event so our younger players will get to watch our premier players in action! Being 3 weeks prior to Nationals makes it an exciting lead up to Premier honours!

- **2025 and 2026 Planning:**

Planning is well underway with the restructure of the Conferences/Regions and a suggested structure and plan will be out to all shortly.

The main focus is on providing quality hockey opportunities for all! Members have told us the most important thing to them is a draw that is out early and no changes at the last minute. This is definitely a cornerstone of the new structure!

This structure, the IHNZ Calendar are all part of the process and we are also currently working on:

- Learn2Play
- Coaching Development
- High Performance
- Other hockey playing opportunities which we look forward to sharing with all

Don't forget to look out for our Coach's Notes which has some interesting reads for Inline Hockey!

For any questions you may have, please send via the usual channel to [gm@inlinehockeynz.org.nz](mailto:gm@inlinehockeynz.org.nz).

Enjoy your week and we look forward to bringing you our further updates as soon as able.

Regards

IHNZ Board

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