

IHNZ Heart Trophy Proposal

Proposal: that the board agree to offer the IHNZ Heart Trophy as an honor that can be awarded to one individual at the annual National Club Championships.

Background and Gaps.

Inline Hockey New Zealand (IHNZ) has a history of recognizing excellence and achievements within the sport through the Life Member award. However, there is a noticeable gap in the current awards structure—one that overlooks the heart, commitment, and attitude of those who go beyond the call of duty. These individuals, whether players or volunteers, embody the core values of our organization through their tireless dedication and perseverance in the face of significant challenges. Their contributions are essential to the growth and success of inline hockey in New Zealand, yet they remain underappreciated and often unrecognized.

In a sport where teamwork, dedication, and passion are crucial, it is vital for IHNZ to acknowledge not only the champions on the rink but also the champions of our community—the individuals who inspire others, who push through adversity, and who consistently put the sport above their personal interests. The lack of formal recognition for such contributions presents an opportunity for IHNZ to enhance its awards program, aligning it more closely with our organizational values.

Adding the Heart Trophy to the IHNZ awards list would address this gap by celebrating the intangible qualities that are just as critical to the sport's success as skill on the rink. The introduction of this award would also allow IHNZ to communicate more effectively about the positives within our community, celebrate successes, and honor the values we hold dear.

Selection of the Recipient.

The selection of the recipient for the Heart Trophy will be entrusted to the IHNZ Board. The award should only be given in years when it is truly merited.

Trophy Descriptor.

The Heart Trophy is a prestigious award presented at the Inline Hockey New Zealand (IHNZ) Nationals to honor an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and perseverance in advancing the sport of inline hockey. This award is reserved for those who have gone above and

beyond, whether as a player or volunteer, overcoming significant challenges to make a meaningful impact on the sport. The Heart Trophy is not awarded annually but is instead bestowed only in years when an individual's extraordinary contributions merit such recognition.

The “Heart Citation”.

The presentation of the Heart Trophy will include a "heart citation," a formal summary that highlights the recipient's achievements, contributions, and the reasons for their selection. This citation will be read aloud during the award ceremony and shared across IHNZ communication channels, ensuring that the recipient's contributions are acknowledged and celebrated throughout the community.