

Dear NZIHA Members and Clubs

Please find attached the minutes from the forum discussion held at Inter-regionals 25 October 2015.

Topics covered are:

1. Proposed Tournament Structure
2. Grassroots/Growth/General
3. AAU – International Grades Discussion
 - a. Includes clarification of what grades as at now
 - b. Raises parental concerns u12/JW
 - c. Undertook to review at 15/16 November Board Meeting

I trust this is a reasonable portrayal of what took place at the meeting. Given the background noise in the rink was very loud (will relocate to different venue next time) and the fragmentation post the fire alarm if any specific issues missed please advise so we can correct the records.

Thanks to all members of NZIHA for attending the forum, great to see so many people engaged and passionate about inline hockey. Your contribution inputting into the process is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to continue to share your views with us; the Board is keen to hear ideas from our community.

We will look to continue forum discussions in respect of Club National Competition Structure when NZIHA holds trials in New Plymouth 5/6 December 2015. Details will be advised following Board Meeting 15/16 November 2015.

Board Members and Portfolio's responsibilities are set out below, followed by contacts for NZIHA Operations Team.

Board Chair	Barbara Baker
Board Secretary and Statutory Officer	Karen Fuller
EO – Portfolio (NZIHA Operations)	Susan Kennedy
Growth Portfolio	Tim Horne
Coaching Portfolio	John Hornal & Scott Collins
Referee Portfolio	John Hornal & Scott Collins
Risk Portfolio	William Guzzo
Finance Portfolio	Mark Sutton & William Guzzo
Policies Portfolio	Richard Nelson
Profile Portfolio	Barbara Baker
Lead Portfolio (Strategic Plan)	Barbara Baker

NZIHA Operations Team

General Manager – Operations	Krys Beardman
National Operations Committee	Pete Shields Jenny Henry Claire Bruin
Committee Support	Volunteers from our Community

Kind regards and thanks to all for your time,
Barbara Baker, NZIHA Chairperson

Minutes of the Forum Discussion held at Inter-Regionals Sunday 25th of October

Present NZIHA : Barbara Baker, Scott Collins, Bevan Varney

Present Inline Hockey Community

Bryn Currie	Snipers	Ben Wilde	Penguins
Nick Thom	Renegades	Tracey Bate	Miners
Nicola Ellis	Waihi Miners	Adam Hunt	Renegades
Pauline Moran	Penguins	Willy Harvey	Ravens
Susan Tobin	Devils	Warren Swetmen	Devils

Tony Vesper	Panthers	Michelle Wood	Panthers
Stacia Merlo	Panthers	Carol-Moana Rosser	Ravens
Andrew Kibblewhite	Whalers	Robert Thomson	Renegades
Gaylene & Mike Ward	Renegades	Shirley Marsh	Penguins
William Isbister	Ravens	Simon Lovell	Waihi Miners
Sue Gillespie	Stingrays	Sally Grindlay	Waihi Miners
Clyde Jackson	Panthers	Gordon Tam	Devils
Bonnie Milne	Waihi Miners	Viv Barakat	Waihi Miners
Robie Booth	NZIHA Ref	Jonathon Bennett	Panthers
Matt Chan	Renegades	Erin Rose	Penguins

Areas of Discussion: Tournament Proposal, Grassroots/Growth/General, and AAU

Area's Not Covered: Discussion from forum minutes held at Nationals and arising matters

1. Discussion 'Club' National Competition Tournament Proposal

Many in attendance had not seen/read the Tournament Proposal Discussion document so Barbara read the document to the group as below: -

NZIHA 'CLUB' NATIONAL COMPETITION STRUCTURE DISCUSSION

The Objective...

To establish a National Competition as a way of development and promotion of inline hockey in New Zealand. The league would need to be recognized as the highest level of competition for all those involved in the sport.

What is the National Competition (NC).....

The National Competition is based on a series of tournaments held during the NZIHA season, including the annual National Championships. The National Competition is open to all NZIHA affiliated clubs with Regions looking to host at least one round in a season. (Dependent on the number of tournaments played in a year The National Competition tournaments could be an opt-in scenario if five or more tournaments are played – for discussion).

The Goals.....

To establish and grow a National Competition that:

- Provides a sustainable, competitive experience for inline hockey players, coaches, managers and administrators throughout New Zealand,
- Is run in accordance with NZIHA rules and policies as part of the development structure with the involvement of inline hockey supporters who are passionate about the game,
- Adapted to form part of NZ National team development pathway

The Proposed Solution.....

The development of a National Competition Structure will greatly improve the opportunities offered to players in NZ. Teams/clubs will be able to play more inter-regional teams in their age bracket that may not be afforded to them in their regional leagues. At the development end it also provides a sustainable platform for talent identification for our representative teams as each round can be used to assess players.

The format can also be adapted to be used at a Regional level to help maintain local competitions and provide meaningful hockey at a local level.

The Recommendation.....

What is required in order to move forward?

- NZIHA to approve, in principle, the creation and implementation of the National Competition Structure,

- NZIHA to approve the establishment of a sub-committee that will oversee the operation of the National Competition Structure,
- NZIHA to approve budget to assist with start-up.

OVERVIEW

Format – Competition to be considered

*Ultimately based on the number of teams available

Four Rounds:

- Three round robin tournaments to be held during the year plus the final round to be at Nationals.
- One tournament held Northern, Central and Lower North Region as part of season.
- Finals series at National Championships.

Five Rounds:

- Four round robin tournaments to be held during the year plus the final round to be at Nationals.
- One tournament held Northern & Lower North Region; Central to host two (Hamilton & New Plymouth) as part of season.
- Finals series at National Championships.

Format – General:

- Points based on finishing at end of each Round tournament. Placings to be used as seeding for the next round of games.
- Teams able to play in local regional tournaments on weekends not allocated for National Competition.
- In the future, addition of divisions (Gold, Silver, Platinum or Atom, Bantam) for the junior grades and possibly Women's; similar to those utilized at NARCh
- Format can be applied at a Regional level to help provide more games to clubs in-between National Championship dates.
- Looking for value for money proposition for tournaments – game time verse cost of travel e.g multiple games at each tournament cost value proposition desired.

Grades:

- Format can be applied to all grades

Teams/Players:

- NZIHA member clubs can only contest all tournaments,
- Players to play for teams which they qualify for with their club,
- Minimum squad of six; maximum of 15 (including goalies),

Potential dates:

- End date will always be NZIHA National Championships
- What are views on potentially using existing tournaments as rounds for games for certain grades - Mt Wellington Invitational, Queens Birthday.
- The other option is to utilise Mixed league weekends dates (e.g. Prem hockey at one rink other levels of hockey at a different rink but ability for community to lock in dates)
- If not using existing tournaments then calendar of set dates based on school holidays, winter sports calendar

ISSUES

Some key issues in choosing whether or not to participate in Inline Hockey:

- Access to inline hockey – clubs, rinks, teams, coaching.
- Other sporting codes outside of hockey.
- Competition and growth of ice hockey, especially in Auckland.
- Cost of taking part in tournaments – travel, accommodation etc.
- Lack of preparation/coaching.
- Lack of sustainable competition.
- No incentive to keep playing hockey in adulthood.

- No incentive to play representative hockey, whether regional or national.

NATIONAL COMPETITION BENEFITS

The benefits will be presented in relation to the goals of the NEL.

1. Provides a sustainable, competitive experience for inline hockey players, coaches, managers and administrators throughout New Zealand.
 - The National Competition will form the highest level of organized inline hockey in NZ.
 - Form part of team New Zealand talent identification, development and preparations for national teams. This will include players, referees and coaches.
 - Provide more competition across regions to strengthen the development of the game.
 - Emphasis placed on strengthening Clubs through competitive leagues.
 - Promotion of the game to the public based around tournaments.
 - Creating a more exciting competition will allow for more marketability of the game.
2. Is run in accordance with NZIHA rules and policies as part of the development structure with the involvement of inline hockey supporters who are passionate about the game,
 - Governed by the current NZIHA Rules and Regulations as applicable.
 - National Competition Structure would sit alongside current Regional Leagues and can form part of these seasons.
3. Adapted to form part of NZ National team development pathway
 - Basis of long-term development model for the sport of Inline Hockey in New Zealand.
 - Coaching pathway created to link club to international teams.
 - Player identification for National teams becomes an ongoing process across a season allowing for a training squad to be named at the end of each season.
 - Players can be monitored by coaches at tournaments across a season and provide work-ons during the season.

NZIHA NZ NATIONAL TEAMS			
NZIHA NATIONAL COMPETITION			
MEN	WOMEN	UNDER 18	U16 & BELOW
NZIHA REGIONAL LEAGUES – CLUB COMPETITIONS			
MEN	WOMAN	UNDER18	U16 & BELOW

Bevan Varney then shared why he thought it was critical. Sees it as important to provide competition for seniors. We want seniors giving back to community through especially coaching and if no exciting competition they will leave the sport. No fun with no teams – in my case last year only one team to play all year. Northern, Lower and Southern have these issues. Central is a different situation with multiple teams. Solution is simple create more inter-regional competition. Want the competition to be meaningful with points after each tournament, seeking feedback from the community in regard to concept, issues such as how many tournament should we have – has to be consideration of cost – looking at 5-6 games per tournament weekend per team. We are discussing the idea so we get your feedback.

Raised Feedback Points

- Confirmation this is a 'Club' based national tournament competition structure'
- Noted this is the start of a process and NZIHA gathering input what was important was we got it right not rushed and fail
- Super league should have been called Draft League
- Definitely need to do something people shouldn't be scared of change – can't continue how it is
- Tournament concept appealing
- Will the rules be followed – Response aware of some issues this weekend, absolutely we 'set the rules for competition' and 'then we have to follow them'
- Need a framework for introduction otherwise will fail - Response logical to introduce carefully e.g. trial a grade next year, learn from experience – feedback – adapt and then introduce larger section following year
- Intention is to do it right not to rush it and get it wrong
- New Plymouth likely to have no Prem grade next year

- Some like small teams some do not – Club control – Not all in support
- Looking to achieve 5-6 games per team per tournament
- Seniors – need competition for them – push to develop to join Prem grade – join tournament structure but at Prem
- Seniors like the tournament concept
- Need clarity from Panthers, Ravens in regard to utilizing their weekends – cost/benefit to players.
- Alternative to use Mixed League weekends – nice idea
- If for juniors need to include u10s
- Need a framework for introduction otherwise will fail - Response logical to introduce carefully e.g. trial a grade next year, learn from experience – feedback – adapt and then introduce larger section following year
- Proposed the idea of considering implementation for Prem Grade next year as a trial, then review and adapt, no one disagreed.
- Games - Importance of 40 minutes? – If look at e.g. Narch they run more games but reduce time to fit in, if having half a dozen games think ok to reduce timing.
- Proposal that NZIHA would work with Clubs to flesh out issues in and around introduction for all grades in particular juniors over the coming year in parallel to the trial – everyone present in favour.
- To achieve next steps would be development of a framework of operation (Event Notice) and the tournament schedule as again their would need to be input into this process from Clubs and members.

2. Grassroots/Growth/General

- Advised community that NZIHA was progressing the branding project with new brand identity for our sport, logo's etc.
- Advised community we had access to expertise with global recognition to profile the sport
- In both cases the community would see a difference for the 2016 season – community received these initiatives well
- Christchurch advised they had a meeting with Board Growth Portfolio two years ago and still waiting for him to come back to them – hugely disappointing – there are 1000 ice players in Chch who all come from an inline background and many now have children, but there is impetus and passion to get inline up and running again – NZIHA need to really understand how we can support – Barbara undertook to follow up with Chch and growth portfolio post meeting was unaware the Board has an outstanding action on this.
- Supportive of tournament – something has to change – concerned about what NZIHA is doing to grow the sport
- What can NZIHA do to support Club level grassroots development – equipment – human resources
- Discussed the idea of Strategic Plan long term goal to have 4 x regional sports officers to support Clubs in regional with growth/grassroots/school engagement etc. Advised there had been a proposal to the Board April this year but at the time unsupported. Community indicated they thought this was a good option need resources. Barbara undertook to revisit this option with the Board.
- Coach the Coaches - Clubs seeking coaching resources – issue where parents stepping up but need support – issue coaches difficult to teach kids to skate if can't skate themselves. Technical side of skating – e.g. Skate on one foot, Skating C cups. Advised Clubs that coaching resources were available to go to clubs, clubs simply needed to book through Kryz.
- Recreational Skaters Grade – Issue where do they fit in – Inline tournament sport all round the world with a regular weekly pick up hockey session – these sessions designed to meet the needs of the recreational skater so this sits with club – promote 'Pick-Up' hockey concept to Clubs for 2016. Realise USA has more participants but we need to start somewhere.
- NZIHA used to have 44 clubs and over 3 thousand players need a plan to get back to those numbers – everyone has to do their bit – driven from Clubs with NZIHA – need to take notice and do something
- Reiterated NZIHA see Clubs as important nothing in the strategy removes them, we are trying to strengthen Clubs and encourage them to grow participation locally.
- Want exciting competition to ensure player retention
- Recreational Skater – Penguins had 1000 skaters through recreational learn to skate, learn to inline, Kiwisport programs. None of these children recorded in NZIHA database and should be. These children not joining the club and paying membership fees. NZIHA asked to consider the recreational skater membership at 'no cost' but registered in NZIHA database – we already have this membership distinction. Sport NZ is only concerned with numbers – our funding reduced from 25K to 12K in last two years. Increased numbers help us - reporting and funding. Promote recording of these participants to NZIHA database as critical to provision of information to Sport NZ that is more reflective of participation in the sport of inline.
- Every funding agency looks at the numbers of people in the community benefitting from grant monies
- Growth – Got to start with Learn to Skate and get these going all across the country
- Growth officer from each Club – everyone working together sharing idea's and resources to help Clubs grow
- School engagement – Messaging

- Advised members in respect of Promotus Project to profile the game and the sport was privileged to have access to the external expertise of Nigel Corbett who has won global awards for his work. This work will take place next year. Profiling the sport will help significantly everyone.
- Advised members we had a Brand Project underway with Creative Cluster and we were looking to introduce for the 2016 season – again NZIHA has secured external expertise in the specific area to assist the sport.
- More support needed for new parents
- Unlevel playing field – how hard is it to treat everyone the same – rules seem to be for some and not others – this has to be fixed.
- These forums are good do more – agree thinking future is short sharp session with one agenda item but welcoming views being received.

3. Discussion in regard to AAU Hawaii (albeit outside re-fire alarm to subset)

- At 30 August Board Meeting we have agreed 14u, 18u, 21u or 23u (had indication would be either 21u or 23u tbc at time of meeting) 35+ for AAU
- We did not agree 12u and JW (Did not know age for JW at time of meeting)
- Post the board meeting we agreed 16u as identified risk area for losing players if nowhere to go – review post trial.
- Post Board meeting confirmation grade was 23u (not 21u)
- NZIHA published that 14u, 16u, 23u and 35+ are grades for AAU and confirm, as at time of writing there is no change to these grades.
- NZIHA will review 12u and JW at next board meeting

Raised at Forum - Barb spoke with 5 parents 3 x NP 2 x Panthers

NZIHA has received 9 letters from parents. Advised Waihi Club were also going to send letter. Barbara spoke to parents at the forum. Parents advised that the Board would reconsider this at next board meeting 15/16 November. Outcome would be notified following meeting.

Explained that 3 different independent sport advisors with significant sport experience across both large and small sports had been encouraging NZIHA to reduce international travel as focus was too great in this area and focus needed to be on growing domestic sport. Generally sports introduced NZ representation at u18.

- Most sports do international travel for 18 and over.
- Consumes our volunteer resources
- Impact of international competition and effect on domestic - does travel make domestic look unattractive in NZ
- Only 960 member - ease of access to NZ representation
- Two Clubs in NZ have taken teams to Narch - Penguin 2012 (Premis) and Ravens 2015 two teams (u12 and u16)– proves Clubs can do this

Explained we were not stopping anyone from attending the competition we were inviting clubs and or regions to put in own teams. We understood from some Clubs there was interest in doing so as asked to clarify if playing for NZ can players also play for Club as part of publishing grades.

To be considered by the Board

Parents raised issues

- Believe this is an 'attraction' factor to the sport
- If we take away may loose kids from the sport - potential retention issue
- If with NZ team they can get funding but if with Club/region difficult (especially NP parents and access to TSB funding, but generally true for any funding)
- Children work very hard to earn the right to represent
- Awesome experience and growth opportunity, learning experience brought back and shared with community which helps develop players in NZ
- If NZIHA stance remains as no 12u/JW what can NZIHA do to help us in regard to organisation we don't know where to start
- Independents advice can be wrong
- We don't know who the Board is or what they do
- Would like to see more of Board facing community and talking with them directly

- Advised unable to give them a decision, reiterated that it would go to full board – outcome was a democratic vote, and outcomes would be communicated, thanked for time to hear their views
- Oceania 2015 kids interfacing asked NZ kids if going to NZ and have been in communication with them since AU announced teams at 12u level - asking NZ kids are they going /in the team etc.
- Parents communicated they see it as hugely important
- Reference: Parent letters communications

Identified issue is transitional management and stakeholder expectations.

- People have an expectation of going
- Need to consider stakeholders views and will review at next meeting
- Longer term transition or review to include
- Is International competition the ‘glue’ for our sport presently

If decision stands Nov Meeting (tbc)

If NZIHA not organising parents would like to know can we help them?

- Parents would like to know how NZIHA could help in this instance.
- Uniforms
- Entry to competition
- Travel

- **Action Items**

No	Action Item	Allocated Resource
1	Tournament Feedback input to Club National Tournament Competition Structure for NZIHA Board Meeting 15/16 November. Look to develop survey to players to ensure engaged in process as direct impact to them.	Barbara Baker
2	Grassroots/General feedback input to Board Portfolio Owners	Barbara Baker
3	Follow up Growth Portfolio – South Island and revert to Andrew Kibblewhite	Barbara Baker Tim Horne
4	AAU parent feedback input to review Board Meeting 16 Nov	Barbara Baker
5	Communicate Board Members and Portfolios	Barbara Baker
6	Connect with Ravens & Panthers in respect of the potential for tournament scheduling	Scott Collins
7	Ensure Prem Players engaged in the process of development of Club National Tournament Competition Structure	Scott Collins and Bevan Varney
8	Rename to Club National Tournament Structure for clarity	Barbara Baker