

## Club Representative discussion with NZIHA Representatives Competition Format & General Matters Arising 30 September 2015

### **Representation**

- Devils
- Renegades
- Waihi Miners
- Penguins
- Vipers
- Stingrays
- Panthers

Advised considering a review of competition format for 2016 season, there are no prejudged decisions we are seeking and encouraging stakeholder input to the process before a decision is made.

Plan to gather idea's for Clubs to talk with their own Club and schedule another meeting at Inter-Regionals to collate idea ahead of the November Board Meeting which is a planning session for 2016 season.

### **Discussed Narch Model Principles**

- NZ basically faced teams largely made up of 6 players and a goalie
  - Tournament base then finals
  - Inclusive
  - Maximum rink time for all
  - No players disenfranchised
  - Value proposition
  - Graded level of competition
    - Representative saw benefit in B grade competition
  - Consideration for domestic competition NZ
  - Club perception success with smaller teams
- Model encourages full participation from all
- Competition model provides for different levels of play
- People join the sport to play the game not ride a bench with massive teams
- Value proposition – rink time verse costs
- Senior men – highly competitive model
- Look to gather input and then survey wider stakeholder either after nationals or Inter-regionals
- Potentially encourage smaller team size for club/regional level hockey – thoughts 6 could be difficult for sustained play through winter maybe 8 + goalie as a maximum.

### **Tournament Model Proposal**

- The National Competition is based on a series of tournaments held during the NZIHA season, including the annual National Championships.
- Provide more competition across regions to strengthen the development of the game.
- Emphasis placed on strengthening Clubs through competitive leagues
- Format of tournament model needs to be considered by everyone needs to be finalized as discussion document for consideration post Nationals
- Need to determine what is practical, achievable and able to be supported.
- Things to think about

#### No of Rounds

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.
- How many rounds e.g. 4 or 5

#### Format – General:

- Points system and seedings
- Teams still able to play in local competition on non tournament dates

- Addition of divisions taking into account all levels of play.

#### Considerations

- How does this interface with tournament such as Bauer/Ravens/Hamilton 3 on 3/Penguins Capital Clash etc., or do we use Mixed league weekends
- Is this introduced partial or full
- Consider implementing as trial then review and adapt for future years
- How many rounds is affordable to players
- Impact to inter-regionals and trial

#### General Discussion

- Received sporting expert recommendation Overseas for 18u as per most other sports – re-channel focus into growing NZ rather than resource allocated to NZ teams
  - Need Volunteers at Club level to assist
  - Maybe each Club identify a Champion for growth
- Encourage Clubs to take teams to AAU /Narch especially juniors rather than at NZ level. If encouraging model where juniors aspire to achieve NZ representation needs to be because they have earned it rather than turn up and in.
- Is the travel overseas creating an environment where children no longer think NZ domestic hockey is exciting is this attributing to lack of growth
- Request to have strategic focus on growth
- Suggestion there is a need to consolidate and possibly go backwards in order to move forwards – with only 960 members consider a 2 region Model
  - Raise internal competitiveness to make domestic hockey challenging
  - Issue travel
  - Tournaments supported with local club games and regions
  - Do we need regions – regional competition lost its gloss in some areas
- Tournaments are fun – Club to Club works well
- Player engagement need to address
- Pressure on referees availability some regions – building support function 30 referees trained in 2014 will know 2015 figures in Nov.
- Lower issue UID – high risk – due to costs of travel in lower region consideration not to include in regional competition keep club focus for a couple of years and get hooked then introduce at regional level u12.
- Waihi suggestion of a novice league for new participants to the sport
- Thoughts from Clubs/regions required in respect of management of gear into each regions
- Consideration Hockey on Wheels model to assist promoting growth
- Racing Board have indicated they would support equipment but needs to come from Clubs applications to them as opposed to National body so giving back directly to community where funds raised. NZIHA can develop a one pager that talks about the strategy and how Club initiative dovetails into NZIHA growth initiatives. NZIHA can look to develop base template for Clubs to utilise.
- Need to review Inter-regionals and Super League. Is this annual – what should it look like – does it need to change.
- NZIHA has to refocus on Grassroots can only be done at local level with local volunteers. Thought process to get a team of people representing Club/region working together sharing ideas know how.
- Concept presented at AGM growth portfolio is smaller kids developed through schools, Hamilton 45 school teams entry to Club largely u14 and above
- Consideration to employ someone like TC internal people to assist Clubs
- Dave Hammond recommendation to introduce u8 grade to stimulate growth
- NZIHA created a framework needs to develop actual plan with outcomes for player development pathway and coach development pathway. Sandy Nimmo still waiting contact from Coaching Committee.
- Lower getting demand for weekly games. Northern has weekly game model
- Issue central region one Club not very willing to travel
- Would like to see more Prems visiting Clubs e.g. Prems in region support Clubs in region
- NZIHA is seeking volunteer engagement – sport survival dependent on next generation stepping up to assist.
- Utilisation of survey mechanism once ideas/formats progressed further

**Further consideration of issues to be held on SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> October upstairs at New Plymouth rink between 10.00am and 1.00pm.**

**Stakeholder feedback will contribute into the Board November Planning Meeting for the 2016 season.**

**We invite any members to contribute to the process together with Clubs - everyone welcome.**

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## **NZIHA NATIONAL COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

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### **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.

### **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 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.

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## **OVERVIEW**

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### 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.
- 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.

### 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
- Use of existing tournaments as rounds for games for certain grades - Mt Wellington Invitational, Queens Birthday, Tauranga Juniors
- If not using existing tournaments then calendar of set dates based on school holidays, winter sports calendar

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## **ISSUES**

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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.

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## **NATIONAL COMPETITION BENEFITS**

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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 sides can become 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 provided work-ons during the season.

