



New Zealand Inline Hockey Policy

Youth Protection Policy

Introduction

NZIHA is a non-profit, charitable organisation run by volunteers. We occasionally engage expertise on a temporary contract basis to meet the needs of the organisation. The NZIHA is committed to the safety and welfare of junior participants in its sport. Staff and volunteers are required to enable participation, training and competition in the sport of Inline Hockey, particularly for junior players. This policy sets out the rules to ensure that inline hockey provides a safe environment for junior players.

Child abuse in New Zealand is defined under section 2 of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 and is the harming of a child by physically, emotionally or sexually ill-treating them through abuse or neglect.

Policy

The NZIHA will implement the following policy:

- a) Children have the right to participate in our sport without fear of any form of abuse.
- b) The NZIHA will screen people whose role requires them to work with junior participants and or have direct and unsupervised contact with children.
- c) The NZIHA will provide access to police vetting as a service to affiliated clubs and regions to aid their screening of volunteers.
- d) All allegations of child abuse will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. A person will not be victimised for reporting an allegation of child abuse and the privacy of all persons concerned will be respected.
- e) Adults may never be alone with an individual youth where they are not observable by others.
- f) Bullying and hazing are explicitly banned by the NZIHA as a form of abuse. Any team rituals must be consensual and harmless in nature.

Screening

Screening applies to, but is not limited to:

- all staff positions permanent and contract;
- representative team coaches, managers and support persons where the team includes players under the age of 18.
- coaches and/or delivery personnel involved in NZIHA participation, development and high performance programs.

Collectively these are “staff and volunteers”.

Screening will involve:

- NZIHA staff and volunteers should normally have previous involvement in affiliated clubs and regions. Where this involvement exceeds two years, statements of good standing will be sought from those clubs and/or regions.
- In the case of new adult who do not have previous involvement in affiliated clubs or regions, two referees should be supplied and these will be actively checked by the NZIHA.
- All staff and volunteers must undergo a national police check. (Information on police checks and forms can be found at <http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/businesses-and-organisations/vetting>)
- NZIHA will maintain a list of red flag criteria for police vetting. Any staff or volunteers whose results meet those criteria will be excluded from involvement with children.

All matters concerning vetting will be held confidentially.

Any person subject to screening is entitled to see the details held about them.

All personal details supplied to the association will be stored securely under the NZIHA Information Use and Storage Policy.