

Website at www.nzih.com

New Zealand Inline Hockey Association (NZIHA)
National Championships - Rules & Guidelines
Valid from 2004
(Replaces all former published Rules & Guidelines)

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the rules and guidelines for the New Zealand Inline Hockey Association National Championships and the Regional Championships that qualify clubs for entry to the National Championships.

National Championships

The NZIHA conducts National Championships annually.

Entries are open to NZIHA member clubs that have qualified for an entry based on the performance of their best-placed team within each grade in the Regional Championships.

In 2004, the grades for National Championships will be Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Under 20, Women, and Open. There is a maximum of one entry per club per grade at National Championships and a maximum of two teams per region with the exception of the Open grade where a maximum of four teams per region and a maximum of two teams per club will apply.

The 2004 Team Entry Fee for National Championships shall be \$500 (inc GST) and shall be payable to the NZIHA prior to August 31st, 2004. Please Note: ONLY club cheques will be accepted. (If the team fees are paid prior to August 31st prompt payment discount of 10% may be deducted.)

Players can play for only one team. Team rosters may not be added to after the first game. Players may not play in their own age grade if they have played more than three times in higher age grades in the regional championships.

To be eligible to compete in National and Regional Championships players must have registered with the NZIHA prior to their first sanctioned game. All team officials must be registered with NZIHA.

All players aged 16 and Over (Senior Registration) MUST be registered prior to July 31st, 2004 in order to be eligible for Regional Championships and National Championships in the year of registration.

Regional Championship competition will be used to qualify clubs for entry to the National Championships provided that the rules for the regional event include the following **mandatory requirements**:

All clubs MUST be affiliated to NZIHA by March 31st or prior to any of their teams participating in any NZIHA sanctioned competition or championship.

- All players must be NZIHA registered prior to the first game in a sanctioned competition or championship.
- Unless otherwise approved by the NZIHA, players shall play for only one club in the Regional Championships.
- NZIHA official score sheets will be used for the scoring of all games.

Regional Championships

Regional Committees are responsible for conducting a Regional Championship. The Regional Championship season shall finish no later than August 22nd, 2004 or as otherwise notified by NZIHA.

All players must be currently registered with the NZIHA prior to taking part in any regional championship game. When a player has played in a regional championship within the current season AND THEREAFTER transfers to another club they are ineligible to continue playing in the regional championship unless the NZIHA grants dispensation prior to July 31st, 2004. (Doc # NZIHA 04101)

Where the Regional Committee decides to have separate divisions within a grade, eligibility for entry to the National Championships will be determined by the result of the A division within the grade.

The Regional Committee shall publish a Regional Championship Event Notice including;

- The Regional Championship will be conducted under the NZIHA By-Laws, the NZIHA Official Rule Book 2002 and rules in the Regional Championship Event Notice.
- NZIHA mandatory requirements as above.
- The intended format of the championships.
- The eligibility of players.
- Entry close dates, entry fees & rink fees., rink size
- Officials to be provided by clubs & teams.

- Disciplinary procedures. (Refer -NZIHA Disciplinary Procedures)
- The points system to be used.

The following rules shall be adhered to:

- The event to be named the Regional Championship and that the term Regional Champion to be conferred on the winning teams.
- The Regional Committee shall decide how the top two teams in each grade shall be determined, or, in the case of the Open grade, the top four teams.
- Open Grade:-
Where a club has more than one team in the Open Grade of the Regional Championships, players may play for only one of those teams for the duration of the Regional Championships.
If one team from a club qualifies for the National Championships Open Grade, the club may select its Nationals team from all of its eligible players.
If two teams from a club qualify for the National Championships Open Grade, players who have played in the Regional Championships in one of the qualifying teams are only eligible to play in the same team as they played in the Regional Championships. However, other eligible players in the club may be included.
- If the eligibility for entry to the National Championships is to be determined by way of a Playoff (hereinafter referred to as "Nationals Qualifier") then players, including Women, must be entered under one team and can play for only one team at the Nationals Qualifier.
- In Regional Championships players shall be entered as playing for one team except for women who may play for both the women's grade and an age grade. However, provided that they comply with age eligibility at all times, players are permitted to play in other teams of a higher age grade or higher divisions within an age grade of the same club a maximum of three times. Where a player has played for other teams of a higher age grade or division on three occasions they shall remain with the team with which they next play for the rest of the championships .
Where a club has two teams in the same division, players may play for only one team in the regional championships.
- A points system is to be used as follows, Win - 2 points; Draw - 1 Points; Loss - 0 Points and a Default, Forfeit or No-show will result in a minus 2 points being deducted from the offending teams overall points and a win being recorded by the non-offending team.
- A team found to have fielded an ineligible player (ie a player not currently registered with the NZIHA, a player playing down a grade) shall default the game and the result shall be recorded as 5 – nil or the actual score whichever is the most advantageous to the non offending team.
- The Regional Event Notice should be forwarded to the Secretary, NZIHA, Box 7014, New Plymouth (or by email) for approval prior to publication.

Regional Committees are otherwise free to determine the format of the Regional Championships.

A suggested format and wording for the Regional Championships Event Notice is attached.