
2024 IHNZ Women's League Weekends

Frequently Asked Questions

Get ready for action-packed Inline Hockey weekends at the National Women's League!

These thrilling events promise a perfect blend of fun, fierce competition, and incredible opportunities for players of all skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just getting started, come join the excitement as we celebrate the spirit of participation and the drive to develop every female player.

With games, skill-building sessions, and plenty of chances to connect with fellow enthusiasts, these weekends are all about fostering growth, camaraderie, and the love of the game.

Don't miss out on the ultimate inline hockey experience for women and girls!

Sign up by June 15 (this Saturday!!)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

There has been a little confusion in relation to the Women's League weekends, after some changes from the original model (for this year only).

This short FAQ is intended to clear this up so everyone has the most up-to-date info.

For more information, please contact the League Coordinator Tara Fox (taratissink@gmail.com).

FAQs: *(Click to jump to the FAQ)*

[1. What are the Women's League Weekends?](#)

[2. Where and When?](#)

[3. What about Nationals?](#)

[4. What are the age-based grades?](#)

[5. Is entry for Teams or Individuals?](#)

[6. What if our club doesn't have enough players to make a team?](#)

[7. Should players and teams attend both weekends?](#)

[8. What are the player entry requirements?](#)

[9. Can 16U players play in Senior Women?](#)

[10. How much does it cost?](#)

[11. How do I enter?](#)

[12. What will it look like in future?](#)

[Have any other queries?](#)

1. What are the Women's League Weekends?

The National Women's League Weekends are fun, competitive and inclusive weekends for female Inline Hockey players of all ages. They will run over 2 weekends (mid-July and late August) with each weekend running as a mini-tournament, alongside other fun activities.

The original model was built around a league that ran over several weekends, with finals at Nationals. However for 2024, the weekends will each run as standalone tournaments and Nationals will operate separately (see below).

These weekends will be super-fun and are designed to provide fun and competitive opportunities to help develop our female players – they're not to be missed!

2. Where and When?

The National Women's League runs over two weekends in 2024:

- **July 20-21, 2024:** New Plymouth
- **Aug 31 – Sept 1, 2024:** Wellington

The intention is to start first thing Saturday morning and finish by around 3pm on Sunday to enable travel home.

3. What about Nationals?

This year, Nationals will run as a standalone tournament (like previous years). The original model had a third and final Women's League round at Nationals, however this is now not happening in 2024.

As per the Nationals Event Notice, women and girls can play in these grades at Nationals though!

4. What are the age-based grades?

The League's grades are based on the same grades as per the updated 2024 Nationals:

- **Junior Women:** 10U players, and 12U who have played for 2 years or less
- **Intermediate Women:** Any 12U-eligible to 16U-eligible female players
- **Senior Women:** Any female player aged 17 or older (*see below for 16U players*)

You may only play for one grade. See below for 16U players wanting to play in Senior Women.

5. Is entry for Teams or Individuals?

By default, entry is for **club teams**. However we also realise that not every club can put together a travelling team at these grades, and we'll find a place for everyone who wants to come play!

In essence, there are 3 options for entry (from most preferred):

1. **Enter a full team from your club**
2. **Enter a cross-club team (see FAQ #6 below)**
3. **If neither of these are options, enter as an individual and we'll find you a team!**

Our core objective is to provide opportunities for girls and women to play hockey, so we'll do what we can to support inclusiveness – as long as it's fair for everyone.

6. What if our club doesn't have enough players to make a team?

As per the Event Notice, if a club doesn't have enough players to form a team they can choose to join with other clubs to create a cross-club team. CLUBS must approve the cross-club team.

It's important to realise this is a cross-club team – it's not a free-for-all to make up teams of selected players from multiple clubs to try to make a super-strong team.

The rules from the Nationals Event Notice apply, which state:

Where a club does not have sufficient eligible players to form a viable team in a grade, clubs may form a team across clubs.

Cross-club teams must be approved by the tournament committee and will only be approved where:

- (a) It is clear that the intent of combining players is solely to form a viable team and/or ensure all players have a team in which to play, not to try to create a soul-crushing maxi-smashy super strong team.*
- (b) The clubs attest that no players at that grade across the constituent clubs will be prevented from participating in the team due to the forming of a cross-club team. i.e. clubs cannot just take the best players across clubs and leave out other eligible players.*
- (c) Players may only play in a cross-club team if their own club are not entering a team at that grade.*
- (d) The combination will not significantly and unfairly disadvantage another team.*

If your club isn't entering a team, or combining with another to create a cross-club team, simply enter as an individual player and we'll find you a team 😊.

7. Should players and teams attend both weekends?

Yes, Yes, Yes!!! We strongly recommend attending both weekends to get the full experience, and the second will build on the first. This will also let you experience the hospitality in both New Plymouth and Wellington – different rinks, different faces, but lots of fun!

However, if you are absolutely unable to come to both we will accept entry to just one of the weekends for 2024. But again, this is only a worst-case scenario where it's simply not possible to come to both weekends – we really hope you can come to both!

8. What are the player entry requirements?

The player entry requirements are as per the Event Notice, namely:

- Be a current member of an IHNZ-affiliated club and have paid your IHNZ registration fee.
- Be eligible to play for the grade you wish to play.

And for those entering in a club (or cross-club) team:

- Play in a team from the IHNZ-affiliated club of which you are a member (or a cross-club team).
- Play for a club within the Conference in which you reside, unless you have been playing for a single club outside the Conference area continuously since prior to 1 January 2023.

9. Can 16U players play in Senior Women?

More experienced 16U players may prefer to play in Senior Women. As per the updated Nationals Event Notice, this can be approved by your club where:

- (a) The informed consent of the player, their parent or guardian, and coach if appropriate, has been obtained by the club in writing; and
- (b) With the explicit approval from the club's committee, who must first consider:
 - (i) Safety of the player above all other factors;
 - (ii) Physical size and development;
 - (iii) Skill level;
 - (iv) Any implications on other players (such as whether other players will miss out); and
 - (v) The nature of the league in which they are seeking to play.
- (c) The team roster for an impacted team is reviewed and approved by the tournament committee (just to ensure the criteria outlined above have been met).

If a club has met these requirements, simply email details of the players and team to gm@inlinehockeynz.org.nz with confirmation that the criteria above have been met.

10. How much does it cost?

Thanks to some awesome support from the Ravens and New Plymouth rink, we're able to keep the cost to **\$290 incl GST per team per weekend**. Those signing up as individuals will be charged at \$39 per player per weekend.

Note that this will be charged to clubs. Some clubs include league fees in their overall fee structure, so please check with your club whether this is included in your club fee or will be additional.

11. How do I enter?

Glad you asked!

To enter a club or cross-club team, simply send an email to gm@inlinehockeynz.org.nz with the club, grades being entered, whether as a club or cross-club team, and confirming it's for both (or one) weekends. We'll then request player lists shortly before the event.

To enter as an individual, express an interest via ESportsDesk [here](#).

12. What will it look like in future?

We'd love your input into this, and the new IHNZ Board will determine this in due course.

However we would expect it to take the form of what was originally proposed, essentially:

- A single league, competed by teams over several weekends throughout the year
- One weekend round in each of the three Conferences (teams playing in all three)
- Finals held at the National Club Championships ("Nationals")

But again, let's see how it runs this year and we'd love feedback on this!

Have any other queries?

The Event Notice is on the IHNZ website (it is a shared event notice with Nationals). Note that the changes contained in the updated Nationals Event Notice are carried over to this as well, namely:

- It's now running separately from Nationals
- Small changes to age-grade eligibility (as outlined in FAQ #4)

For more information, please contact the League Coordinator Tara Fox (taratissink@gmail.com).