



# **POVERTY BAY HOCKEY**

## Poverty Bay Hockey

### 2021 CHANGES

- Representative
- Regions
- Smallsticks



As a result of COVID-19, our 2020 hockey calendar did not go as planned for Poverty Bay Hockey in particular our rep programmes. However it gave us time to consider the future direction of hockey at U13 & U15 level and youth hockey in general.

With connecting and working with the other what was (Central) associations we are now collaborating as the LNI (Lower North Island) associations and have been able to put a lot of time and planning into the removal of junior rep tournaments (U15 & U13), (and as directed by HNZ) and how the development of this age group will proceed and what their replacement tournament/ festivals will look like in 2022.

The document below will clarify what these changes will look like.

*Firstly – the directive from HNZ. Also read HNZ [hockeynz.co.nz/hockey-is-changing/](https://hockeynz.co.nz/hockey-is-changing/) and listen to the video explanation.*



## MEMORANDUM

Date: Feb 2021

Re: Changes Implementation 2021 - *Youth*

As a result of research and leadership work from Sport NZ via the Balance is Better project coupled with our own research via Strategy Delivery Review (SDR) and on-going consultation with our Associations, Hockey New Zealand is providing the following recommended changes for National implementation.

### **Change**

- Year 7&8 11 a-side to Small Sided Game Format (7 a-side (incl. GK))
- Replacement of National U15 and U13 tournaments with more accessible development and event opportunities

### **Implications**

All Associations to begin the extension of the small-sided game format to include year 7&8. Process to include community engagement including key stakeholder groups such as Junior Committees, schools and clubs. AIMS Games support these recommendations and will align in 2022. There is acknowledgement that for some 2021 will be a transition period and will be at the discretion of each Association with the expectation of National Alignment from 2022. Additional resources will be developed to support coach and umpire development to maximise game format changes.

Associations will review and design appropriate and more accessible player development programmes for U13 and U15 participants which are aligned to the HNZ Participation Principles and Framework content. This includes, local competition, player development opportunities as well as events (festivals/tournaments).

For further information please visit: <https://hockeynz.co.nz/hockey-is-changing/>

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or feedback.

Ngā Mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tama Jones".

Tama Jones  
Community Hockey Manager – Participation  
Hockey New Zealand

## NATIONALLY AGREED CORE VALUES OF YOUTH SPORT DELIVERY.

- Age/ Stage appropriate
- Hauora (wellbeing)
- Holistic Development
- Inclusive/ Diverse
- Accessible
- SAFE
- Quality Experience
- Fun



## **MAJOR CHANGES**

### **1. Representative**

The major change in 2021 are the changes to the Under 13 & U15 program.

As stated earlier, HNZ will no longer hold national tournaments for this age group.

There will however be a comprehensive development program at U15/ U13 level for those keen players who aspire to proceed to higher levels in hockey.

#### **U13 and in Year 7/8 - 7 aside**

There will be a term 3 development in game program that will run for approximately 8-10 weeks (similar length to previous representative campaigns). There will not be trials as the program is inclusive to all who wish to participate. We will attempt to have players of equal ability training together where practicable.

The program will culminate in a 4-day Regional Festival during the October school holidays, 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October, incorporating associations

from the Lower North Island. The girls will travel to Carterton and the Boys to Napier for the U13 Festivals.

Poverty Bay Hockey will field as many 7 aside teams with participants in this 3rd term in the hockey programme who want to go to these festivals as we can manage for this 4 day period and teams will be made as equal ability teams with the emphasis on Fun and Development.

*Extract from HNZ Talented now may not be talent in the future. We need to give young people time to develop, and that won't happen if they walk away from sport.*

*Good practice, research and evidence tells us that childhood success is not a reliable predictor of adult success. And not all young people develop at the same rate.*

*What is most important is the appropriate development for their age and stage, rather than rushing high performance behaviours too soon that will likely have a negative impact on them realising their potential as an adult.*

*Yes, talented players need to be extended and challenged, but at a rate and pace that ensures we do not harm their future potential and that ensures they have balance.*

*We have very strong evidence domestically and internationally to support this campaign.*

Coaches will be recruited to run the 8-10 week development in game program and team Managers will be recruited for the festival. There will be an opportunity for umpires to attend the festivals and the Poverty Bay Hockey Umpire's Committee will appoint those at the appropriate level. With the expectation of having more 7 aside teams attending than previously, there will be more development opportunities for umpires.

#### Under 15 - 11 aside

Again in term 3 we will have 11 aside in hockey development programs that will run for approximately 8-10 weeks (similar length to previous representative campaigns). There will not be trials as the program is inclusive to all who wish to participate. We will attempt to have players of equal ability playing together where practicable.

The program will culminate in a 4-day Regional Festival during the October school holidays, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, incorporating associations from the Lower North Island.

The girls will play in Gisborne and the Boys will play in Stratford. Poverty Bay Hockey will field as many 11 aside teams as possible with

these participants in the program and teams will be equal ability teams with the emphasis on Fun and Development.

Coaches will be recruited to run the 8-10 week development in game program and Team Managers will be recruited for the festival. There will be an opportunity for umpires to attend the festivals and the Poverty Bay Umpire's Committee will appoint those at the appropriate level.

### Under 18

REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS will now commence at U18 level.

With the demise of the old Regions, of which Central was a part, Hockey NZ will no longer run U18 Regional Tournaments. This will make the Association U18 Tournament more prestigious as all players will be at the same tournament.

It is essential that Poverty Bay Hockey field strong teams at this tournament as it is also a HNZ selection/ identification tournament and we need to ensure our top players are profiled.

2021 tournaments will be hosted by Hamilton (Men's) and Wellington (Women's). All tournaments are advertised on the HNZ website and registrations are requested.

PBHA will seek...An Under 18 Registration of Interest this will be our first introduction leading to trials should the numbers warrant this in our Region. We PBH U18 (if applicable - depending on numbers and interest) will run a training group for 4 weeks in March. This U18 training group will be open to all who qualify to trial for U18 rep teams. Poverty Bay Hockey will be treating these teams as High Performance and will be fielding the highest quality teams available. (again depending on interest and numbers)

Should we not have enough players to field teams we will link in with other North Island Associations who are short players but...Please be advised that this training group may be expected to trial for the other associations and travelling to do so will be a requirement.

## Under 21

Hockey NZ no longer runs the U21 Tournament but there is an opportunity for attendance at the National Hockey Championship.

## Senior Mens & Women

The status of the National Tournament has been upgraded and is now known as the National Hockey Championship Tournament. This tournament will include players who would have previously played in the National Hockey League (NHL). Associations will be able to enter more than one team and it is expected to have 4 grades. Poverty Bay Hockey will be treating these teams as High Performance and will be fielding the highest quality team available.

In 2021 this tournament will be held in Tauranga 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September.

## NATIONAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT (NHL)

NHL has been replaced with the National Premier League. Where NHL were teams from the 8 regions, the Premier League are 4 teams selected by Hockey NZ primarily from the Performance Centre athletes and Blacksticks.

## Masters

Poverty Bay Hockey will field teams at National Masters Tournament (35+) where the numbers within and age group are available. The associations in the Lower North Island will work together to form joint teams where possible. Alternatively, players will be encouraged to play for other associations as “Guest Players” and where neither of these options are viable. Masters teams are deemed to be participation teams.

## SUMMARY

In summary, there are programs for players of all abilities. National Representative Tournaments at U13 & U15s have been replaced with Regional Festivals open to all.

Poverty Bay Hockey will continue to deliver our Year ½ and Year ¾ hockey programme commencing in Term 1 of each year starting from 2021.

Sport NZ, Balance is Better Philosophy - (*please see article below*) not only does this fit with PBHA (single turf, and fitting in all ages and training schedules) but we believe it fits in with other codes in the Tairāwhiti Community.

<https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/balance-is-better-philosophy/>

This program will be held in Term 1 over 8-10 weeks.

U13 & U15 development programs will run during Term 3 culminating in festivals. Everything up until U18s will be deemed to be participation.

U18, Senior Men's and Women's will be deemed High Performance.

*If you have questions about these changes or wish to know more, please contact me via email [pbhockeyoperations@gmail.com](mailto:pbhockeyoperations@gmail.com) or see our website for updated details moving forward.*

## **2. Changes to Regions**

During 2020, all 8 Hockey regions within NZ disbanded as an outcome of the HNZ Strategy Delivery Review. The primary focus of the Central Districts Region, of which Poverty Bay was a member, was High Performance, fielding for the most part U18 teams.

Hockey NZ now have Performance Networks for the athletes immediately below the Blacksticks. The selection of these Performance Network athletes is done at a National Level and Poverty Bay will be actively advocating for any local athletes of this calibre.

Poverty Bay Hockey is now an integral part of the Lower North Island (LNI) Collective, comprising associations from Wellington to Whanganui across to us, Hawkes bay and through to the Ruahine-Dannevirke and Horowhenua Associations, there are 11 in all. We are working together to ensure we maximise opportunities in development, growth and enjoyment for our players.

LNI is also the entity associated with running the U13 & U15 festivals.

### 3. Changes to Small Sticks Hockey

- Year 7/8

From 2020 Kwik Sticks (Yr 7/8) hockey reduced from 11 aside full field to 7 aside half field.

This is based on worldwide evidence compiled to increase the numbers of children in sport, while also assisting them to improve more rapidly, increase their enjoyment level and to ensure they continue to participate in future years

**THE BENEFITS OF SMALL SIDED GAMES**

**SMALL SIDED GAMES VS TRADITIONAL FULL FIELD GAMES**

- 2x MORE METRES RUN
- 5x MORE GOAL SHOTS
- 4x MORE GOALS SCORED
- 4.5x MORE PASSES MADE
- 4.5x MORE PLAYER TOUCHES

**DEVELOP SKILLS** → **GAME AWARE** → **ENGAGE = ENJOY**

Players are **more involved** because; the structure encourages **more decision making**.  
They get **more touches & they run more!**

**ESSENTIAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

- Passing
- Receiving
- Leading into space
- Recognising space & opportunities

**BENEFITS OF SMALL FIELDS**

- 1 Coaching made easier with positioning and structure
- 2 Help children develop a;
  - Give & Go Assist methodology
  - Strong foundation for full-field game
  - Positive style of play

**HOCKEY NEW ZEALAND** For further information visit [hockeynz.co.nz/about-us/hockey-is-changing](http://hockeynz.co.nz/about-us/hockey-is-changing)

- Mini Sticks & Kiwi Sticks (Yrs 3-6)

From 2021, the primary school competition through to Yr 6 will be more focussed on development and fun, as opposed to winning at all costs.

Extract from *HNZ Young people tell us they don't care so much about winning and care more about having fun with their friends. The sports system needs to work to ensure we*

*provide more social connections and opportunities to ensure more young people can benefit from the wider value of sport*

*Learning how to compete is important for our youth, but we do not want an over-emphasis on competition from parents, caregivers, coaches, administrators and leaders. This can result in a decrease in development opportunity and enjoyment and can lead to injuries due to overloading and specialising too early for our young people. Young people need to try things, make mistakes and learn – it is all part of development.*

*What is most important in a competition setting is that young people can reinforce the things they have been practicing, trying them in games/competition, and being part of a team.*

In 2020 our competition structure was based on Round Robin's with the focus on results and end of season winners. This limits our ability to ensure that teams are playing similar ability teams, with grades currently established on entry.

From 2021, results will be recorded, but not published. This will allow for the movement of teams within the structure to maximise the enjoyment factor. Without the pressure of a win, coaches and players can concentrate on reinforcing the things they have been practicing. Accordingly, there will be no winners of grades and trophies will not be awarded for Mini Sticks and Kiwi Sticks.