SECONDARY SCHOOL TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

2015 AND BEYOND

FEBRUARY 2014
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Secondary School tournaments are an extremely important part of the wider landscape of Hockey in New Zealand. It is important these are treated with the utmost care and their importance is recognized by the wider Hockey Community. Hockey New Zealand (HNZ) has conducted a review into the current structure to determine whether this model is the best current fit for our Secondary Schools.

A document was sent to all interested parties and feedback was sought on proposals which were offered by various sources from around New Zealand. Feedback from this document was outstanding and after discussion between Hockey New Zealand and the Hockey New Zealand Youth Council, this feedback has allowed us to formulate a clear structure and plan moving forward.

The majority of responses expressed a desire for changes to the current structure. These changes include:

- More opportunities for strong teams in a given year to be able to win the Tier 1 tournaments (Rankin Cup and Federation Cup)
- Earlier notification of which tournament schools will be attending each year
- A clearer promotion/relegation structure around the Tier 3 tournaments
- A desire for costs to be reduced as these are increasing every year
- Games at tournaments to maintain relevance until the end of the week – as it currently stands the key games at tournament are on the Wednesday rather than the Friday.
- Clearer direction on where 2nd XI teams fit into tournament structure
- More importance to be placed on the 2nd XI tournaments – Chris Arthur Cup (Girls) and Galletly Cup (Boys).

Outlined in the following pages is the structure which will be in place for our Secondary School tournaments from 2015 onwards. **Please note – the structure will not change for the 2014 year – these changes will come into effect in 2015.** In some cases, results from 2014 will affect tournament placement in 2015 – this will be clearly outlined in the following pages. We have also explained the rationale behind the structure and the reasoning behind the changes which will come into effect.

Please read the document carefully as tournaments in 2014 may be affected.

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Hockey NZ
Domestic Tournament Administrator & Youth Council Liaison
NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE
2015 AND BEYOND

Current structure to be kept with the following changes:

NEW TIER 1 & 2 TOURNAMENT
- Tournament extended to 32 teams initially
- 8 pools of 4, 3 x pool games across Monday & Tuesday
- Top 2 in each pool move on to top 16 competition (Rankin and Fed)
- Bottom 2 in each pool move on to bottom 16 competition (India Shield & Marie Fry).
  This becomes the Tier 2 competition.
- After pool play, games become knockout competition. 1st in Pool A will play 2nd in Pool G etc.
- All teams will continue to play until Saturday for rankings and to determine who is relegated to Tier 3.
- 7 games in 6 days
- Tournament runs from Monday – Saturday
- Must be run at a venue with 3 turfs available – 9 Venues available covering 7 regions

TIER 3
- New Tier 3 tournament created – now 3 Tier 3 tournaments
- Tournaments to be based as follows – 1 Upper North Island, 1 Lower North Island, 1 South Island
- Schools are able to enter whichever Tier 3 tournament they wish if they are eligible
- Winners and runners up of each Tier 3 tournament are automatically promoted to the top Tier 1 & 2 32 team tournament
- Teams finishing 3rd – 8th are automatically eligible to attend the same tournament the next year.
- Teams finishing 9th – 14th will be in Tier 3 but may be allocated to a different Tier 3 tournament (dependant on tournament entered by Tier 1 & 2 relegated teams)
- Teams finishing 15th – 16th are automatically relegated
- 3 x Tier 4 tournament winners, 3 x Tier 4 tournament runners-up in boys & 6 x Tier 4 tournament winners in the girls are automatically promoted to Tier 3

TIER 4
- 3 x Boys Tournaments and 6 x Girls Tournaments
- 2nd XI tournaments to remain.
- 2nd XI’s will only be placed on to waiting lists to enter Tier 4 tournaments – place will only be given if there are no remaining 1st XI’s able to enter.
- If competing in a Tier 4 tournament and they win the tournament, 2nd XI’s will not be eligible to be promoted to Tier 3. Their place will be taken by highest finishing 1st XI.
- 2nd XI’s to be actively encouraged to enter the 2nd XI tournaments which have been created.
TOURNAMENT ENTRY
- ENTRIES OPEN: 1st Day of Term 1 (In 2015, this day will be Monday 2 February).
- ENTRIES CLOSE: Last Day of Term 1 (In 2015, this day will be Friday 3 April).
- TOURNAMENT NOTIFICATION: 1st day of Term 2 (In 2015, this day will be Monday 20 April)

SELECTION CRITERIA AND SEEDINGS FOR
SECONDARY SCHOOL TOURNAMENTS FROM 2015 ONWARDS
As at 1 January 2015

1. TIER 1 & 2 32-Team Tournament – Rankin Cup/Federation Cup & India Shield/Marie Fry Trophy
   i) These tournaments are restricted to 1st XI teams only
   ii) The teams placed 1st – 12th from the previous years Rankin Cup/Federation Cup are automatic (if they enter). The teams will be seeded 1-12.
   iii) The teams placed 1st – 4th from the previous years India Shield/Marie Fry are automatic (if they enter). The teams will be seeded 13 – 16.
   iv) The teams placed 13th – 16th form the previous years Rankin Cup/Federation Cup are automatic (if they enter). The teams will be seeded 17 – 20.
   v) The teams placed 5th – 10th from the previous years India Shield/Marie Fry are automatic (if they enter). The teams will be seeded 21-26.
   vi) The teams placed 1st and 2nd from the previous years Tier 2 tournaments (Founders Cup, Johnson Cup & Mayhill Cup Boys, TBC, Audrey Timlin and Chica Gilmer girls) are automatically promoted into Tier 1. Seedings will be done by toss of a coin.

2. Johnson Cup/ Mayhill Cup/Founders Cup/Audrey Timlin Memorial/Chica Gilmer Trophy/TBC – TIER 3
   i) These tournaments are restricted to 1st XI teams only.
   ii) The teams that placed 11th – 16th at the previous years Marie Fry Trophy/ India Shield are automatically relegated. They may enter any of the above tournaments, depending on gender. The seeding of the teams will be at the discretion of Hockey New Zealand, following the principle that these 6 teams will receive the highest seedings possible.
   iii) The previous years winners of the Tier 4 Tournaments – Coaches Cup, Olympic Stick, Woolaston Trophy (Boys), Eveline Hankers Memorial, Jenny Hair Cup, Jenny McDonald Cup, Kate Trolove Cup, Mary Clinton Cup (Girls) are automatically promoted to Tier 3. They will be seeded below all other participants and will be placed into tournaments where spaces are available.
   iv) The previous years runners-up at the Tier 4 boys tournaments – Coaches Cup, Olympic Stick, Woolaston Trophy are automatically promoted. They will be seeded below all other participants and will be placed into tournaments where spaces are available.
v) Teams that placed between 3rd – 14th in the previous year retain their Tier 3 status. Teams that placed 15th/16th at previous years tournaments are automatically relegated.

vi) Teams that placed between 9th – 14th at previous years tournament may be allocated to a different Tier 3 tournament. This is dependant on where Tier 2 relegated teams enter.

vii) Selections and Seedings for teams included in points ii – iv above will be at the discretion of Hockey New Zealand.

viii) There will be a boys and girls tournament in each of the following locations: Upper North Island (Taupo and above), Central/Lower North Island (Hawkes Bay – Wellington), South Island.

3. **Founders Cup, Coaches Cup, Olympic Stick, Woolastong Trophy/Eveline Hankers Memorial, Jenny Hair Cup, Jenny McDonald Cup, Kate Trolove Cup, Mary Clinton Cup – TIER 4**
   i) These tournaments are restricted to 1st XI teams only
   ii) Teams who finished 15th/16th in the previous years Tier 3 tournaments (listed above) are seeded highest at their Tier 4 tournament.
   iii) Teams (who have previously entered tournaments) who sent their entries in on time, in the order that entries were received.
   iv) Host schools should get to attend their own tournament.
   v) Seedings to be determined at the discretion of Hockey New Zealand.
   vi) Tournaments will be evenly spread to provide opportunity to enter

4. **Mixed Tournaments – TIER 4**
   i) Teams who have players of both sexes in their team. There must be a minimum of 4 females and 4 males on the field at any one time.
   ii) Seedings to be determined at the discretion of Hockey New Zealand.
   iii) There will be a mixed tournament in each island (subject to number of entries received)

6. **Galletly Cup and Chris Arthur Cup Tournaments**
   i) The premier 2nd XI tournaments are restricted to 2nd XI teams only.
   ii) Seedings to be determined based on the previous year’s results and at the discretion of Hockey New Zealand.

**Waiting List Ranking for Tier 4 1st XI tournaments**

i) 1st XIs & Teams with entries in on time.
ii) Teams who have tournament listed as 1st choice & have not withdrawn from tournaments previously.
RATIONALE FOR CHANGES FROM 2015 ONWARDS

New 32-Team Tier 1 & 2 Tournament
There has been a call for a number of years to ensure we are getting the 16 best teams in any given year at our top tournaments. Often there will be teams who are strong enough to compete at Tier 1 tournaments, but based on the previous year tournament results are only eligible to play in the Tier 2 tournaments.

In an attempt to alleviate this issue, the Tier 1 & 2 tournaments will combine to create a new 32 team tournament. This will be held at venues which have 3 turfs available in order to cater for the increased number of games.

The tournament will run from Monday - Saturday of Winter tournament week. The 32 teams are split into 8 pools of 4 teams. The first 2 days will involve 3 x Pool games for all teams. From these pool games, the tournament will split into the traditional Tier 1 tournaments and Tier 2 tournaments. The top 2 teams in each pool will move into the top 16 Tier 1 tournament, the bottom 2 teams in each pool will move into the bottom 16 Tier 2 Tournament.

After the end of play on Tuesday, Wednesday – Saturday becomes a knockout competition. All teams will continue to play until Saturday to establish national rankings and also to determine the teams that will be relegated.

The bottom 6 teams in the Tier 2 bottom 16 competition will be relegated to Tier 3. They will be replaced the following year by the top 2 finishers from each of the Tier 3 tournaments (please see below for more information on the new Tier 3 structure).

In order to maintain interest in those sections of the draw with little to play for on the last 3 days, 2 additional trophies at each tournament will be introduced – the Plate section (still to be named) for those teams finishing 9th – 16th, and the bowl section (still to be named) for those teams finishing 25th – 32nd.

We are aware that this tournament will run for an additional day – going from Monday through to Saturday instead of finishing on Friday. This in turn will incur additional accommodation, food and other incidental costs. It is the feeling of HNZ and the Youth Council that the additional quality and prestige of this tournament will help offset the increase in costs for running an extra day.

Earlier Entry Opening Dates and Allocation Notification Dates
At present, schools are notified of which tournament they have been allocated to in Late May. This was necessary in previous years when tournament entry was solely paper based. By waiting until late May, this leaves schools with approximately 3 months to book all flights and accommodation for their tournament. With only a 3 month gap, often deals for inexpensive flights and accommodation options are no longer offered. With the move to online entry, there is no longer a necessity to wait until Mid March to open tournament entries.
Therefore, from 2015, Hockey New Zealand tournament entries will open on the 1\textsuperscript{st} day of Term 1 (Monday, 2\textsuperscript{nd} February). Entries will close on the last day of Term 1 (Friday 3\textsuperscript{rd} April) and schools will be notified which tournament they are attending by the 1\textsuperscript{st} day of Term 2 (Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} April). This will leave close to 5 months for schools to get organised and book flights and accommodation.

The notification of these dates will also improve. These will be posted on the Hockey New Zealand website, sent to all schools via email, sent to all associations, the New Zealand Secondary School Sports Council (who will put these dates on their website) and to all Regional Sporting Organisations. Reminders will be sent to schools who have entered in previous years but have not registered 1 week before entries are due to close.

It is important to note under the new structure, the allocation of tournaments will affect a small number of schools in Tier 3 and Tier 4 only.

**Creation of New Tier 3 Tournament**

It has become apparent upon reading tournament results from Tier 4 tournaments that we have a number of outstanding schools competing in Tier 4 tournaments who would be more than capable of performing well at the Tier 3 level.

With promotion through the Tiers, it would take these schools 2 years to earn promotion from Tier 4 to Tier 2 in the best case scenario. This would mean winning their Tier 4 tournament and then placing in the top 2 of their Tier 3 tournament the following year.

With the change in promotion/relegation between the Tier 1/2 competition and the Tier 3 tournaments to 6 teams rather than 4, this has necessitated a change to the structure in Tier 3. Current rules state that the top 2 place getters at each Tier 3 tournament are promoted.

In order to allow a smooth transition between Tiers, we have decided to create an extra Tier 3 tournament. There will now be 3 x Tier 3 tournaments held across the country. These will be allocated as follows:

- 1 x Tier 3 tournament Upper North Island (Taupo and above)
- 1 x Tier 3 tournament Central/Lower North Island (Hawkes Bay – Wellington)
- 1 x Tier 3 tournament South Island

These allocations are based on current Tier 3 entries and overall entry numbers across all tournaments. Tier 3 eligible schools will be able to enter any of the 3 tournaments above. There are also changes to the promotion/relegation between Tier 2, 3 and 4 which are outlined below.
Change to Promotion/Relegation in Tier 3

As it currently stands, the rules around promotion and eligibility for Tier 3 are very subjective. A total of 40 teams in the boys and 44 in the girls are eligible for the 32 spots currently available. These are:

- 4 teams relegated from Tier 2 (replace top 2 finishers at Tier 3 tournament) (4 spots)
- Remaining 14 teams from Tier 3 tournaments from previous year (28 spots)
- Tier 4 tournament winners from previous year automatically promoted (4 spots boys, 6 spots girls)
- Tier 4 2nd place tournament finishers (4 spots boys, 6 spots girls)

This means there will always be a number of schools who apply for a position in Tier 3 and are denied under the present system. Whilst this process of tournament allocation is happening, schools are unable to book flights, accommodation and other tournament related costs with any certainty. This often means schools will miss out on inexpensive flights and accommodation deals.

There is also a disparity in the number of boys entries received and the number of girls entries received. In 2012, there were 156 Tier 4 girls entries and 124 boys entries. In 2013, the numbers were 162 girls and 124 boys entries. It is therefore necessary to operate more girls tournaments at the Tier 3 level. In order to help alleviate costs for schools and allow them to plan each year with certainty, we have introduced the following promotion and relegation from Tier 2 for 2015 onwards:

- 6 x Tier 3 tournament winners and runners up are automatically promoted to Tier 1 & 2 32-Team Tournament
- 6 x 11th – 16th place finishers from Tier 2 are relegated to Tier 3. They are able to choose which tournament they wish to attend.
- 3rd – 14th place finishers from Tier 3 tournaments retain their Tier 3 status
- Teams finishing 9th – 14th may be allocated to a different Tier 3 tournament dependant on where Tier 2 relegated teams enter
- 15th & 16th place finishers from Tier 3 tournaments are automatically relegated (3 x Tier 3 tournaments = 6 automatically relegated)
- BOYS – 1st and 2nd place at Tier 4 tournaments are automatically promoted (3 x Tier 4 tournaments = 6 automatically promoted)
- GIRLS – 1st place at Tier 4 tournaments are automatically promoted (6 x Tier 4 tournaments = 6 automatically promoted)
2014 TOURNAMENT – HOW EXTRA 16 SPOTS ARE ALLOCATED IN TIER 2

16 extra spots have been created at Tier 3 for 2015. These spots will be filled based on 2014 tournament results at Tier 3 and Tier 4 level. **For 2014 only**, the following will apply:

**BOYS**
- Top 4 finishers at each Tier 4 tournament will earn promotion to Tier 3 *(16 teams)*
- If a top 4 finisher does not wish to be promoted from Tier 4, their spot will go to the next highest finishing 1st XI in their Tier 4 tournament.

**GIRLS**
- 16th place finishers at Tier 3 tournament will be relegated to Tier 4 *(2 spots created = 18 available spots)*
- Top 3 finishers at each Tier 4 tournament will earn promotion to Tier 3 *(18 teams)*
- If a Top 3 finisher does not wish to be promoted from Tier 4, their spot will go to the 16th placed team from the Tier 3 tournaments closest in terms of Geographical proximity to the team which has withdrawn.
- If more than 2 teams do not wish to be promoted from Tier 4, the Youth Council will decide which teams will be offered the available spots.

**Tier 1, 2 & 3 Promotion/Relegation will remain the same (ie. 4 teams up and down)**

**Tier 4 Structure and 2nd XI Teams**
We will be operating 3 x Tier 4 boys tournaments and 6 x Tier 4 girls tournaments from 2015 onwards. This is based on entries received. With a maximum of 16 entries per tournament, we have a maximum of 128 boys 1st XI’s we can cater for under this structure. Of the 124 entries received, 6 were from 2nd XI boys teams. That therefore leaves 10 spots open for new teams to take in 2015.

We have a maximum of 176 girls 1st XI’s we can cater for under this structure. Of the 162 entries received last year, 12 were from 2nd XI’s and 3rd XI’s. That leaves 26 spots open for new teams to take in 2015. Should our new structure create extra demand from school teams, we will review the number of tournaments we operate at the boys level. We are comfortable with this number of tournaments at present, and this allows promotion and relegation to be clear and objective from Tier 4 to Tier 3.

There is constant debate around how to best cater for our strong 2nd XI’s around the country. A number of these schools enter into our Tier 4 tournaments and play against other 1st XI’s. This opens up the issue of what happens should they win the Tier 4 tournament and earn automatic promotion to Tier 3 under the old system.

We at Hockey New Zealand are very supportive of schools building strong programmes, and we recognize having a strong 2nd XI is a huge part of this. We also recognize the need to grow the
game across all schools around New Zealand and to allow them to compete at a tournament which is suitable to their standard of play.

In order to help cater for the number of 2nd XI’s wishing to enter tournaments, a 2nd XI tournament was created for both boys and girls – Chris Arthur Cup (girls) and Galletly Cup (Boys). The Chris Arthur Cup is well attended each year and is extremely competitive each year. The majority of schools who attend this tournament have their 1st XI competing in either the Federation Cup or the Marie Fry Trophy.

The Galletly Cup has not run for the past 2 years due to a lack of entries. We had 6 2nd XI’s enter into boys tournaments across the country last year. If all 6 were to enter the Galletly Cup, we would be able to run this tournament. Based on this, we feel the issue is around the prestige and importance placed on the Galletly Cup and the need to make this a competitive tournament that teams wish to enter.

In this new structure, 2nd XI’s will not be able to enter Tier 4 tournaments, they will be encouraged to enter into the 2nd XI tournaments. Our goal is to have the Galletly Cup being a strong, competitive tournament each year competed for by those 2nd XI’s wishing to enter into a tournament to experience tournament play. In 2014, we will be operating a “use it or lose it” policy on the Galletly Cup. If we are unable to run the tournament in 2014, it will not be offered in 2015 and beyond. With 2nd XI’s no longer able to enter into a Tier 3 tournament, this will leave 2nd XI’s without a Hockey New Zealand sanctioned tournament to enter into.