

# WELLINGTON HOCKEY U13 & U15 IN SEASON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2023



## Welcome to 2023

As we prepare for the 2023 season, this communication is designed to provide information for clubs, coaches, players and parents about the upcoming U13 & U15 In Season Development Programme.

Late in 2019, Hockey NZ confirmed that 2020 would see the final year of traditional National tournaments. While there is significant history associated with these tournaments, Wellington Hockey views this move led by Sport NZ as a step in the right direction in youth sport. In the time since the discontinuation of these events, Wellington Hockey has developed a new and inclusive representative programme for our U13s and U15s.

The new representative programmes and opportunities for players, coaches and umpires in the U13 & U15 age groups are now entering year four. We are looking forward to hosting the young players of the Wellington region again for these awesome development opportunities.

### Outlined in this Document:

*WHAT DOES U13S & U15S  
ISDP LOOK LIKE?*

*FORMAT*

*CONNECT &  
REPRESENTATIVE  
PROGRAMMES*

*2023 KEY DATES*



## What's Changed?

Since the end of the previous model hockey at the representative level has made a shift in focus. This focus has moved away from a performance and results based model to one of inclusion and development. Our programmes focus on an individual development journey understanding all player's progress at different rates and times, and what we can offer our young players has to reflect these new values as such the following changes have been made:

- **National Tournaments have been removed**
- **Regional groupings of associations are now responsible for localized representative opportunities**
- **Focus has shifted away from competition to development opportunities**

Wellington Hockey will again be joined by associations from Taranaki across to Hawkes Bay and everyone in between to create a Lower North Island region that will host and provide U13 and U15 representative tournament or festival opportunities. We commenced this relationship in 2020 as a means to create representative opportunities outside of the traditional model and it has proven to be highly successful for all participants.



## 2023 Development Days

The 2023 In Season Development Programme will begin with two development days for our U13 players and three development days for our 15 players (see key dates at end of document).

The development days are not trials with players not competing for places in a certain programme as our programmes are not restricted by numbers. Development days act as an opportunity for trainers to collect information around all participating players and based on several factors we place them in an environment we feel will best support their development journey.

Following the development days, players will join one of two development opportunities - the CONNECT or Representative programmes. Both programmes will train at the same time and central location, NHS. This allows players equal opportunities to work with Wellington Hockey coaches.

The development days allow an opportunity for players to be coached by a number of different trainers and coaches. The days are designed for learning and development, while we are also capturing information around how individuals respond to various activities and coaches or trainers.



**"Focus on an individual development journey understanding all players progress at different rates and times ."**

## Rep Programme

For players who end up in the Rep Programme, the programme ends with a tournament or festival experience. The programme is structured the same as the CONNECT Programme for the most part, where individual development is the focus. Each age group will train as a cohort throughout before being placed in teams at the end of the programme. When forming teams, they will be as best they can be, even teams (not seeded).

The opportunity to head away at the end of the programme to experience festival or tournament hockey is a highlight as a cohort. This helps build social connections and friendships through hockey.

Players also get the opportunity to put into action the skills or concepts they have learnt throughout the programme in a competitive environment - playing teams from other associations.

The focus for the coaches remains the individual development of players during the festival or tournament rather than the team outcomes.

## CONNECT Programme

The CONNECT programme offers young players a unique development opportunity where in the past there was none. One of the largest obstacles in retaining players in our sport is formed when a player has been discouraged after falling short of selection in a representative team or programme. The CONNECT programme combats this by giving the same development opportunity to all players regardless of where they are in their development journey. The format introduced in the CONNECT programme offers more players more hockey and more opportunities to develop.

CONNECT players will be led by some of Wellington Hockey's best youth trainers and get an opportunity to compete with representative players in the internal festival at the end of the programme.



## Key Information

Any player who wants a development opportunity will get one!

The programmes are designed by Wellington Hockey staff to ensure players are getting up-skilled in the appropriate areas for their age and stage of development.

More will be shared around how and what information we gather on players during the development days that helps build our assessment of their immediate needs during the information evenings in mid July. These meetings will be online.

Following the closure of registrations, additional information on the programme will be sent to the guardians of participants on **Monday the 10th of July.**



## Cost

The initial cost for the Development Days and seven-week training programme is set at \$220. Additional tournament costs will apply to those selected to the Representative Programme and final costs will be communicated upon selection.

Initial programme payments will need to be made upon registration through the PlayHQ player management system.

### U13 Key Dates

**Sunday 9th July** - Registrations Close

**Sunday 16th July** - Development Day 1

**Sunday 23rd July** - Development Day 2

**Sundays 7th August to 18th September** - Trainings (9am - 10.30am)

**Sunday 17th September** - U13 Internal Festival

**October 1st to 3rd** - U13 LNI Festival

### U15 Key Dates

**Tuesday 6th June** - Registrations Open

**Sunday 9th July** - Registrations Close

**Wednesday 12th July** - Information Evening

**Sunday 16th July** - Development Day 1

**Wednesday 19th July** - Development Day 2

**Sunday 23rd July** - Development Day 3

**Wednesdays 26th July to 20th September** - Trainings

**August 28th to September 2nd** - Secondary Tournament Week (No training)

**Sunday 10th September** - U15 Internal Festival

**September 23rd to 26th** - U15 LNI Tournament

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For all questions regarding the U15 programme please contact WHA Coach & Pathways Manager – Bjorn Dix, [Bjorn@wellingtonhockey.org.nz](mailto:Bjorn@wellingtonhockey.org.nz)

All U13 queries can be made to WHA Development Officer Regan Fricker at [regan@wellingtonhockey.org.nz](mailto:regan@wellingtonhockey.org.nz)