



Wellington Hockey Association

Junior Hockey 2022



Competition Overview

How we participate in sports is changing and our association must adapt considering the needs of our participants in the design of our competitions. Wellington Hockey has worked to create a competition that promotes well-being and enjoyment for our players and ultimately encourages a lifelong love of hockey. Through the design of our 2022 Junior competition, we have emphasised the importance of fun and inclusion for junior players through engaging and meaningful competition in a safe and supportive environment.

Our Focus

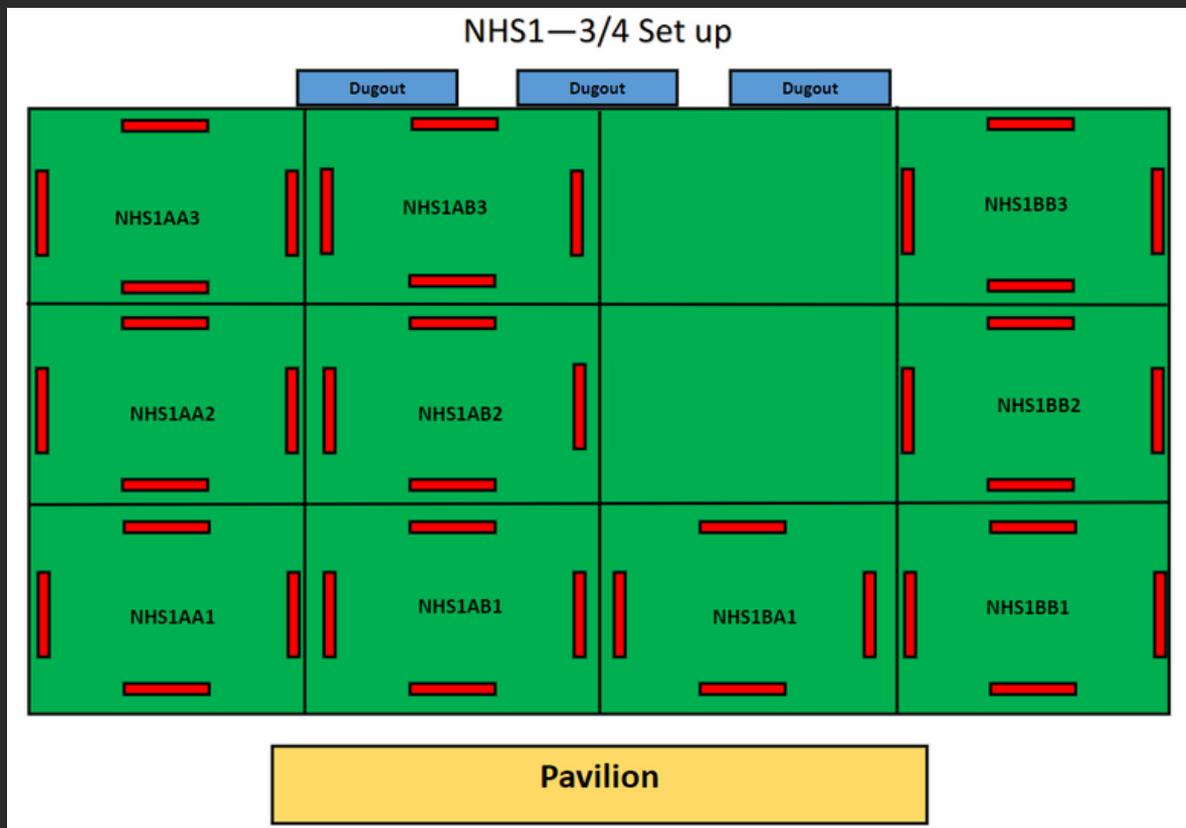
The objective of our junior hockey competition is to encourage, develop and foster a lifelong love of hockey for the children of the Wellington region. We have created and formatted the competition with a primary focus on play, participation, fun and inclusion. We want to accommodate good and meaningful competition each week that promotes the holistic development and well-being of our Tamariki in line with Sport New Zealand's Balance is Better philosophy.

What does it look like?

Year 3/4 NHS

Our Year 3/4 3-a-side competition at the National Hockey Stadium is based on the same turf at the same time each week. Each week there will be 3 rotating 10-minute games with a 3-minute break between each game. Games will be formatted with four goals slightly in from the sideline so that play can happen behind the goal. There are 3 players from each team on the field at any given time and players can score in any goal in any direction.

Cognitively at this age players don't understand positional play instead, this format offers players the ability to have maximum time on the ball competing in close quarters and puts them in scenarios where they must react and decide which goal is their best scoring opportunity.



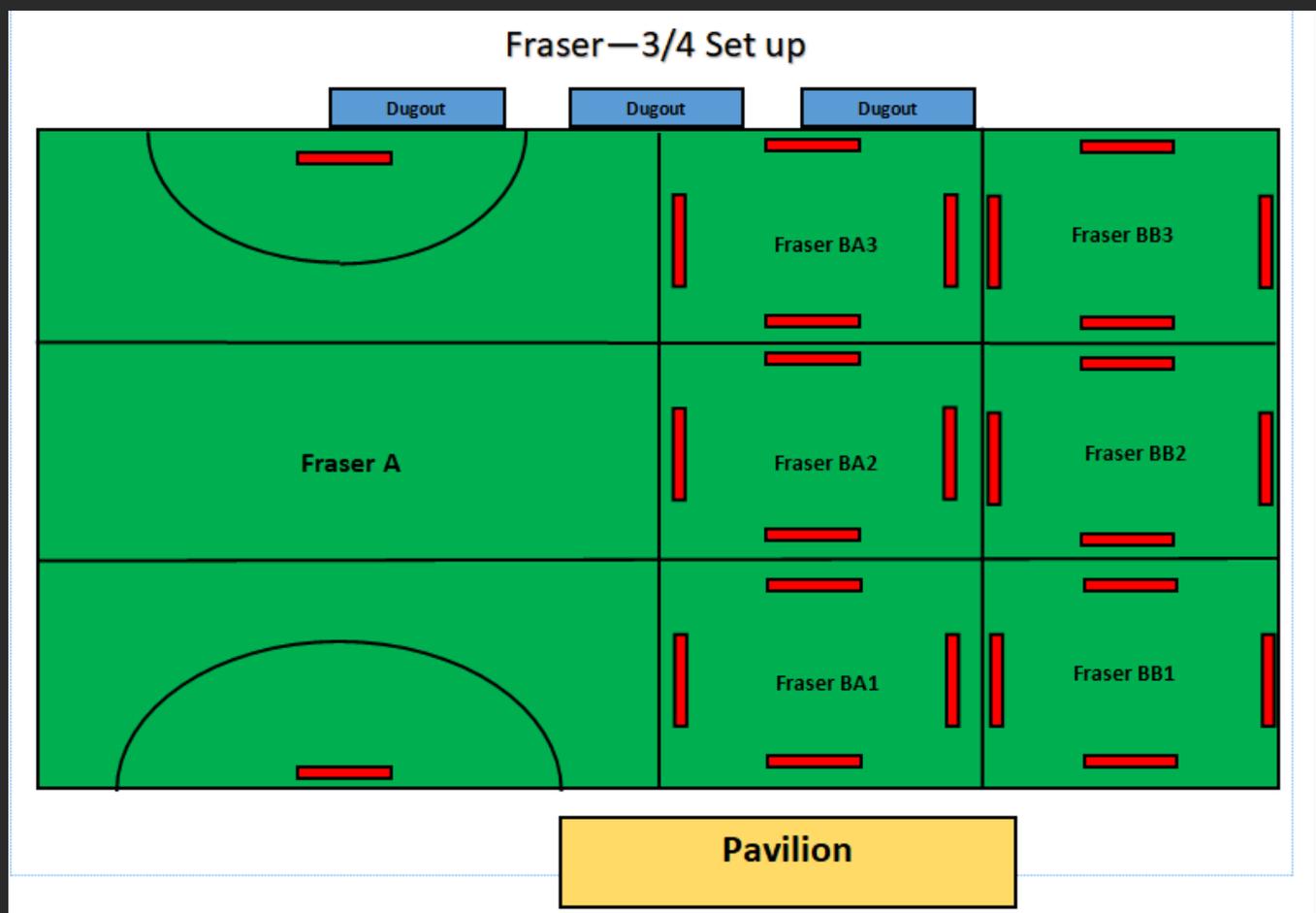
Game Day NHS

On the day each team will play three consecutive games. The teams on the left-hand side of the draw will remain on the same turf throughout all three games. The teams on the right-hand side of the draw will move to the next field in their quarter of the turf. For example, the team on the right-hand side of the draw playing their first game on NHS1AA1 will move to NHS1AA2 for their second game and to NHS1AA3 for their third game they will make their way to NHSAA3. Teams playing on NHS1BA1 will rotate with teams playing on NHS1BBA, NHS1BB2 and NHS1BB3.

What does it look like?

Year 3/4 Fraser Park

Our Year 3/4 3-a-side competition at Fraser Park will run with the same structure as its NHS counterpart. Every Saturday each team will participate in 3 rotating 10-minute games with a 3-minute break between games. Games will be formatted with four goals slightly in from the sideline so that play can happen behind the goal. There are 3 players from each team on the field at any given time and players can score in any goal in any direction. Cognitively at this age players don't understand positional play instead, this format offers players the ability to have maximum time on the ball competing in close quarters and puts them in scenarios where they must react and decide which goal is their best scoring opportunity.



Game Day Fraser Park

Game day at Fraser Park will again run the same as NHS with the teams on the left-hand side of the draw remaining on the same turf throughout all three games. The teams on the right-hand side of the draw will move to the next field in their quarter of the turf. Eg team will move from Fraser BA1 to Fraser BA2 then the Fraser BA3. The team on Fraser BA3 will move down to Fraser BA1.

What does it look like?

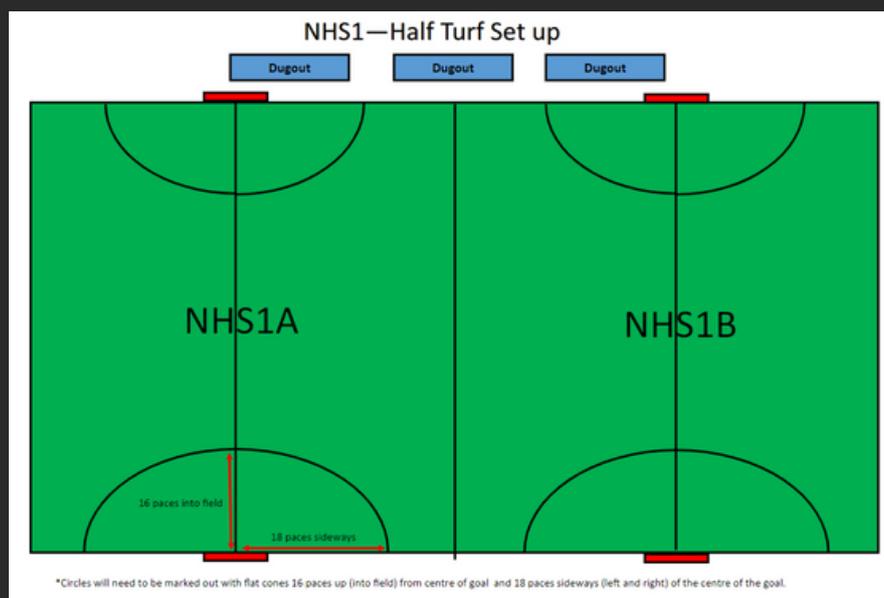
Year 5/6

Our Year 5/6 competition is structured in a half turf playing format. Participants will take part in 6-a-side games played over two 20-minute halves. The focus of this grade shifted to one encouraging rotational and positional play. This promotes the development of different, transferable skills and conceptual understanding across all players. Games will be HUB based and available in Wellington, Hutt Valley and Porirua.

Year 7/8

Our Year 7/8 competition is structured in a half turf playing format. Participants will take part in 7-a-side games played over four 12-minute quarters. This grade serves as an introduction to positional play and concepts for developing players transferable skills. Games will be HUB based and available in Wellington, Hutt Valley and Porirua.

Playing Setup Year 5/6 & Year 7/8



Duty Club

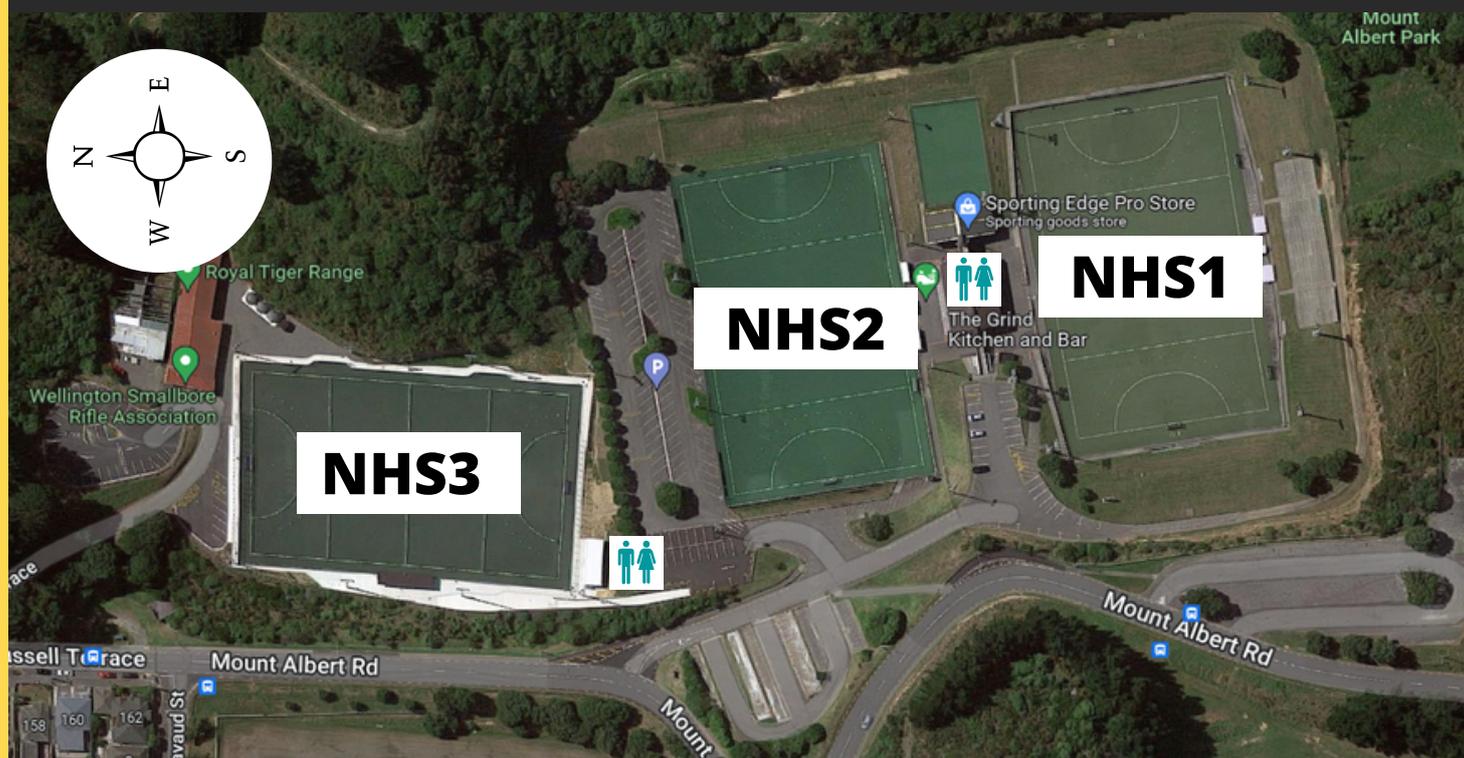
Each week it is the responsibility of the duty club to set up and prepare the turfs for Saturday's Junior and Open Grade games. Clubs require several volunteers to help in running the competition and are open to parents and caregivers offering their time to help out. If you are interested in volunteering your time please contact your club or junior club convenor for more information.

Additional Information

Additional information on the structure and format of the junior competition is available in the 'How to Hockey' Handbook in the Junior Competition tab of the Wellington Hockey website.

Facilities

National Hockey Stadium



Wellingtons National Hockey Stadium has three full-sized water-based turfs at its disposal for games, trainings and programmes. Our facilities also have The Grind Cafe and Kitchen operating on weekends with all kinds of delicious food available for visitors. Upon arrival, there is parking available in four carparks surrounding the turfs and plenty of space turf side, on the bank and in the stands for spectators. Changing rooms and toilets are available in the pavilion and on NHS3 and each turf is fitted with LED overhead lights for evening games.

Fraser Park



Fraser Park will also host games in the Junior grade on the newly installed water-based turf on Saturday mornings. The facility has undergone a full refurbishment with new lights, scoreboards, turf and a watering system. Food and drink are available via the cafe in the adjacent Sportsville centre.