



# **ICE HOCKEY AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT March 2019-February 2020**

## Contents

Ice Hockey Australia Members	3
Ice Hockey Australia Associate Members	3
IHA Board of Directors	3
Member State & Organisation Delegates	3
National Portfolio Program Directors	3
Life members	4
Presidents Report	6
National Player Development	9
Goaltender Development	14
National Teams Report	16
National Tournaments Report	19
National Leagues	21
Woman's Program	22
Coaching Report	25
Referees Report	27
Tribunal Report	29
Financial Report	29



We hope you enjoy the photos throughout this report. Images courtesy of the IIHF, Mark Bradford, the NZ Winter Games and many dedicated photographers who capture our great sport. We thank you.

### **Ice Hockey Australia Members**

ACT Ice Hockey Association Inc – IHACT  
Ice Hockey NSW – IHNSW  
Ice Hockey Queensland – IHQ  
South Australian Ice Hockey Association Inc – IHSA  
Ice Hockey Victoria – IHV  
Western Australian Ice Hockey Association Inc – IHWA  
Australian Ice Hockey League Ltd - AIHL  
Old Timers Ice Hockey Australia Network Incorporated – OiHan

### **Ice Hockey Australia Associate Members**

Australian Para Ice Hockey Association – APIHA  
Australian Defence Force Ice Hockey Association – ADFIHA  
Ice Hockey Tasmania

### **IHA Board of Directors**

President	Miranda Ransome
Vice President	Jimmy Dufour
Board Member	Tanya Brunt
Board Member	Joe Dwyer
Treasurer	Adrian Miller

### **IHA Executive Officer**

Executive Officer	Jackie Scott
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### **Member State, Territories & Organisation Delegates**

ACT	Chris McPhail
New South Wales	Steve Ransome / Paul Kelly
Queensland	Blair Ivens
South Australia	Steve Wise
Victoria	Maureen Black
Western Australia	Paul McCann
OIHAN	Don Reddish
AIHL	Dawn Watt

### **National Portfolio Program Directors**

Chief Medical Officer	Dr Daniel George
Goaltender Development Manager	Sera Dogramaci
High Performance Program Director	Matti Luoma
Marketing and Promotions Director	Cody Duschka
National Coaching Director	Mark Stephenson
National Team Uniform Officer	John Lavery
National Teams Operations Director	Paul Kelly
National Tournaments Director	Dawn Watt
National Tribunal Director	Jimmy Dufour
National Women's Program Director	Kylie Taylor
National Player Development Director	Ryan O'Handley
National Development Camps Director	Miranda Ransome
Referee-in-Chief	Kent Unwin / Joe Mayer
IT	Steve Ransome

## **Life Members**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>State/Territory</b>
1953	Sidney Hiort	Victoria
1962	Sydney Tange	New South Wales
1964	Ken Kennedy	New South Wales
1966	Russell Carson	Victoria
1968	Stan Gray	Victoria
1976	Raymond Sullivan	Victoria
1980	John Purcell	Victoria
1984	Phillip Ginsberg OAM	New South Wales
1985	Robert Blackburn	Victoria
1992	John McCrae-Williamson	Victoria
1994	Maxwell J McKowen	Australian Capital Territory
1996	Anthony Martyr Sr.	Queensland
1998	Charles Grandy	Victoria
2000	Sub Majsay  1960 Olympic Team: Noel McLoughlin (G) Rob Reid (G) Ben Acton (C)* Ken Wellman (VC)* Russell Jones (VC)* Basil Hansen * Clive Hitch Dave Cunningham Ivo Vesley John Nicholas * John Thomas * Ken Pawsey * Noel Derrick Peter Parrott Ron Amess * Vic Ekberg * Zednik (Steve)Tikal * Russ Carson (Manager) * Rob Dewhurst (Assistant Manager) * Bud McEachern (Coach) *  * Deceased	New South Wales
2001	Allan Adamson	Victoria

Year	Recipient	State/Territory
	Kevin Brown	South Australia
2002	Des Peterson	Australian Capital Territory
2003	Don Rurak	South Australia
2004	Clive Connelly	Victoria
2005	Dave Minson	Western Australia
2006	Norm McLeod Don Reddish	New South Wales Victoria
2007	John Wilson	New South Wales
2008	Elgin Luke Geoff Thorne	Queensland New South Wales
2010	Bill Vis Stephen Kilgariff	South Australia South Australia
2011	Jimmy Bremner	Western Australia
2013	Rocky Padjen	Australian Capital Territory
2014	Martin Jones	Victoria
2015	Allan Wishewan James Dee	Australian Capital Territory Queensland
2016	Jeffrey Scott John Botterill	New South Wales South Australia

[\* = Deceased]



## **IHA Presidents Report 2020**

I am pleased to present my first full report as Chair and President of Ice Hockey Australia (IHA) for the 2019/2020 season. The past year has been a challenging one for the organisation and Board as we navigate through a new, more stringent governance structure as a Company Limited by Guarantee. The board has worked to ensure that it continues through this transition with an increased focus on governance, strategic perspectives, and strong organisational oversight. The process commenced in earnest in March 2019.

The board activities over the past 12 months include the appointment of an Executive Officer, Jackie Fairbairn, through a rigorous recruitment process. The board appointed Joe Dwyer following Martin Jones vacation of his Elected Director position in May. Joe brings significant governance experience to the board. This period also saw the appointment of a new treasurer, Adrian Miller, with Ken Lamberts retirement as IHA Treasurer. Adrian has been very busy meeting the rigors of an increased level of financial governance.

Financial sustainability is one of the key enablers to delivering our strategic outcomes, and the Board has placed increased emphasis on continuing to improve our financial position and importantly our processes. This is a vitally important area for the Board, and we have spent an enormous amount of time bringing into account all our activities to provide clarity and transparency.

The Board initiated a full reconciliation of the FY19 and FY20 accounts that extended back several years following on from the seriously qualified audit of the 2019 accounts. The 2019 and 2020 accounts have now been finalised and audited. We can report that IHA is in a financial healthy position, which will be critical as we navigate out of COVID-19 whilst still investing in our strategic priorities.

Recognising the value of collaboration and engagement with our State members the board implemented a "Presidents Telecon". The States all share common goals and have similar issues and regular communication is of great benefit. Facilitating regular communication also gives the opportunity to discuss and disseminating information from our Portfolio Directors and the IHA Board. In addition to the 2 General Assemblies held during the season, 6 teleconferences were held with our member associations between May and December 2019 where we discussed and decided on matters relating to ITC's, enhancements to ESD, AJIHL, goaltending and National Championships. We will continue to use on-line meetings to continue the communication.

The board reviewed and implemented processes for recruitment for IHA roles. This resulted in a review of position descriptions for all National Team staff and was extended to portfolio director positions. A performance insight process was developed to ensure we are meeting objectives, properly resourcing, and supporting where required, our portfolio directors and national team coaches and staff. We should see this process implemented in the new season.

2019 was an extremely busy year of recruitment and rebuilding. In May we appointed Sera Dogramaci as Goaltender Development Manager. Sera has been a great addition to our Player Development team.

In June, Dawn Watt was appointed National Tournaments Director and hit the ground running with a busy schedule of National Championships. We were very pleased to see all our National Championships well run successes. Our National Championships continue to be an important flagship for our sport, offering an important opportunity to have our sport showcased across the country.

The board finalised a complete review of all National Team coaching positions with appointments made for all National teams within a month of commencing the EOI process at the end of May. A



review panel headed by our National Coaching Development Director, Mark Stephenson, completed a comprehensive assessment process. In addition to the coaching positions, all National Team managers positions were reviewed and appointed.

In July we advertised for the critical position of the AJIHL Commissioner and were very pleased to appoint Gill McLean to the role. This season AJIHL saw a return to a competition structure advocated by our MA's and appreciated by the players.

It was pleasing to appoint Matti Luoma to the position of High-Performance Program Director in September, a position that has been vacant for some years. Matti joins our development team of Ryan O'Handley, Sera Dogramaci and Mark Stephenson.

To grow and develop our officiating capabilities, IHA changed the traditional role of the RIC to better meet the objectives of IHA for this vital part of our sport. In October, Joe Mayer was appointed to the position of National Officiating Performance Manager. Joe has commenced several exciting initiatives including video coaching and introducing IHA Officiating Case books.

In April we commenced the important task of a strategic planning process with the assistance of the Olympic Winter Institute Australia. Four key strategic priorities have been identified and will form the focus for the next three years, steering and preparing IHA for success. The four strategic priorities are; Grow Participation, High Performance Culture, Good Governance, and the Business of Ice Hockey.

As part of the continuing review process the board is gradually updating the Sports Regulations with the first review of the Championships section led by Dawn Watt at our July meeting. Members took part in that review, ensuring they were current for our first Championship of 2019.

The AWIHL and AJIHL Regulations were also reviewed by the board to ensure that they reflected the actual structure of the league and ensured governance of teams was held by our member associations to ensure member protection, financial governance, and accountability.

Important IHA policies underwent a detailed review and update. These included the Member Protection Policy, Social Media Policy and Privacy Policy. We developed a new Travel policy as well as an Alcohol Policy.

Our 2020 National Player Development Camps were again a success despite some extraordinary challenges including managing these camps during a catastrophic bush fire season. Losing the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation facility as accommodation for our 13U camp was a significant setback as we have enjoyed the use of that facility for IHA camps for many years. It is a credit to Terry Kiliwnik, Diane Doornbos, Neil Boyle and Ryan O'Handley that the camps were managed without issue. The volunteers and coaches ensure that our players continue to advance and learn, we thank them for their dedication and care.

It is important to foster and enhance IHA's relationship with the IIHF and the AOC. These partnerships are vital in optimising our resources by taking advantage of any opportunities available in collaboration and information sharing and assists us to face the many challenges of our sport. This year we were successful in obtaining another AOC High Performance grant for our National Women's team. We worked with the IIHF at the 2019 Congress and secured significant "Growing the Game" funding aimed at coaching development. We hope that we can commence that project after COVID-19.

Our 2020 national teams performed well. It was pleasing to see all 3 teams that competed in January and February medal. Congratulations to our Women's team who achieved GOLD in their division. Our Men's U20 performed extremely well and brought home SILVER. It was with great

delight that our Women's U18 team came home with a BRONZE. It was disappointing to not have our National World Men's and National World U18Mens 2020 teams participate because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our national teams are another important flagship of our sport, providing inspiration and excitement.

It was with enormous pride that IHA had 6 of its talented young players qualify for the Winter Youth Olympic Games, with 3 coming home with medals.

This year, IHA partnered with the O'Brien Group to showcase the National Men's team in a series of games in February 2020. The series proved to be successful and another opportunity for our National team to prepare for World Championships.

Fostering international relationships is important and it has been pleasing to strengthen the ties with our NZ family. We again participated in the Trans-Tasman series held in Queenstown, NZ. This is proving to be an important part of our National teams' preparation for IIHF World Championships. IHNZ continue to be a fantastic host and the friendship between our two countries continues to strengthen and we look for more opportunity to work together.

It is pleasing to report that we have strengthened our relationship with our associate member, the Australian Para Ice Hockey Association, APIHA. Meetings with APIHA and Paralympics Australia have been very encouraging and IHA are now working with APIHA to transition Para Hockey into IHA.

It has been a very busy year for your board, and we look forward to continuing to build on these efforts.

IHA acknowledges and commends our State Presidents and their boards for their hard work and dedication to the sport, as volunteers. We appreciate and acknowledge the role OiHAN plays in enabling the continued enjoyment of our sport by many. The AIHL and AWIHL continues to be the elite leagues for our men and women players providing the highest level of competition. They continue to be an inspiration for our developing players.

Thank you to my fellow board Directors for their support, hard work and dedication to the sport in a year of significant change. A special thanks goes to our Executive Officer, Jackie, who professionally brings a focus of service to our members.

I thank our team of National Team staff, Portfolio Directors and Managers who not only bring hard work, expertise, and dedication, but also leadership in their roles. Thank you to all the tireless volunteers, coaches, team managers, off-ice officials, on-ice officials, and the players who are the heart of this sport.



**Miranda Ransome**  
**IHA President and Chair**





## National Player Development

### Youth Olympic Games

We were extremely proud to have 6 of our players selected onto the Australian team of 33 athletes competing in the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne Switzerland. Nikki Sharp, Ebony Brunt, Molly Lukowiak, Courtney Mahoney, Riley Langille and Sai Lake qualified to compete in the 3 x 3 ice hockey. The players selected were placed in mixed nation teams with all our players on different teams. This amazing experience was made even more special with 3 of our athletes coming home with a medal.

IHA was thrilled that Courtney Mahoney's team won a silver medal while Nikki Sharpe's team won a bronze medal. Sai Lake's team won BRONZ in the men's.

IHA was tasked with organising the National Skills Challenge to select athletes to qualify and participate in the 2020 Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne, Switzerland. Athletes were selected from each country through a National Skills Challenge, which involved athletes completing a dynamic skills course that was timed. In March 2019, States were sent the relevant information and asked to run a skills challenge for both male and female athletes in the 2004 and 2005 birth years. The top 2 athletes from each State would then participate in the National Skills Challenge which was held for male athletes on August 31st ahead of the Defris National Championship in Perth and on September 29th for female athletes during their U18 development camp in Newcastle. These trials had to be recorded to verify the results, and the videos, along with the athlete's times, uploaded to the IIHF database. As these were Olympic trials, the IIHF, the AOC, and the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia were involved in the process, which was highly prescribed. Although there were some issues in a few states with the completion of the State based trials, the National Skills Championships were successfully completed, and the videos and times uploaded to the IIHF ahead of their Sept 30 Deadline. Initially, countries were allocated 1 male and 1 female Athlete, but additional places could be allocated based on the Athletes international ranking.

It was extremely pleasing to learn that based on the performance of our athletes, we received an extra place for a male athlete and 3 extra places for female athletes. Our athletes (along with their world ranking in the National Skills Challenge) consisted of:



### Male Players

- Riley Langille (WA) – Ranked 34
- Sai Lake (VIC) – Ranked 84

### Female Players

- Nikki Sharp (WA) – Ranked 1
- Ebony Brunt (ACT) – Ranked 25
- Molly Lukowiak (WA) – Ranked 44
- Courtney Mahoney (QLD) – Ranked 78

Our team officials were Sandra Langille and Andrew Brunt.



Pictured: Courtney Mahoney, Nikki Sharp and Sai Lake

### **IIHF Hockey Development Camp – Vierumaki, Finland**

The 2019 camp, for males, was held from 6 to 13 July in Vierumaki, Finland. IHA was pleased to send Justin Dixon and Sasha Rapchuk to camp and importantly, Jason Kvisle attended the IIHF Coaching series held at camp. All our participants did a great job of representing Australia and learned an enormous amount from the experience.



## John McCrae-Williamson Jamboree

The 2019 McCrae Williamson Jamboree was held in Erina, NSW June 7-10th, 2019. 92 players attended the event. The jamboree ran extremely well in 2019 and IHA was very impressed by the overall level of ability this past year. IHA would like to thank Leisa Brown for heading the local organising team for the Jamboree and the Erina Ice Arena for their support.



## USA Hockey Boys 15 Select Camp

Ryan O’Handley was asked by USA Hockey to attend the 2019 USA Hockey National 15 Select camp in Amherst, New York which was held July 14-20th. This camp brings together the top 216 15-year old players from the USA along with 60 coaches. All the coaches were current U20, college or professional coaches and we worked closely with the US National U18 coaching staff. It was a very intensive week and Ryan learned a great deal from being at this camp. Some of the highlights and observations were:

- Small Area Games are a major focus across all levels of USA hockey. SAGs comprised at least 50% of all training sessions at this camp and are used widely by the US National Team Development Program
- National team player selection in the US involves many coaches and managers. This camp served as part of the selection process for their Youth Olympic Games team and input was requested from every coaching staff at the camp with respect to players.
- It was indicated that approximately 50% of the players that attend the 15 camp do not make the 16s camp. They are supplanted by other players who undergo physical development at a slower rate. Hockey is a late developing sport.
- When selecting players for their National Team Development Program, a player is selected equally based on both talent (50%) and character (50%). The rationale is that they spend \$2million on 40 kids, so they do not want anyone with poor character traits.
- Goaltenders were given the first 15 minutes of every training session (each session was 1 hour and 15 minutes). We implemented this at the U17 camp in Newcastle this year.
- This camp reaffirmed much of what we do at our camps and I am more confident than ever in the quality of our NDCs

USA hockey provided several video resources that have been shared with some of our national team coaches.



## National Development Camps

The National U13 and U17 elite camps were held in Newcastle Jan 5th-12th and Jan 13th-20th respectively. There was a total of 80 player participants and 22 staff at the U13 camp. The U17 camp was attended by 46 player participants and 17 staff.

Trevor Morgan, from Bow Valley Minor Hockey Society in Calgary, Alberta, was our skills coach again this year. Trevor did an excellent job with both camps. Don MacDonald from ACT was the goaltending coach for both camps this year. We have brought in a goalie coach from USA hockey for the past 2 years and was informed by Steve Thompson of USA hockey last year that we did not need to bring them in because we had such a high-quality coach in Don. 2020 proved to have the strongest coaching staff in the history of the camp which included the entire U18 coaching staff at the U17 camp along with our NHPD/National Men's team coach.

Due to the closure of the Myuna Bay sport and rec facility, the U13 camp was housed at the Catalina Conference Centre and was self-catered. This presented us with a different set of challenges, however the camp was again a success. The catastrophic bushfires around Australia proved to be a challenge that was dealt with and ensured the no compromise to the health and safety of all participants and staff.



The U17 camp was housed once again at the sport and rec facility at Point Wollstoncroft. The U17 camp was excellent this year and was the most respectful and best-behaved group of players we have ever had come to that camp.

We thank Terry Kiliwnik for serving as the U13 head coach and Diane Doornbos for serving as a camp manager for both camps. Our gratitude also goes to Neil Boyle, who worked as a camp manager for the U13 camp and Ruth Brooks who came back from the U13 camp to serve as a manager for the U17 camp.



### National Camp Goaltender Development

Donald MacDonald from IHACT was the Head Goaltending Coach for both weeks. Sera Dogramaci also attended both weeks to assist and observe what the goalies and goalie coaches experience, for the purposes of continuing to improve what we deliver.

Additional Goalie Coaches for the U13 Camp were Lachlan Clark (IHACT), Keesha Atkins (IHWA) and Kai Krings (IHWA). With 10 goalies present at camp, this allowed for a 2:1 goalie to coach ratio.

Additional Goalie Coaches for the U17 Camp were Jenelle Carson (IHVIC), David Pennell (IHQ) and Ian Hunter (IHSA). With 6 goalies in total and 3 on the ice at any one session, we had 3 coaches on the ice, allowing for a 1:1 goalie to coach ratio.

Goalies were provided with 15min of goalie-specific instruction at each on ice session. Given the limited time to work with the goalies, the focus was fundamentals.

All goalies were additionally provided with a goalsetting sheet, which once completed, was discussed in detail with the goalie coaches. This allowed the goalies to gain more clarity and direction with their goal setting and what they needed to do after camp to achieve them.

At the end of each day at camp, the goalie coaches met and discussed the performance of each goalie and identified key items to focus on for the following day. A final self-evaluation form was also provided to the goalies, after which the goalie coaches provided their feedback, and discussed this with individual goalies.

#### Recommendations:

- Retain Don MacDonald as the Head Goalie Coach for these camps.
- Re-introduce goalie-only on ice sessions, however, limit to only 2 each week. To minimise fatigue, the goalies would not join their team sessions following the goalie only sessions. The team sessions without goalies could focus on individual player skills where goalies are not required.
- Provide goalsetting sheet to goalies before arriving at camp to gain a better understanding of individual goalie needs and areas to focus on.
- Hold classroom sessions educating the goalies, as well as players and coaches, on proper warm up (physical and mental), and importance of recovery (cool down, rest, nutrition/hydration).
- Goalie-specific off ice sessions to educate goalies on how they can train off the ice to enhance their on-ice skills.
- Update and rewrite some sections of the Handbook provided to the goalies.
- Provide goalie education sessions for the player coaches, focusing on how player coaches can utilise and coach goalies during training sessions and games in their home states.



**Ryan O'Handley**  
**National Player Development Director**

## **Goaltender Development**

### **National Goaltending Coaching Council**

#### **State Goaltender Coordinators**

State Goaltender Coordinators were appointed by each state association. The purpose of these roles is to assist goaltenders and goaltender coaches in each state by organising and delivering clinics and camps and offering mentoring to coaches. This then contributes to the overall IHA Goaltender Development. Appointed Coordinators are:

IHACT – Don MacDonald

IHSA – Ian Hunter

IHQ – Steve Harris

IHV – Tom Munro

IHNSW – Sera Dogramaci

IHWA – Tom Boschmann



### **Goaltender Development**

#### **Completed Camps**

- U13: 10 goalies, 5 goalie coaches: Don MacDonald, Sera Dogramaci, Keesha Atkins (IHWA), Lachlan Clark (IHACT), Kai Krings (IHWA).
- U17: 6 goalies, 5 goalie coaches: Don MacDonald, Sera Dogramaci, Jenelle Carson (IHV), Ian Hunter (IHSA), Dave Pennell (IHQ).
- Pete Crankshaw (Prospects Goaltending, Ontario, Canada), was invited out for a two week visit to work with goalies around the country. This included:
  - U18 NWT selection camp
  - AWIHL Adelaide Rush, Melbourne Ice and Sydney Sirens training sessions.
  - Specialised clinics in Adelaide and Melbourne
  - Goalie camp in Canberra.



#### **Planned Camps**

- National Goalie Camp: Opportunity for wider goalie community to attend.
- Women's High-Performance Goalie Camp: Currently in discussions with international female goalie coaches to work out timeframe.

#### **Grassroots Participation**

- Come and Try events to be held across the country. Encouraging State Goalie Coordinators to organise these.
- Need more incentives to get more goalies to play.
- Purchase of Quick Change or Vaughn Beginner Set for use at Jamboree and other similar events.

### **Coach Development**

#### **Professional Development**

- Sera attended the Global Goalie Retreat in June 2020, which due to Covid-19, was held entirely online.
- Don had planned to attend the IIHF Women's Development Camp in Vierumaki, Finland. We will look for a development opportunity for Don for 2021.



### Coaching Opportunities

- National Team appointments:
  - NWT – Jaden Pine-Murphy (travelled as Equipment Manager)
  - NJT – Don MacDonald (Goalie Coach, did not travel)
  - NYT – Ian Hunter (Goalie Coach, not travelling)
  - U18NWT – Gabe Robledo (travelled as Goalie Coach)
- State Team appointments: State Goalie Coordinators are discussing with their State Associations about having goalie coaches on each of their junior state teams.



***Sera Dogramaci***  
***Goaltender Development Manager***



## **National Teams Report**

It was a busy year with all staff positions for the National Teams spilled in May 2019. A rigorous process of EOI, assessment and appointments occurred in a very short timeframe and all staff were appointed for the 2020 IIHF World Championships.

We had success with the Senior Women's team who were relegated in 2019 bouncing back to win Gold in 2020. We also had success with the U20s men's team winning Silver for the second year in a row. Our U18 women's team was successful in medalling this year, bringing home the bronze. Unfortunately, the Senior Men's team and the U18 men's team did not compete in 2020 with IIHF cancelling championships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **Trans-Tasman series, Senior Men's Team**

Our Senior men's team again competed in the Trans-Tasman series in Queenstown, New Zealand. Whilst the series went to NZ, we were proud of the team's performance and the final game of the series showed the true mettle of our team.



This is proving to be an important part of our National teams' preparation for IIHF World Championships. The series gives an opportunity to blood and assess new and upcoming senior players. IHNZ continue to be a fantastic host and the friendship between our two countries continues to strengthen.



### Australia v Victorian All-Stars Ice Hockey Challenge

This year IHA partnered with the O'Brien Group to showcase the National Men's team in a series of games in February 2020. The series proved to be successful and another opportunity for our National team to prepare for World Championships. Unfortunately, these games were to be the only played by our National Men's team as their World Championships in Croatia were cancelled by the IIHF due to COVID-19.



### Women's 23U Selects compete in Taiwan



This year IHA was invited to compete in the Taiwan Cup Women's Ice Hockey Tournament in November 2019. The tournament was held in Taipei over 3 days, with the team competing in 5 games against teams from Taiwan U18, Thailand, Hong Kong, and India. The team walked away with several respectable wins, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in a field of 8.

### IIHF World Championship Results

#### U18s Men's Team – Div II Group B – Serbia – 25-31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Serbia defeated Australia 8-4  
Netherlands defeated Australia 2-1  
China defeated Australia 4-2  
Australia defeated Belgium 4-1  
Croatia defeated Australia 5-1  
Australia finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the division



#### Senior Women's Team – Div II Group A – Dumfries, Great Britain – 2-8th April 2019



Great Britain defeated Australia 2-1  
DPR Korea defeated Australia 4-2  
Slovenia defeated Australia 6-1  
Mexico defeated Australia 7-4  
Spain defeated Australia 3-2  
Australia finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the division and was relegated.

Senior Men's Team – Div II Group A - Serbia – 9-15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Belgium defeated Australia 4-1

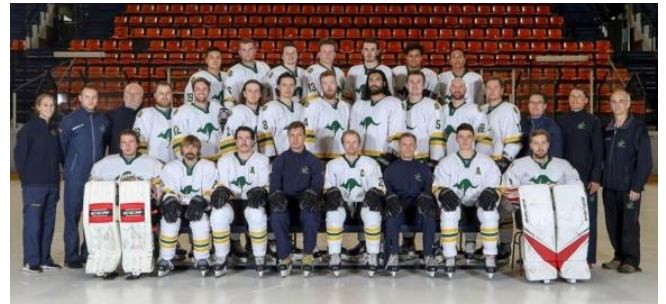
Australia defeated Serbia 3-2

Australia defeated Spain 4-1

Australia defeated China 3-2

Croatia defeated Australia 2-1

Australia finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the division achieving BRONZE



U20s Men's Team – Div III – Sofia, Bulgaria – 13-19<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Australia defeated South Africa 6-1

Australia defeated Chinese Taipei 5-0

Australia defeated Turkey 3-2

Australia defeated Mexico 8-3

Iceland defeated Australia 4-1

Australia finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the division with SILVER

U18s Women's Team – Div II Group A – Eindhoven, Netherlands – 25-28<sup>th</sup> January 2020



Australia def Kazakhstan 3-2

Netherlands defeated Australia 2-0

Chinese Taipei def Australia 4-3

Australia finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the division with BRONZE

Senior Women's Team – Div II Group B – Akureyri, Iceland – 23-29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Australia defeated Iceland 6-1

Australia defeated Turkey 2-1

Australia defeated Croatia 15-0

Australia defeated Ukraine 9-1

Australia defeated New Zealand 7-1

Australia finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the division with GOLD

**Paul Kelly**

**National Teams Operations Director**





## **National Tournaments**

IHA hosted 4 very successful National Championships in 2019. It was pleasing to see that the Gold Medal winners came from 4 different states, as opposed to one or two states outplaying the others as in past years. While there were some minor issues at some of the venues, the quality of the local club and state management of each tournament ensured that teams had equal opportunity to succeed. It was very exciting to see Queensland host a National Championship for the first time since 2010. Livestreaming was mandatory for all Championships in 2019 and this was warmly received, as evidenced by the number of viewers.

Focus for 2020, pre-Covid, was to reinstate a 5<sup>th</sup> championship – an open women's competition, as well as to increase the level of refereeing through a more comprehensive evaluation program headed by the IHA RIC.

Congratulations to all participants in the 2019 championships and the gold medal winners:

### **Phil Ginsberg Memorial Trophy – Erina Ice Arena, NSW August 15 to 18**

In 1983 the Federation Board introduced a new classification called the President's Cup for players 13 years & under. The inaugural series took place in Adelaide, South Australia. The then President Phillip Ginsberg presented the original Trophy. Phillip died in 1998. With his passing the Federation elected to rename the President's Cup as the Phillip Ginsberg Memorial Cup in his honour.

Gold - New South Wales –  
defeated Queensland 5-1  
Silver - Queensland  
Bronze - Victoria  
Western Australia  
South Australia  
Australian Capital Territory



### **Kurt DeFris Memorial Trophy – Cockburn Ice Arena, WA July 31 to August 3**

The late Mr. Kurt DeFris A.M. had a long and very distinguished affiliation with the Victorian Ice Hockey Association. Kurt first became associated with the sport when he was appointed manager of the newly formed AKANA Ice Hockey Club based at the Glaciarium in South Melbourne. Later this club was sponsored by the Hakoah Sports Club to become known as the Kakoah-Akana Ice Hockey Club. Kurt was then elected to the Committee of Management and in the same year to the position of Vice President with the Victorian Ice Hockey Association.

With the retirement of the then Victorian Ice Hockey Association President, Bud McEachern, Kurt was elected President and held the position for the next 19 years. After his retirement as President, the Association conferred upon him the honour of Honorary Life President of the Victorian Ice Hockey Association. Kurt died in 1983.

Gold – Victoria - defeated New South Wales 5-4

Silver – New South Wales

Bronze – Western Australia

Queensland

South Australia



**Syd Tange Memorial Trophy – O'Brien Group Arena, VIC July 11 to 14**

Syd Tange's involvement in the sport stretches back to 1937 when he joined the St. George Ice Hockey Club. He played until 1947 and was also the Secretary / Treasurer of the club, President of the Glebe Ice Hockey Club, President of the East Monarch Ice Hockey Club, Assistant Treasurer of the New South Wales Ice Hockey Association and eventually Secretary / Treasurer for many years.

Syd was awarded New South Wales Life Membership in 1960 and elected President from 1964 to 1966, including being awarded the H.C. & S.M. Hudson Trophy in 1967. Syd was awarded Life Membership with the Australian Ice Hockey Federation in 1962 and was elected President from 1970 to 1973.



Gold – South Australia - defeated Queensland 4-3

Silver - Queensland

Bronze - Victoria

New South Wales

Western Australia

**Jim Brown Memorial Trophy – Boondall Iceworld, QLD September 18 to 21**

The Jim Brown Trophy (Shield) was presented by Harry Curtis in 1964, the then President of the New South Wales Ice Hockey Association, for Interstate Junior Ice Hockey to perpetuate the memory of one of the legends (Jim Brown) in Australian Ice Hockey and Speed Skating. The Trophy is now presented for the Men's National Open Age Division Championship.

Gold – Queensland - defeated

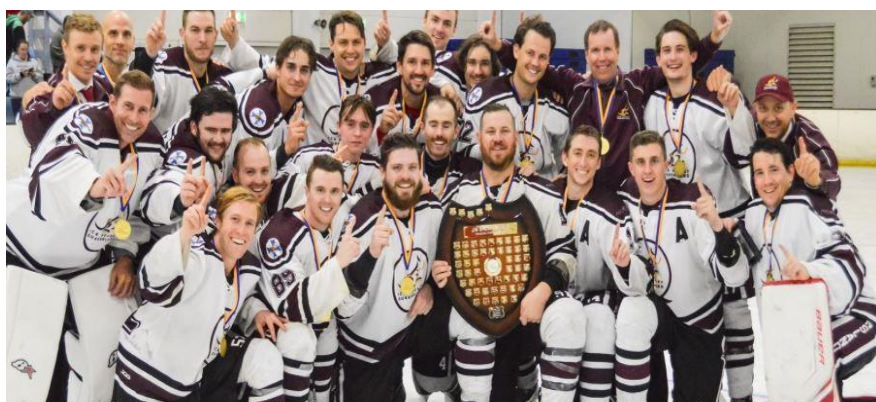
Victoria 2-0

Silver - Victoria

Bronze – New South Wales

Western Australia

South Australia



***Dawn Watt***

***National Tournament Director***



## **National Leagues**

IHA runs two important national leagues, the AJIHL and the AWIHL.

Joan McKowen was heavily involved in ice hockey since 1972 working first with Ice Hockey Victoria until 1989 when Joan and her husband Max moved to Canberra. From 1983 to 1992 Joan travelled with ten IHA national teams. Joan's greatest passion was women's ice hockey and with her passing in 1992, a Memorial Trophy for the highest competition in Women's Ice Hockey was bestowed in her honour. The Trophy is currently played for by the AWIHL teams.

## **Australian Women's Ice Hockey League - AWIHL**

The AWIHL competition ran from the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020

The following teams took part in the AW competition:

- Melbourne Ice
- Sydney Sirens
- Perth Inferno
- Brisbane Goannas
- Adelaide Rush

The regular season competition saw the Sydney Sirens finish as minor premiers. Finals were contested by the top 4 placed teams after the regulations season, with this year the Rush, Ice, Inferno and Sirens taking part. The Sydney Sirens took out the gold 3-0 beating Adelaide Rush at O'Brien Ice Arena, with the Melbourne Ice winning bronze.



**Melissa Rulli**  
**AWIHL Commissioner**

## **Australian Junior Ice Hockey League - AJIHL**

The AJIHL competition ran from the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The following teams took part in the AJ competition:

- Adelaide Generals
- Brisbane Blitz
- Sydney Wolf Pack
- Melbourne Glaciers
- Sydney Sabres
- Perth Sharks

The regular season competition consisted of 34 games with the top 4 teams competing in a finals weekend at O'Brien Group Arena, Melbourne. The Sydney Sabres took the gold defeating the Adelaide Generals 4-1, with the Sydney Wolfpack taking the bronze.



**Gill McLean**  
**AJIHL Commissioner**

## **Woman's Program**

The purpose of this program is to provide platforms for young girls and women of all ages to develop their skills in line with IHA Development programs.

Our Women's Director oversees the coordination of the Women's Council Representatives in each state. Communication between our Director and the Women's Council Reps includes assisting them in liaising and having a voice with their Member Association, making sure they are having adequate women only development sessions giving females a chance to learn and develop new skills.

Each year we hold a Women's Council meeting however was not held this year due to the COVID-19 crisis.

An important task in this role is to liaise with MA's and the IIHF to organise and coordinate the World Girls Weekend (Come and Try) along with the Global Girls Game. IHA is pleased to report that the Global Girls Games took place in Perth and Melbourne during the month of February 2020. The results of these games were sent back to IIHF for their live Global Girls Game scoring. This is always a fantastic event enjoyed by all the players. Our aim is to have the games conducted in all the states.



Future planning for the women's program includes:

- Continued meetings with relevant Directors and IHA to work on the Women's Pathway
- Working closely with the High-Performance Director to further align the National Women's Team and U18 Team.
- To work with the Women's Council Reps to have local women's leagues set up in all states
- To work with the Women's Council Reps to have local women's development sessions in all states
- Increase attendance at Come and Try sessions in each state
- Run Global Girls Games in each state.

## **AWIHL**

The AWIHL had its best year to date with the 2019-2020 season. The regular meetings the AWIHL team management continued to keep us aligned and all on the same page. Teams took on board the High-Performance packs that were given by the AW Commissioner as a base to build on. It was clear that these worked as Adelaide went from the fifth-place position last season to competing in a fantastic grand final this year. We encourage all teams to constantly review their high performance. This year proved to be very competitive with all teams seeing a chance in winning at finals.



Perth Inferno, Adelaide Rush, Melbourne Ice and Sydney Sirens went to the playoffs after Brisbane Goannas placed fifth at the end of the regular season. Finals were held in Melbourne in February 2020 and were a huge success with big crowds and fantastic gate takings. Sydney Sirens took home the Joan McKowen trophy after defeating the Adelaide Rush 3-0. Melbourne took third place defeating Perth Inferno 4-3.

Over the 2019-2020 season, the AWIHL has again seen consistent growth through live streaming games via our YouTube channel:

- Total viewership for the season was 31,797 – (26% growth).
- We added 611 new Subscribers to our YouTube channel for a total of 1045 – (298% growth in 12 months).
- Our average viewer count for the season was 865 per game (29% growth compared to 2018-19)
- Out of the 31,797 views over the 2019-20 season, 22,258 of those originated from Australia, demonstrating our strong domestic viewership.
- 38% of our overall viewership are women, with men making up 62% of our audience.
- 41% of our overall audience is in the crucial 25-34 years demographic. Our next highest is the 35-44 years range, clocking in at 20%, followed by 18-24 years at 18%.
- Featured 12 x 30-minute highlight packages on Kayo Sports streaming service.

We have gained international interest and recognition and we will continue our talks with New Zealand and open the channels with other countries in our region.

The 2020-2021 Goals for the AWIHL include the following:

- Navigate a path out of COVID-19
- To continue to build brand awareness
- Secure a League sponsor
- Maintain the size of the competition
- Continue the League vision to expand to a six-team competition
- Decrease player costs to play
- Improve player skill level in line with National team program
- Have all AWIHL coaches talking with U18 and NWT coaches
- Fund the live stream service and expand our commentary team
- Set up AWIHL and Team merchandise website
- Foster the relationship with Foxtel/Kayo for International League exposure
- Build multiple revenue streams
- Nurture the life of an elite female AW / National representative player



## Tier Two

The T2 was created to fill the void between mixed/social hockey and the elite women's league of AWIHL, providing women with the chance to compete against women in a second-tier level to the AWIHL. This in turn provides a place for our youth to develop, fringe players to gain confidence and experience, and for those who are just not quite up to AWIHL level of playing a space to play hockey interstate and against other women. This program is 100% player funded.



Round two of T2 2019 took place in Adelaide in July 2019 and round three and finals in Melbourne during October 2019. The Melbourne Chargers played off against the Canberra Pirates for the championship with the Melbourne Chargers winning the Grand Final 3-2. At the completion of the 2019 Series, Melanie Deksnis stepped down as T2 Coordinator due to her other women's development commitments within Ice Hockey Victoria. We thank her for all her work during her time in this role.

The beginning of 2020 started out well with plans underway early and we had bookings in place for three rounds for 2020 in Canberra, Adelaide, and Melbourne. At the end of March, the first round to be held in Canberra was postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Unfortunately, in June 2020 it was decided by the teams to cancel the 2020 T2 Series all together.

In 2019 season, the sanctioning and operation of the T2 series commenced a hand over to the state and territory Member Associations. Whilst this series does not fall within the remit of IHA, our Women's Director continued to assist the Member associations in developing the series. During 2020, it is pleasing to report that under the guidance and care of Kylie Taylor, the state associations are now fully operating and responsible for the operation and management of T2.

***Kylie Taylor***  
***National Women's Program Director***



## **Coaching Report**

### **IHA Coaching Courses**

The following is a summary of the IHA Coach Level I and II Courses conducted within the timeframe of the report. No Level III Courses were conducted during this time.

#### **IHA Coach Level I Courses**

<b>Date</b>	<b>State Association</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Completed</b>
16-17/3/2019	IHNSW	Sera Dogramaci	Level I	17	17
17/3/2019	IHNSW	Sera Dogramaci	Level I Refresher	8	8
16-17/3/2019	IHWA	Dave Ruck	Level I	12	12
17/3/2019	IHWA	Dave Ruck	Level I Refresher	7	5
23-24/3/2019	IHV	Georgia Carson	Level I	4	4
30-31/3/2019	IHACT	Michael Sargeant	Level I	10	2
10-11/4/2019	IHQ (TSV)	Mike Harrow	Level I	7	7
8-10/6/2019	IHA - MWJ	Ryan O'Handley	Level I Refresher	2	2
13-14/7/2019	IHQ	Mike Harrow	Level I	1	1
20-21/7/2019	IHSA	Sami Mantere	Level I	13	13
21/7/2019	IHSA	Sami Mantere	Level I Refresher	1	1
14-15/9/2019	IHV	Georgia Carson	Level I	19	17
5-12/1/2020	IHA NDC U13	Ryan O'Handley	Level I Refresher	5	2
13-20/1/2020	IHA NDC U17	Ryan O'Handley	Level I Refresher	2	1
18-19/1/2020	IHNSW	Dawn Watt	Level I	7	7
19/1/2020	IHNSW	Dawn Watt	Level I Refresher	9	8
22-23/2/2020	IHSA	Ryan O'Handley	Level I	6	6
23/2/2020	IHSA	Ryan O'Handley	Level I Refresher	3	3
				<b>133</b>	<b>116</b>

#### **IHA Coach Level II Courses**

<b>Date</b>	<b>State Association</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Completed</b>
6-8/9/2019	IHV	Mark Stephenson	Level II	7	3
2-11/11/2019	IHQ	Terry Kiliwnik	Level II	9	0
23-25/11/2019	IHWA	Debbie Strome	Level II	TBC	TBC
21-30/2/2020	IHWA	Ryan O'Handley	Level II	7	TBC
				<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>

### **IHA Coaching Registers**

The IHA Coaching Registers are currently up to date based on the information provided by the State Associations. Incomplete documentation is now highlighted in the Registers to assist in the completion of the required information. All requests for the current Coaching Registers are facilitated through a request from the State Association Secretary to the IHA Office. Coaching Courses require a 30-day notification to the IHA Office.



Additional columns have been included in the Coaching Register which can be used to generate mailing lists for active Coaching Mail out lists. At present the mailing list for IHA has a total of 529 active (or due for re-accreditation) coaches. Obviously, the recent issue with the COVID-19 pandemic has created delays in re-accreditation of coaches. An IHA Coaching Master List is being developed that gives up to date statistics on coaching numbers throughout Australia.

### **IHA National Team Coaching Position Appointments**

This year, all National Team Coaching positions were declared vacant. In total, 105 emails were sent out to Coaches identified as candidates for National Team Coaching positions. By the closing date, IHA had received 21 “Expressions of Interest” for the five National Team positions. The National Selection Panel made recommendations to the IHA Board who subsequently appointed the following coaches:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>	<b>Assistant Coach</b>	<b>Assistant Coach</b>
WM	Matti Luoma*	Michael Flaherty	N/A
WW	Stu Philips	Paul Graham	N/A
WM20	Dave Ruck	Jason Kvisle	N/A
WM18	David Ferrari	Marc Vaillancourt	Dave Costa
WW18	Tamra Jones	Remi Harvey	N/A

\*Brad Vigon withdrew from WM Head Coach and was replaced by Matti Luoma

### **Objectives for the Upcoming year**

Over the past 12 months, the IHA Coaching Council has successfully conducted 5 Level II Courses for 5 State Associations with the exception being IHACT. With this in mind, a Level II Refresher syllabus should now be developed.

Finally, we will be looking to the IIHF and our Mentor Hockey Nation, USA Hockey for support with Coach Development through “Growing the Game” funding. With the assistance of USA Hockey coaches, IHA will be able

to run a Level III course, in addition to conducting Specialist Coaching Seminars and Courses once the difficulties of our current environment has passed.



**Mark Stephenson**  
**National Coaching Director**



## **Referees Report**

### **IIHF Championship Program**

The following officials were assigned to officiate at IIHF World Championships for the 2019/2020 season, below is a summary of these assignments. Due to the escalating global pandemic, not all IIHF events were held and unfortunately some of our officials were unable to complete assignments.

- Gabrielle Aston – Referee at 2020 IIHF Women’s World Championship Division III. Gabby worked 3 assignments during this championship.
- Bethany Bowshall – Linesman at the 2020 IIHF U18 Women’s World Championship Division I, Group A. Beth worked 4 assignments during this championship.
- Kent Unwin – Referee at 2020 IIHF U20 World Championship Division III, Kent worked 3 assignments during this championship.
- Grainge Phillips – Referee at 2020 IIHF U18 World Championship Division III Group A, this event was cancelled by IIHF and this assignment was not completed.
- Fraser Ohlson – Linesman at 2020 IIHF U18 World Championship Division II Group B, this event was cancelled by IIHF and this assignment was not completed.
- Casper Russelhuber – Linesman at 2020 IIHF U18 World Championship Division III Group B, this event was cancelled by IIHF and this assignment was not completed.
- Ainslie Gardner – Referee at 2020 IIHF Women’s World Championship Division II Group A, this event was cancelled by IIHF and this assignment was not completed.

### **Australian Women’s Ice Hockey League**

#### **Regular Season**

The 2019-2020 AWIHL Season consisted of 34 games. 22 of these games were officiated under the 3-official system. 12 of these games, including the 4 finals series games, were officiated under the 4-official system. Different officials were utilised across 5 states, the official who worked the most game was Beth Bowshall from SA with 8 assignments.



### Final Series

AWIHL finals series took place over the weekend of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of February in Melbourne. The officiating assignments for AWIHL finals were as follows:

Game	Referee 1	Referee 2	Linesmen 1	Linesmen 2
SF1	Grainge Phillips (VIC)	Casper Russelhuber (VIC)	Cien Pereira (VIC)	Rob Lowery (VIC)
SF2	Gabby Aston (NSW)	Nick Air (NSW)	Beth Bowshall (SA)	Hamish Young (VIC)
Bronze	Grainge Phillips (VIC)	Nick Air (NSW)	Rob Lowery (VIC)	Hamish Young (VIC)
Gold	Gabby Aston (NSW)	Casper Russelhuber (VIC)	Beth Bowshall (SA)	Cien Pereira (VIC)

### **Australian Junior Ice Hockey League**

#### Regular Season

The 2019-2020 AJIHL Season consisted of 49 games. 24 of these games were officiated under the 3-official system. 31 of these games, which included 4 finals series games, were officiated under the 4-official system. 57 different officials were utilised across 5 states, the officials who worked the most games was Mark Peruzzo and Haydan Rodgers from NSW with 11 assignments each.



#### Final Series

AJIHL finals series took place over the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of March in Melbourne. It should be noted that IHQ funded the travel of one official and one official from IHNSW was available in Melbourne at no cost to IHA. The officiating assignments for AJIHL finals were as follows:

Game	Referee 1	Referee 2	Linesmen 1	Linesmen 2
SF1	Jeff Klink (VIC)	Mark Peruzzo (NSW)	Haydan Rodgers (NSW)	Hamish Young (VIC)
SF2	Mark O'Brian (QLD)	Tommi Karpinnen (WA)	Casper Russelhuber (VIC)	Fraser Olsen (VIC)
Bronze	Mark O'Brian (QLD)	Tommi Karpinnen (WA)	Casper Russelhuber (VIC)	Fraser Olsen (VIC)
Gold	Jeff Klink (VIC)	Mark Peruzzo (NSW)	Haydan Rodgers (NSW)	Hamish Young (VIC)

### **Officiating High-Performance Camp**

The budget remains in place, and planning is still ongoing, for supporting officiating development by hosting this event. However, as this event is hosted in conjunction with, and to support, the National High-Performance camps in Newcastle, continued monitoring of the current travel restrictions will be required. Alternative plans are being reviewed for hosting a series of National High-Performance Officiating seminars via Microsoft Teams.

#### **Joe Mayer**

#### **Referee-in-chief**

## **Tribunal Report**

As in past years, the need for IHA run tribunals in 2019 was relatively minimal.

The only matters that came before the tribunal arose from an incident occurring at a world championship. The 5 tribunals were all run with the same panel members, and chaired by Mr David Black, former Tribunal Chairperson for IHWA. After a thorough process, the matters were resolved appropriately.

As the IHA Tribunal Director portfolio continues to be vacant, IHA intends on calling for suitable applications soon to assist in resolving disciplinary issues.

## **Financial Report**

The 2019-2020 Financials are a separate report.

