



Field Hockey BC Competition Structure 2016-2020

National Championship Program & FAQs
for FHBC Athletes and Parents

FHBC Athletes and Families,

There are some exciting changes coming in the 2016 / 2017 season. In order to help clarify the context and implications of these changes, some highlights have been provided below.

Please remember that FHBC is working hard to grow and develop the sport of field hockey across BC and Canada and as such, invite you to consider how the FHC Competition Review and mandates of Provincial Sports Organizations (PSOs) influence our work to provide enhanced opportunities for all current and future aspiring field hockey athletes.

THE REGIONAL PROGRAM

FHBC, Canadian Sports Institute (CSI) and the Provincial Government work to identify and serve BC's most promising athletes. FHBC identifies, develops and monitors these athletes. The Regional Program enables us to do this by developing competitive depth within the BC player pool and raising the overall standard in the province.

The program is developing and evolving into 'one program' for our very top, JDS-identified athletes and will continue to provide a player development pathway to bridge the gap between club or school field hockey and FHC's national team programs.

COMPETITION REVIEW Since 2015, FHC has been leading a review of the Athlete High Performance (targeting age 13+) competition structure. All provincial partners, including FHBC, have been part of this. The environmental reality of field hockey in Canada has been assessed and building long-term competitive depth within our sport (numbers and quality of players) has been considered and remains top priority. Within this, consideration has been given to the most appropriate competition structures to provide athletes with talent identification opportunities for National Programs.

OUTCOME The National Championship Program (summary below) is the outcome of the Competition Review and was agreed by all PSOs, including FHBC, and endorsed at the 2016 FHC Annual General Meeting.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM: 2017 and beyond

The review of National Championship tournament designations (age division categories), team construct (regions) and hosting plans (tournament locations) has led to the proposed performance stream pathways (below).

Program		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
T2T	Age Div.	U16 b. 01-03	U15 b. 02-04	U15 b. 03-05	U15 b. 04-06	U15 b. 05-07
	Host	Alberta	BC	Ontario	West	East
	Team(s)	BC Blue BC White BC Yellow	Island Mainland Select	Island Mainland Select	Island Mainland Select	Island Mainland Select
T2C	Age Div.	U18 b. 98-00	U18 b. 99-01	U18 b. 00-02	U18 b. 01-03	U18 b.02-04
	Host	Ontario	BC	Ontario	East	West
	Team(s)	BC Blue BC White BC Yellow	Island Mainland Select	Island Mainland Select	Island Rep Mainland Rep Select	Island Mainland Select
L2W	Age Div.	n/a	U23 b. 98-94	U23 b. 99-95	U23 b. 00-96	U23 b. 01-97
	Host	n/a	BC	Ontario	East	West
	Team(s)	n/a	BC Blue BC White	BC Blue BC White	BC Blue BC White	BC Blue BC White

Key implications for Team BC:

Change mandated by Competition Review	Implications for FHBC / BC athlete pool / parent group
The Train 2 Train National Championship will change from a U16 tournament to a U15 tournament.	All teams across Canada now playing with U15 players. No affect on FHBC's age groups. Program already aligned to U15 designation.
Boy's U18 T2C National Championships to be re-introduced in 2017.	This means that the India Club tournament in late June will not be the competitive peak for U18 boys. Instead, the Provincial Program will run into July, in line with other Provincial Programs.

Men's and Women's U23 National Championships to be introduced in 2017.	This means there will be an appropriate competitive peak for our top over-18 year-old players. This opportunity provides training, competition and talent identification for this age group.
Regional teams will be constructed for both the Regional Program and National Championship.	Increased local training; decreased travel; more cohesive teams; better coach-athlete relationships; more time preparing as a team = better team performances & stronger National Championships.

Note:

Athletes continue to be ranked within the Regional and Provincial programs and development is closely monitored against FHBC's selection criteria. The change from Team BC Blue / White / Yellow teams to regional representative teams will not adversely affect the opportunity to be developed or be recognized for the FHC NT pathway. Remember, this review (of which athlete's NT coaches support) is led by FHC and will continue to work with our Performance Manager to monitor top talent.

FAQs

When are the National Championship tournaments held?

They are typically held in July/August. In 2017, they will be held in Surrey July 17-25 for all age groups.

What is the typical duration of a National Championship event?

Championship events typically run between 4-6 days, however, at the L2W stage, events can be shorter in duration, such as 1 or 2-days.

What does 'West/East' mean as a Host?

In western Canada, tournaments could be held in BC or Alberta. In eastern provinces, tournaments could be held in Ontario or Quebec, for example. This information will be provided once host locations are confirmed.

Why is the tournament age division changing from U16 to U15 for Train to Train (T2T) in 2017?

In line with the Canadian LTAD¹ (Long Term Athlete Development) framework, the **T2T** program focuses on TRAINING and PLAYER DEVELOPMENT, therefore it is acknowledged that the most appropriate target age bracket for this stage is 13-15. The **T2C** program is focused on PLAYER DEVELOPMENT within a TEAM TACTICAL COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT for the OUTCOME of WINNING and is therefore suitable to ages 16-18. Since FHBC programs are already in line with this framework, there is no change to FHBC's program age divisions.

What is the difference between 'BC' and 'Rep' teams?

Before the 2016 Competition Review, Provincial or 'BC' teams were comprised of athletes from any recognized region². This meant that BC Blue could have a mixture of athletes from Victoria, Duncan, Kelowna and the Mainland. From 2017, athletes will be selected to represent

one of two regions: Vancouver Island or Mainland. The top athletes from each region (Vancouver Island / Mainland) will represent that region as a representative team of BC at the 2017 National Championship.

How many teams will be selected?

Historically, the highest ranked athletes were selected for BC Blue and then athletes were drafted into one or two developmental teams (White and Yellow). Player eligibility and ability determine the number of selected teams (which varies from year to year).

How are they selected?

Provincial selection is based on a variety of components, including: physiological (speed /endurance), psychological (attitude, focus, effort), technical abilities, and game and tactical performance. These components make up the HP (high performance) criteria and the profile of a Provincial-level athlete which is used to aid the selection process. FHBC has a pool of trained personnel who lead on selections.

Are other provinces sending representative teams to the National Championship?

Yes, provinces with critical mass plan to send representative teams to the National Championship.

What are the benefits of representative teams?

The benefits of regionally-constructed teams are multi-focused. They provide the opportunity for: the athlete base to grow across Canada in line with our strategic direction; coaches to have the opportunity to know their players and teams better; enhanced teammate bonding and tournament preparation; an increased number of players involved at a National level; a model to deliver optimal training-to-competition ratios and; for the competition environment to provide the best platform for athletes to showcase skill and talent!

Will representative teams help create a more optimal competitive environment?

Yes, representative teams will provide a more appropriate competitive environment for all athletes. Loading top-ranked athletes into one team does not provide all players with an optimal competitive opportunity within our National environment. Typically, the National Competition has seen many one-sided games between provinces which failed to meet any PSO mandate.

References

1. Canadian Sport For Life, Long Term Athlete Development online resource: <http://canadiansportforlife.ca/learn-about-canadian-sport-life/ltad-stages>
2. FHBC regions are: Island (Victoria and Mid-Island), Interior (Okanagan & Kootenays), Northwest (Vancouver and North shore), Southeast (Burnaby, Chilliwack, Coquitlam, Delta, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Richmond, Surrey, etc.).