



2025

National Indigenous Junior Hockey Championships

Hosted by Hockey Indigenous

Information Package



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NOTE:

Hockey Indigenous has over 85,000 followers across all social media platforms and websites. Livestream will be available for your convenience. NIJHC Sponsorship package is available.



The Team



Logo Design:
Jeff Nepinak

NIJHC Committee

Members:

Dusitn Peltier
Brandi Hunter
Savanna Sayese
Denesha Big Plume
Lucas Rotondo
Sydney Daniels
Stephane Friday

NIJHC Overview

2025



About

An annual event that brings together Indigenous junior hockey athletes from across the country to compete for the national title. The championships are open to male and female division players aged 16-20 (U20) and are an opportunity for players to showcase their skills and for the Indigenous hockey community to come together and celebrate their achievements.

Providing a platform

The inaugural National Indigenous Junior Hockey Championships is a highly anticipated week-long event dedicated to fostering the talent and passion of Indigenous Youth in Turtle Island. Scheduled for early June 2025, this championship brings together two dynamic divisions for male and female players aged 16 to 20. It serves as a platform for Indigenous athletes of all levels of experience to showcase their skills, forge new friendships, and embrace the rich cultural heritage of the game. With an emphasis on inclusivity and community, this tournament embodies the spirit of unity, providing a unique opportunity for young Indigenous hockey athletes to shine on a national stage while celebrating their heritage.

Vision

Providing a platform for elite Indigenous Youth across the Nation to showcase their talent, celebrate their heritage, and through the spirit of competition.

Mission

Empowering Indigenous Youth through hockey excellence, aiming to promote physical health, mental well-being, and personal growth while fostering a supportive environment rooted in respect, inclusivity, and unity.

About Hockey Indigneous

Hockey Indigenous (HI) is an indigenous-led and governed organization whose overall goal and mandate is to provide a whole new generational direction toward Indigenous Youth and Community Empowerment. HI wants to use its platform to bring inclusion, motivation, and support to Indigenous athletes while fostering policy and cultural teachings.



Deadlines

Important dates to follow

THEME	DATE
TEAM REGISTRATION CALL OUT	JANUARY 24, 2025
TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION	MARCH 31, 2025
FINAL ROSTER ANNOUNCEMENT	APRIL 28, 2025
MEDIA ADVISORY PACKAGE	MAY 16, 2025
ON-SITE	JUNE 8, 2025
COMMENCEMENT OF THE NIJHC	JUNE 9-13, 2025

Competition

Non-Sanction Tournament for 2025 and for more information please ask for Technical Package.



Participants

Athletes, Managers, coaches, and trainers

Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit)

The Individual/Tribal/Regional Indigenous teams may select players from all levels (Ex: CHL, Junior A, Junior B, Junior C, CSSHL, AAA, AA, A, House, and Grassroots)

Athletes	Staff	Classification	Medals
<p>MAX 20 PLAYERS: 18 Skaters 2 Goaltenders</p> <p>12 Forwards 6 Defenceman 2 Goaltenders</p>	<p>1 General Manager 1 Head Coach 2 Assistant Coaches 1 Trainer/Equipment Manager</p> <p>*Matching Uniforms and socks for both Home and Away*</p>	<p>MALE AND FEMALE Athletes must be U20 Age for the competitive 2024/25 season</p> <p>Year of Birth: 2005 - 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold • Silver • Bronze <p>Each athlete and staff will receive a medal from their concluded respective rankings</p>

Awards

Individual awards (male and female) based on individual gameplay are as follows:

- Player of the Game

Individual awards (male and female) based on round-robin play are as follows:

- Most Valuable Defense
- Most Valuable Forward
- Most Valuable Goaltender
- Most Sportsmanlike Player
- Most Valuable Player

(Emphasizing all aspects of the game)

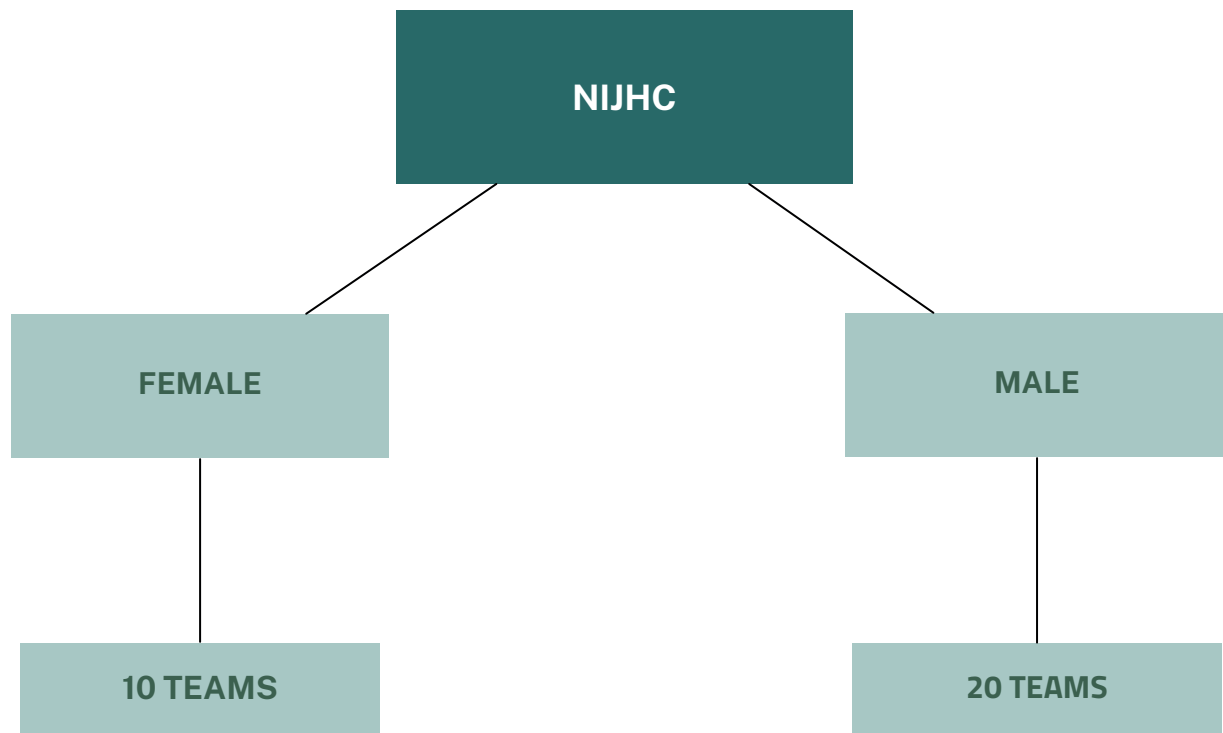
Indigenous Ancestry

All team members, players, and staff must be of Indigenous ancestry (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit). Every player and team staff must carry (bring with) him/her documentation that verifies his/her Indigenous ancestry. Picture identification and a Provincial Métis Card (from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, or British Columbia), Certificate of Indian Status Card, or Territories Health Card Nunavut Card will be acceptable.



Team Format

Round robin, Playoffs, and medal finals.



Note: The 2025 NIJHC game schedule will start on June 9, 2025, and end on June 12, 2025, with the Bronze and Gold Medal Games for both male and female divisions.

How: There would be 20 teams for the male division, 10 teams for the female division, and 20 players each for a total of 640 players. Round-robin games total 128 games in two days.

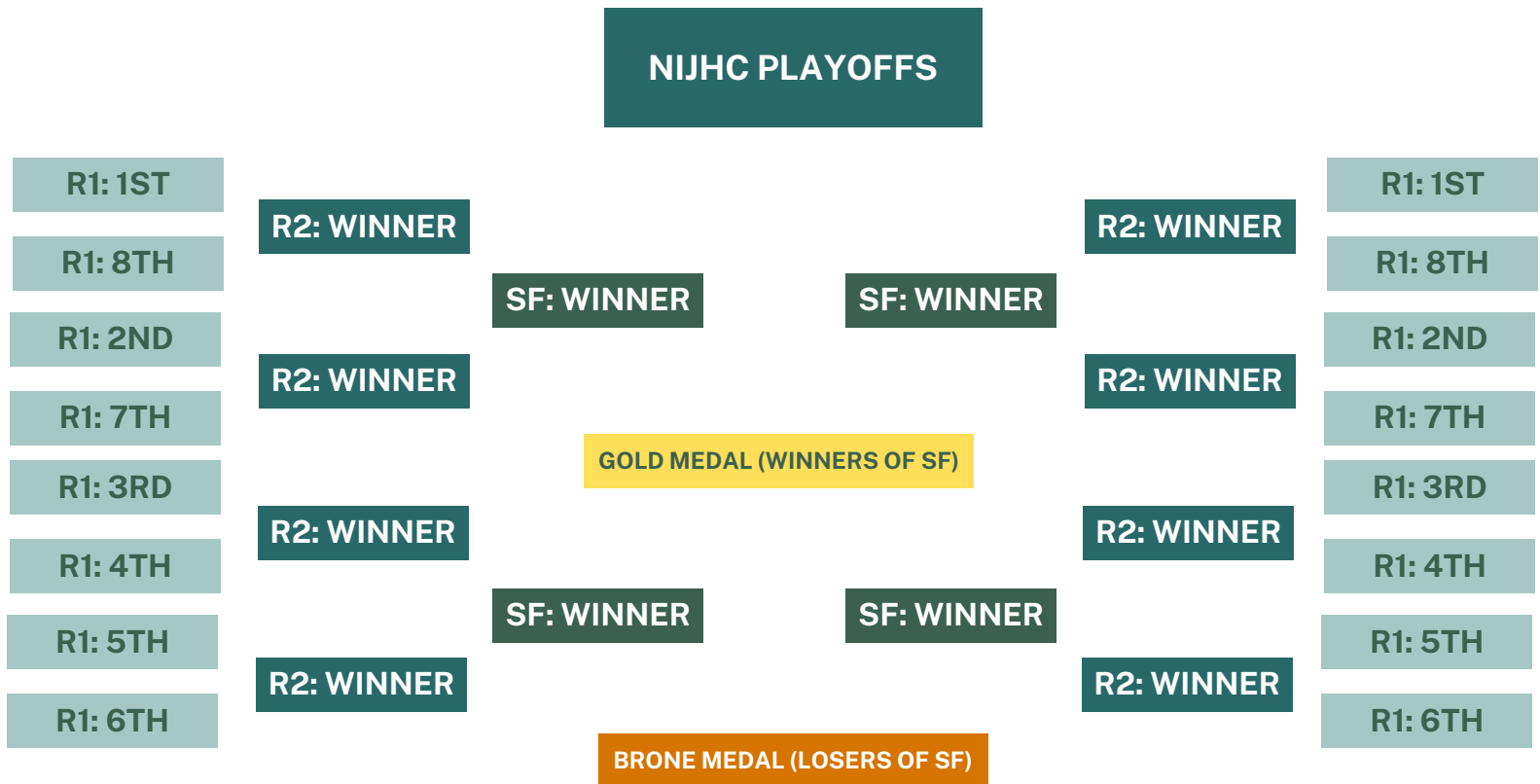
For the male division, they will have a pool of 10 teams, while the top 8 advance to playoffs and the bottom 2 teams are eliminated. The playoff structure would be R1, and from there it will go to R2 and SF finals, winners advance to the Gold medal game while losers will play for bronze.

For the female division, they will have a pool of 5 teams, while the top 4 advance and the bottom team are eliminated. Playoff structure would be QF, and from there will go to SF, winners advance to Gold medal games while losers will play for bronze.



NIJHC Playoffs

Male Division



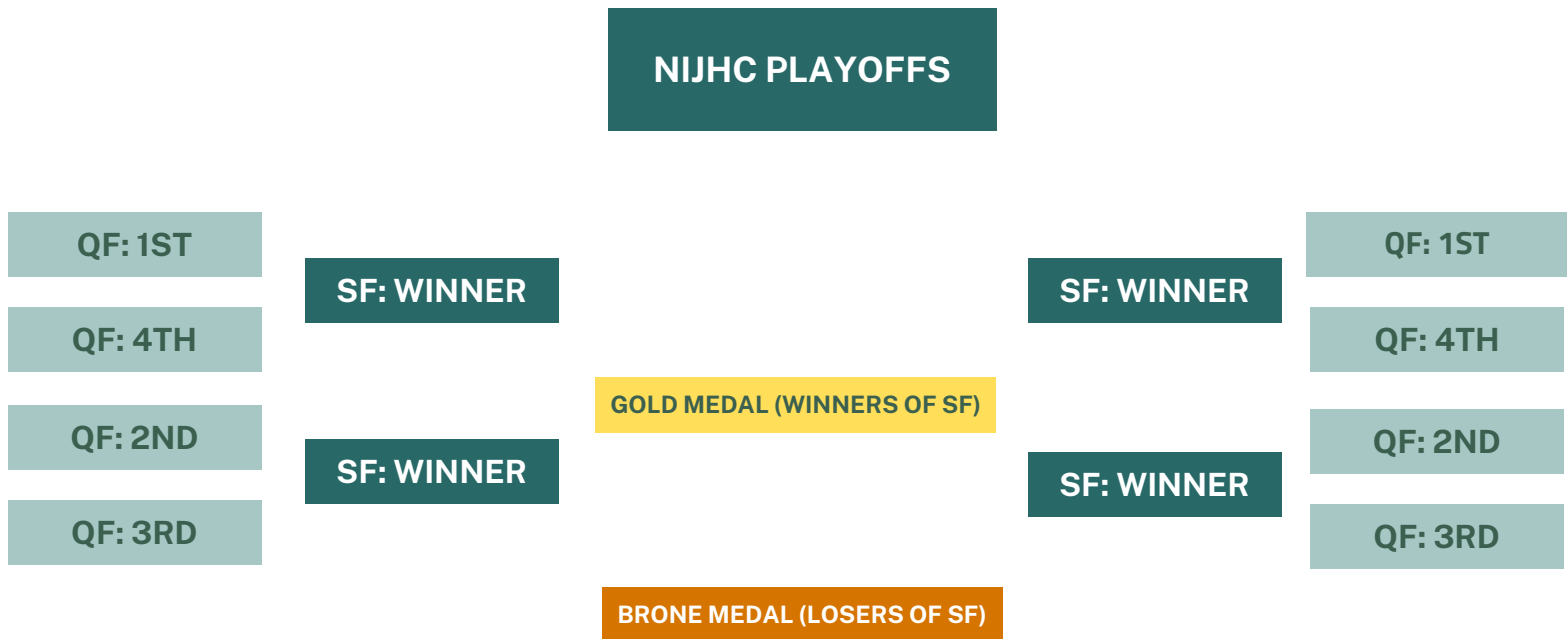
Note: The 2025 NIJHC game schedule will start on June 9, 2025, and end on June 12, 2025, with the Bronze and Gold Medal Games for both male and female divisions.

How: For the male division, they will have a pool of 10 teams, while top 8 advance to playoffs and the bottom 2 teams are eliminated. The playoff structure would be R1, and from there it will go to R2 and SF finals, winners advance to Gold medal game while losers will play for bronze.



NIJHC Playoffs

Female Division



Note: The 2025 NIJHC game schedule will start on June 9, 2025, and end on June 12, 2025, with the Bronze and Gold Medal Games for both male and female divisions.

How: For the female division, they will have a pool of 6 teams, while top 4 advance and the bottom 2 teams are eliminated. Playoff structure would be QF, and from there will go to SF, winners advances to Gold medal games while losers will play for bronze.

NIJHC Protocols

Important information:

- a) All teams must be in attendance for the NIJHC opening AND closing ceremonies.
- c) An opportunity will be provided for all teams to have a team photograph taken. This will occur at a pre-scheduled time and date as allocated by the NIJHC Committee.
- d) Any athlete that is under 18 will have to be accompanied by an adult chaperone (Team rep).
- e) All teams must stay at the host hotel(s).
- f) The NIJHC will not be responsible for injuries, or lost or stolen items. The NIJHC committee will have 1st Responders and Security available throughout the event.





June 9-13, 2025

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Important key date:

The preliminary round schedule will be posted by February 28, 2025, after the Team Registration deadline call out of January 24, 2025. Each team in both male and female divisions will guaranteed to play 4 games.



JUNE 9 and 10

First Day of the
Tournament with
round robin
games

JUNE 11

Playoffs

JUNE 12

Championships
day for Bronze
and Gold medal
games



Truth and Reconciliation

Calls to Action:

#66 Youth Programs

We call upon the federal government to establish multiyear funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.

#90 Sports and Reconciliation

We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:

- i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
- ii. An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
- iii. Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.
- iv. Anti-racism awareness and training programs.

Contact us for further inquiries

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