

Together As One UK Ice Hockey

Ice Hockey UK, England Ice Hockey and Scottish Ice Hockey

Introduction to Ice Hockey in the United Kingdom

- Ice hockey is played and enjoyed by more than 13,000 registered players across all age groups and levels throughout the UK.
- It is the most popular indoor sport in the UK, with an estimated fanbase of around 1.3 million people across the top two leagues and the Great Britain national teams, approximately 45% of whom are female.
- The UK has over 50 ice rinks nationwide, providing a network of permanent facilities that compares strongly with many other major sports.
- The game is supported by more than 350 referees and on-ice officials, alongside a significant number of off-ice officials, coaches and volunteers who help to deliver competition week in, week out.

Taken together, this scale and reach underline the importance of a single, modern and effective UK-wide governing structure that can safeguard the sport, support its volunteers and officials, and unlock further growth on and off the ice.

Together As One

For many years, the governance of UK ice hockey has been split across multiple bodies – IHUK, England Ice Hockey, Scottish Ice Hockey and the various leagues – each working hard but often working in parallel rather than in partnership. That fragmentation has limited our ability to speak with one voice, to share resources, and to build the kind of seamless pathway that our players, coaches, officials and fans deserve.

Over the past two seasons, that has begun to change. Under the leadership of the respective Chairs, and with the appointment of the sport's first dedicated Chief Executive Officer and Executive Team, IHUK, EIH and SIH have been actively exploring how to:

- align strategies and standards,
- pool expertise and resources, and
- create a single, modern framework capable of taking UK ice hockey to the next level, both domestically and on the international stage.

This work has been grounded in months of consultation and listening – with clubs, volunteers, players, officials, other IIHF member nations and key partners. Informed by that engagement, the Boards of IHUK, EIH and SIH have each unanimously agreed that the right next step is to bring the sport together under one unified national governing structure.

That shared ambition is captured in the phrase “**Together As One**”. The Together As One promise reflects a clear, collective commitment by IHUK, EIH and SIH to:

- Merge and modernise governance, so that decisions are made once, clearly and transparently, for the benefit of the whole UK game;
- Collaborate rather than compete, sharing people, knowledge and resources to grow participation, performance and profile in every home nation;
- Champion inclusion and equality, ensuring that all parts of the community – women and girls, para and rec, juniors and seniors, players, officials and volunteers – feel seen,

supported and valued; and

- Celebrate collective progress, recognising that success for any part of the sport is success for us all, and that we are stronger when we stand – and skate – together.

In simple terms, Together As One is about giving UK ice hockey the united voice, structure and ambition it needs to protect its foundations, unlock new opportunities and build a better future for everyone involved in the game.

Principles

Together As One, ice hockey in the UK will focus on five core principles. These will underpin the work of the unified Board, supported by Home Nation Advisory Groups, and will guide the day-to-day delivery of the Executive Team.

1. Professionalise to Perform

- A single, best-in-class operating model designed to serve the whole sport.
- Recruitment of several new roles to better support clubs, players, coaches, officials and volunteers.
- A united pathway and strategy from grassroots to elite across Men's, Women's and Para hockey.

2. Enhance the Experience

- Making it easier to join, play, coach, officiate and volunteer.
- Improved communication with members and practical initiatives to reduce costs where possible.
- Faster, clearer resolutions to queries, issues or concerns.

3. Member-Centricity

- Giving Members an amplified voice at Board level across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.
- Greater investment in progressive welfare, safety and assurance programmes.
- Securing greater levels of public funding and investment to be directed back into the sport.

4. Sustainability for Generations to Come

- Robust, transparent governance so everyone understands how decisions are made.
- More financial resources and smarter use of them to serve the sport sustainably.
- A deeper focus on breaking down barriers to entry – including cost, ice availability and equal opportunities.

5. Fully Recognise Potential

- Increased investment in the development pathway for young athletes and in our Olympic aspirations.
- The opportunity to grow the sport, innovate for Members and improve facilities.
- Elevating all levels of the game through responsible commercialisation that benefits the whole community.