

## **SCOTTISH HOCKEY – YOUTH COMPETITIONS CALENDAR 2023-24**

***TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SCOTTISH HOCKEY COMPETITIONS CALENDAR 2023-24.***

### **SUMMARY**

The Competitions Calendar provides a structured plan of activity for the season. It aims to meet the differing requirements of all Scottish Hockey affiliated Clubs, Schools, Districts, Performance Squads and individual players.

The Calendar includes all Men's/Women's National Leagues and Cups; National Youth Competitions; District Youth Competitions (where known); Performance/International key dates; and National/Brave Academy activity. Additional Performance activity will be added once known.

The programme of youth competitions is similar to last season but removing a couple of competitions based on feedback from clubs. Most dates are subject to venues being confirmed.

### **U18 National Club Cup**

- U18 Qualifying Tournaments at two venues (Girls & Boys) on 17 September
- Format and qualification will depend on how many teams enter
- Qualifiers will play in national finals on Friday 27 October (evening)
- Estimated entry fee: £60 per team

### **U16 National Club Cup**

- Teams will be split into pools who play each other (home or away) during the season
- If sufficient entries are received for U16 Girls there will be 2 tiers - Cup and Challenge Cup
- Fixed dates instead of 'play-by dates', but teams can rearrange if both are happy to change
- Dates selected to avoid clashes with Men's/Ladies'/Brave/National matches/training
- Girls play when Boys' Brave Academy is running and vice-versa
- Format and number of matches will depend on number of entries
- Qualifiers will play in national finals on Sunday 21 April (after Easter and before SQA exams).
- Estimated entry fee: £40 per team

### **U14 National Club Cup**

- Separate 11-a-side competitions for boys and girls
- Regional pools with teams playing home or away during the season (limited travel)
- Fixed dates instead of 'play-by dates', but teams can rearrange if both are happy to change
- Introduces 11-a-side matches for U14s three months into the season, after U16 cup games
- Number of matches will depend on entries
- Top teams in each pool qualify for national finals on 2 June
- There will be no U14 'Eights' National competition this season
- Estimated cost per team: £45

### **Schools Cup**

- No change to existing format – knock-out rounds, Plate competitions, etc.
- First round play-by date is 30 September
- Teams play 2 or 3 matches before Christmas to alleviate pressure in Jan/Feb
- Continue with Challenge Cup for Senior and Junior Girls
- Finals on Fridays (8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>) in March, with contingency date on 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Estimated entry fee: £70 per team

### **Senior Aspire Cup**

- Regional qualification events (North & South) in early November
- Top two from boys' and girls' events play at Schools finals on 15 March
- Estimated entry fee: £70 per team

### **Junior Aspire Tournaments**

- Regional 8-a-side boys' and girls' tournaments for U14s between November and March
- Teams will also be invited to national tournament in May/June 2024 (date tbc)

### **U18 Indoor Cup**

- Teams qualify from regional tournaments, run by Districts
- 4-6 teams in finals as there are no two-hall venues available
- Boys' and Girls' finals on the same day
- Open to clubs and schools
- Estimated entry fee: £150 per team (finalists only)

### **U15 Indoor Cup**

- Teams qualify from regional tournaments, run by Districts
- 4-6 teams in finals as there are no two-hall venues available
- Boys' and Girls' finals on the same day
- Open to clubs and schools
- Estimated entry fee: £150 per team (finalists only)

### **Inter-Districts**

- District competitions are currently under review

### **U12/U14/U16 Festivals**

- Some dates changed to avoid clash with other events
- National and Brave players excluded from Festivals (participation events)
- Held at venues around the country
- Entry fees will depend on number of entries
- U16 Boys Festival will no longer be run due to lack of entries in recent years

## **DISTRICT YOUTH COMPETITIONS**

This column on the calendar includes all known activity within Districts to help them plan youth competitions, e.g.

- Fortnightly U14 Leagues; regular Super Sixes and Fun Fours events
- Includes some school tournaments, where known
- Identifies possible windows for playing qualifiers for national events
- Club Festivals throughout the summer term, as usual.

## **NATIONAL TRAINING SQUADS & BRAVE ACADEMY**

- Programme to be confirmed but identifies likely dates for Performance Pathway activity
- Includes Monday evening training for Brave Academy
- International fixtures will be added once known.