



## JUNIOR HOCKEY STRATEGY PAPER 2015 TO 2020

***“Grow our game by building life time hockey connections through Clubs with support from Schools”***

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our current junior competitions structure reflects an environment where we are trying to balance growth in player numbers, significantly differing numbers of current girl and boy players, introducing the Small Sticks formats and inadequate playing facilities.

We need to have a Junior Hockey Strategy that is long term but also enables Canterbury Hockey to deliver the right outcomes in the short and medium term. The outcomes from the strategy will be delivered over the next five years and will only succeed from a collaborative and supportive relationship across our junior hockey community.

We have two different member types (Clubs and Schools) that must work together to achieve this strategy. Canterbury Hockey must work with the Clubs and Schools to have them achieve their individual needs within this strategy.

As we work on our long term outcomes, we want to be moving towards:

- Strong clubs capturing lifelong hockey players
- Strong schools enthused to introduce their pupils to hockey
- Strong club and school alignment
- Strong school competition
- Gender neutrality in all aspects of our competition

***Small Sticks is designed to attract children aged 4 to 13 into hockey and to foster a life-long love of the game***



*“Grow our game by building life-time hockey connections through Clubs with support from Schools”*

Objectives

- Promote player pathways through Clubs to retain them in the game for the long term
- To maximise the opportunities for junior players, umpires and coaches to participate in hockey
- To recognise the best interests of junior players and umpires.
- To fully implement the Small Sticks Programme.
- To encourage close cooperation between Clubs and Schools.

**1. Introduction**

In 2011 Canterbury Hockey adopted a wider policy of seeking to retain players in hockey by encouraging a player pathway by promoting strong player allegiances to Clubs. It is the reality that the Clubs are the only vehicle that can cater for the life of hockey players, coaches and umpires from Junior through to Masters. However it is also the reality that Schools have the huge opportunity to develop players, umpires and coaches for the period that attend the particular school.

We need to have a Junior Hockey Strategy that is able to provide the direction for the competitions and participation and development programmes offered by Canterbury Hockey. Our Strategy will need to be aligned to Hockey NZ, our National Sporting Organisation. Our Positioning Statement states we want to build life-time hockey connections through the many avenues of involvement possible. This can be by playing, by umpiring, by coaching or by administering. In this paper we are focusing on the playing aspect but will be looking at building pathways for the other areas of hockey involvement.

As we look at our Strategy we need to be aware of our historical evolution and our current environment. Our Strategy is long-term, aiming to take us through to 2020, so these influences may be something that only impacts our short-term operational planning. However they need to be considered in our discussions.

At the first Forum held in August 2015 there was general consensus from all attendees on the Strategy as described in the Executive Summary and the above Introduction. In discussion a number of points were identified and they were circulated in the Notes prepared following that meeting. In particular it was made clear there was no intention to remove Schools from the junior competitions in 2016.

In the second Forum held in November 2015 there was discussion and input on particular issues to assist in beginning the implementation of the Strategy. Canterbury Hockey (Staff and Junior Management Committee) will address the issues identified and outcomes required so that we achieve the overall goal of “Growing our game by building life-long hockey connections”.