

# **MEDIA GUIDE**



# **NZIIHL**

New Zealand Ice Hockey League

**2018**

## NZIHL TEAM MANAGERS



**WEST  
AUCKLAND  
ADMIRALS**

**Tim Ratcliffe**

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**BOTANY  
SWARM**

**Shawn Cormier**

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**SKYCITY  
STAMPEDE**

**Ross Burns**

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**CANTERBURY  
RED DEVILS**

**Graham Tappin**

✉ graham.tappin@cedra.co.nz



**DUNEDIN  
THUNDER**

**Sharon Darling**

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## THE FRONT OFFICE

**Paul Scott**

*General Manager*

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## MEDIA CONTACT

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*Director of Media and Communications*

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## WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.nzihl.com



Facebook: @nzihl



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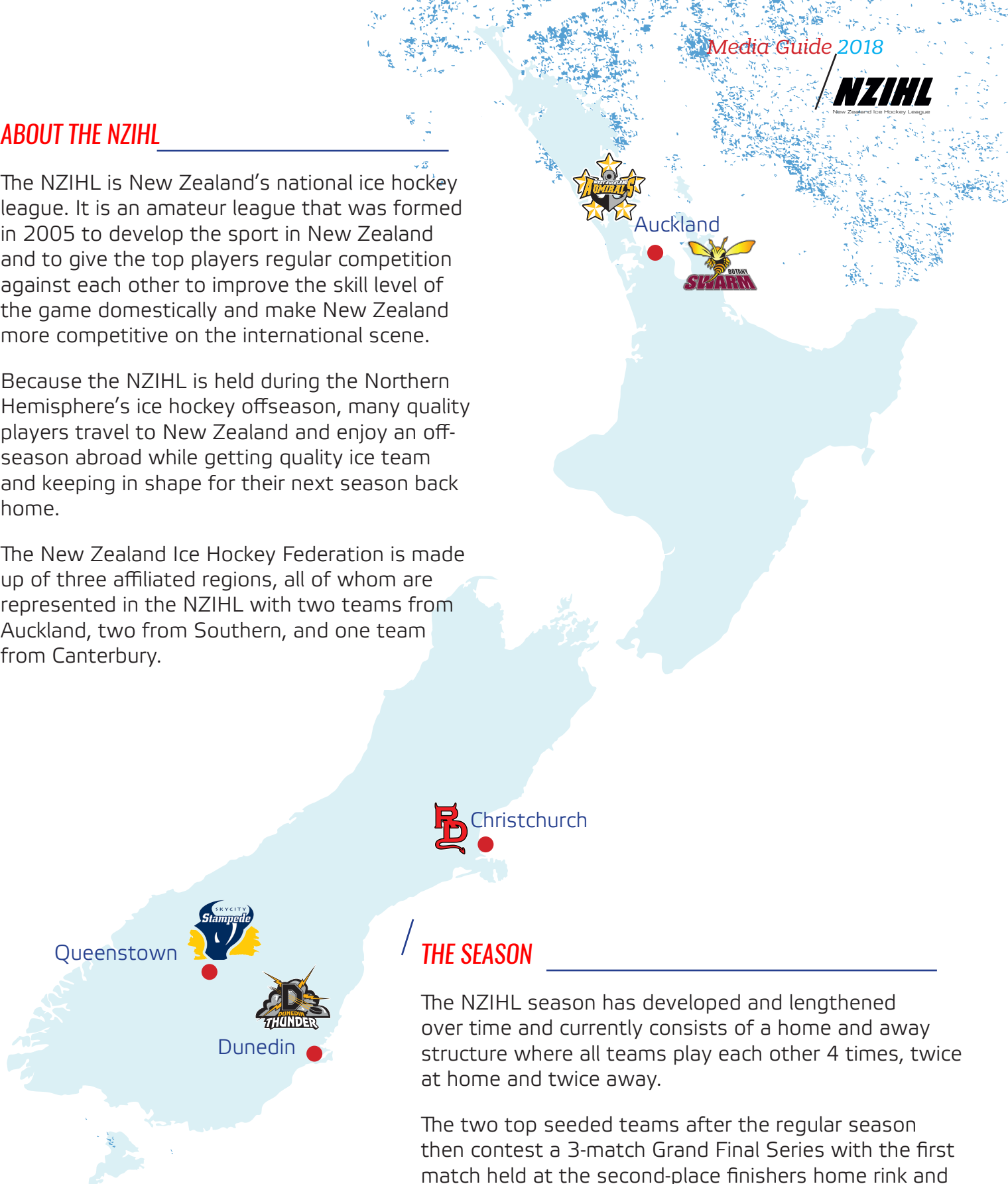
YouTube: www.youtube.com/nzihl

## ABOUT THE NZIHL

The NZIHL is New Zealand's national ice hockey league. It is an amateur league that was formed in 2005 to develop the sport in New Zealand and to give the top players regular competition against each other to improve the skill level of the game domestically and make New Zealand more competitive on the international scene.

Because the NZIHL is held during the Northern Hemisphere's ice hockey offseason, many quality players travel to New Zealand and enjoy an off-season abroad while getting quality ice team and keeping in shape for their next season back home.

The New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation is made up of three affiliated regions, all of whom are represented in the NZIHL with two teams from Auckland, two from Southern, and one team from Canterbury.



## THE SEASON

The NZIHL season has developed and lengthened over time and currently consists of a home and away structure where all teams play each other 4 times, twice at home and twice away.

The two top seeded teams after the regular season then contest a 3-match Grand Final Series with the first match held at the second-place finishers home rink and the remaining two matches held at the minor premiers home rink the following week.

Teams receive 3 points for an outright win, 2 points for an overtime win, 1 point for an overtime loss and no points for an outright loss.

## WHAT THE TEAMS PLAY FOR

For the 2005–2009 seasons, the teams contested the NZIHL Trophy – but from the 2010 season onwards they then contested a new trophy, the Birgel Cup.

The Toa Kauhanga Riri Tio challenge trophy was introduced in the 2012 season. The name translates to “champions of the ice battlefield” and the trophy is contested during the NZIHL regular season in the second home game of each series hosted by the current holder.



## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2018?

The second seed of the Birgel Cup Finals will be decided differently this year.

Instead of the team with the regular season's second best record going straight through to the championship series, they will now play a one-off semi-final on August 11 against the third-placed team to decide who will face the minor premiership winners, whom maintain home ice advantage.



# WEST AUCKLAND ADMIRALS



## ABOUT THE TEAM

The West Auckland Admirals are one of the original four NZIHL teams. In the franchises exciting thirteen season history the team have made three trips to the grand finals; once in the inaugural 2005 season, again in 2010 and most recently in 2017.

As the NZIHL has grown so has the Admirals family, always welcoming kiwi talent and keeping the young core that it began in 2005. The club is tight-knit believes in hard physical work to garner victories.

The club has always been based out of the Paradise Ice Arena in Avondale, Auckland which in itself has a proud 35+ years operating history. In early 2010 the Arena received a massive renovation which brought it to international standards and allowed the Admirals club to install their very own changing room (something not that common among NZ ice hockey clubs).

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**Manager:** Tim Ratcliffe

✉ [tim@ratcliffe.co.nz](mailto:tim@ratcliffe.co.nz)

**Assistant Manager:** Tim Ellis

✉ [tfellis@outlook.com](mailto:tfellis@outlook.com)

**Coach:** Csaba Kercso-Magos

✉ [csaba@camorrahockey.co.nz](mailto:csaba@camorrahockey.co.nz)

**Assistant Coach:** Rodney McMillin

✉ [topkiwinz@yahoo.com](mailto:topkiwinz@yahoo.com)

## ARENA INFO

Paradise Ice Skating Avondale is Auckland's longest running ice arena. Situated in Avondale, West Auckland it is an easy drive to the city centre as well as the amazing Waitakere ranges and Auckland's wild west coast beaches.

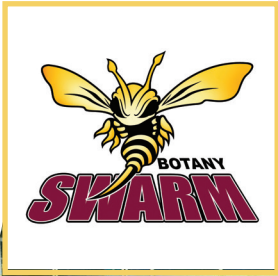
## NEW PLAYERS FOR 2018

Kevin Phillips (Guildford Flames, EIHL), Mike Verschuren (Eindhoven Kemphanen, BeNe Liga), Craig Peacock (Braehead Clan, EIHL).

## HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Admirals are one of four original NZIHL clubs and have made the finals on three occasions over the last thirteen seasons – 2005, 2010 and 2017.

The club has been at its most competitive over the last couple of seasons, regularly winning and defending the Toa Kauhanga Riri Tio (TKRT) trophy.



# BOTANY SWARM



## ABOUT THE TEAM

The team is based in Auckland, New Zealand and was founded in 2005 as the South Auckland Swarm. The name was changed to the Botany Swarm prior to the 2007 season as the name was similar to one of the other teams in the league. The team have always trained out of the Paradise Ice Arena in Botany, so the name change reflected the Auckland region in which the home rink is located.

The Botany Swarm team is made up of a tight, hard-working group of players, supported by an army of volunteers who eat, sleep and breathe the Swarm ethos — to be the best club in the New Zealand Ice Hockey League. As a result of this culture, The Botany Swarm have successfully won the coveted NZIHL Championship four times in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**General Manager:** Shawn Cormier ✉ [shawn@smarthomedesign.co.nz](mailto:shawn@smarthomedesign.co.nz)

**Coach:** Ian Wannamaker ✉ [ianwannamaker@hotmail.com](mailto:ianwannamaker@hotmail.com)

**Assistant Coach:** Travis Crickard

## ARENA INFO

The Botany Swarm have been based at the Paradise Ice Arena in Botany since their inception in 2005. The rink is located on the corner of Ti Rakau Road and Te Irirangi Drive in Botany. The local board area of Howick – in which the rink is situated, is ranked first in size out of the 21 local boards in Auckland and has a total of 3% of New Zealand's population. This makes it a large area to draw from.

## NEW PLAYERS FOR 2018

Colin Langham (USA), Lucas Bombardier (Knoxville Bears, SPHL), Declan Weir (Ireland/Canada), Harry Ferguson (Edinburgh Capitals, EIHL).

## HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Botany Swarm has a proven track record of success. They have won the NZIHL Championship a total of four times — 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011, and have placed third three times in the last 10 years.

The team's imported players have consistently been season top point scorers.

The team has built depth with squad members consistently representing New Zealand in the U18, U20 and Senior Men's team at International Ice Hockey Federation World Championships during a range of years.



# SKYCITY STAMPEDE



## ABOUT THE TEAM

The Skycity Stampede (formerly Southern Stampede) is one of the original NZIHL teams that have been competing in the NZIHL since 2005.

The team is based at the Queenstown Ice Arena and enjoys fantastic support from the Queenstown Ice Hockey Club and the wider community. Despite being a tourist town, the team has strong family values and enjoys good depth from our Kiwi contingent while also being a great destination for prospective imports to call Queenstown home.

The team had a name change in 2016 when SkyCity came on board as a major sponsor.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**General Manager:** Simon Glass ✉ [simon.glass@cookbrothers.co.nz](mailto:simon.glass@cookbrothers.co.nz)

**Team Manager:** Ross Burns ✉ [srcburns@xtra.co.nz](mailto:srcburns@xtra.co.nz)

**Head Coach:** Adam Blanchette ✉ [adamblanchette341@gmail.com](mailto:adamblanchette341@gmail.com)

## ARENA INFO

The team is based at the Queenstown Ice Arena, which is located on Park Street in the Queenstown Gardens.

## NEW PLAYERS FOR 2018

Stephen Johnston (Canada), Kory Helowka (Canada), Patrick Volpe (Canada).

## HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NZIHL Champions: 2005, 2006, 2015, 2016, 2017

Runner-up: 2009, 2011, 2012



# CANTERBURY RED DEVILS



## ABOUT THE TEAM

The Canterbury Red Devils is an ice hockey team based in Christchurch, New Zealand and are members of the New Zealand Ice Hockey League. Since their foundation in 2005 the team have won both the regular season title and the playoffs on four occasions with their most recent coming in the 2014 NZIHL season.

With our already strong contribution to NZ ice hockey, we as a team aim to be the best ever national league side as well as the stronghold for our national rep teams.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>General Manager:</b> Jake Lane	✉ <a href="mailto:jake2018rds@gmail.com">jake2018rds@gmail.com</a>
<b>Team Manager:</b> Graham Tappin	✉ <a href="mailto:graham.tappin@cedra.co.nz">graham.tappin@cedra.co.nz</a>
<b>League Coordinator:</b> Dave Fraser	✉ <a href="mailto:davefrsr@gmail.com">davefrsr@gmail.com</a>
<b>Assistant Manager:</b> Chris Egan	✉ <a href="mailto:chrisegan@xtra.co.nz">chrisegan@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Head Coach:</b> Anatoly Khorozov	✉ <a href="mailto:info@reddevils.co.nz">info@reddevils.co.nz</a>
<b>Assistant Coaches:</b> Anthony Liberatore and Noah Rees	

## ARENA INFO

Alpine Ice has been operating in Christchurch since April 1985 and has a loyal following, not only of ice sports enthusiasts but also staff – some of whom have been employed since Alpine Ice was formed. In fact, generations of families have skated and worked together at Alpine Ice.

## NEW PLAYERS FOR 2018

Ross Venus (Coventry Blaze, EIHL) Vladislav Balakun (Latvia), Sergei Piskunov (Latvia), Vsevolod Tolstushko (Ukraine), Jon Barakauskas (Dunedin).

## HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Red Devils were Champions in 2009, 2012, 2013, & 2014, and runner-up in 2007, 2008, & 2015.

Following their 2014 playoffs win the Red Devils became the first NZIHL club to claim three titles in a row.





# DUNEDIN THUNDER



## ABOUT THE TEAM

The Dunedin Thunder ice hockey team was created in 2008 in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Since September 2016 a new leadership culture has been setup to promote and prioritise the development of local players. The vision of the Dunedin Thunder as an organisation is to develop young leaders by teaching them the foundations of high performance. 90% of the Dunedin Thunder's players are students from Otago University based in Dunedin.

The Dunedin Thunder is run by a talented and dedicated team of 10 volunteers, sharing the same vision and values for the team.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**General Manager:** Alexis Robin ✉ alexisrobin@msn.com

**Team Manager:** Sharon Darling ✉ Sharon.Darling@contactenergy.co.nz

**Head Coach:** Travis Gibbons

**Assistant Coach:** Andreas Stenling

## ARENA INFO

Dunedin Ice Stadium  
 101 Victoria Road, St Kilda, Dunedin  
 (03) 456 4556

## NEW PLAYERS FOR 2018

Carl Bombardier (Canada), Brandon Egli (Canada), Charles Plaisir (Canada), Shaun Brown (Canterbury), Evan Froger (Auckland), Seamus Leahy (Dunedin), Gareth Lloyd (Queenstown).

## HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Established in 2008, this season is the 10th anniversary for the Thunder.

Grand Finalists 2013 & 2014

## **NZIHL MEDIA LIST**

Email [logan@nzihl.com](mailto:logan@nzihl.com) if you would like to subscribe to our media releases.

## **ACCREDITATION TO NZIHL GAMES**

New Zealand media can request accreditation to New Zealand Ice Hockey League games by emailing Logan Swinkels with at least 48 hours notice.

Excluded will be the 2018 New Zealand Winter Games and the 2018 Ice Hockey Classic — media accreditation for these events will be handled separately by their respective organisations.

## **ACCESS TO NZIHL TEAMS FOR NEWS**

If New Zealand media personnel would like to approach one of our teams, players, coaches or personnel for a news story, please contact the Team Manager for that respective team to arrange an interview time. Access to film trainings comes at the discretion of each team — you will be given sufficient time to film, however if coaching staff request media to stop filming then please do so until the all clear is given to resume.

For international news media, email your requests to Logan Swinkels.

## **ACCESS TO 2018 NZIHL GAME FOOTAGE**

The NZIHL will upload a highlight package of each game for the 2018 season to the official YouTube channel. TV media are welcome to download these clips for use in their bulletins, while online media are required to use YouTube's embedding functionality. In both instances, NZIHL must be credited. This service is being provided free of charge.

If media would like any additional footage, please email Logan Swinkels with your enquiry.

## **ACCESS TO NZIHL REPORTS**

Downloadable PDFs of official game sheets and team rosters will be available to download from the official NZIHL website.

