

ADOPT A PLAYER PROGRAM

Support Our National Team Players

Iron Swords War



ההתאחדות הישראלית להוקי קרח ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION of ISRAEL



13 January 2024

SUMMARY

Hatikvah—The Hope. In the face of the horrors we saw in Israel on October 7, 2023, and the escalating global trends of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiments ever since, it is crucial that we spread hope. We, the Israeli Ice Hockey Community, need help to do this. We are calling upon the support of the international Jewish community and Israel supporters in our battle against the shocking ban of Israel from all world championships in 2024 by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). The shameful decision, announced January 10, 2024, was made 12 days prior to puck drop of the U20 WC Division III, Group A, in Sofia, Bulgaria, leaving Israel 10 days to respond. The Ice Hockey Federation of Israel (IHFI) together with the Israel National Olympic Committee (NOC) reacted quickly and determinedly to overthrow the decision, using both legal and diplomatic efforts. Recent developments suggest there will be a solution allowing the U20 Israel National Team to participate in world championship beginning 22.1.2024 nine (!) days from the date this document was written. SUPPORT OUR PLAYERS – GET ISRAEL ON THE ICE.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hatikvah—The Hope. In the face of the horrors we saw in Israel on October 7, 2023, and the escalating global trends of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiments ever since, it is crucial that we spread hope. Since the beginning of the Iron Swords War, Jewish communities and Israel supporters around the world have combined forces with Israel, meeting the growing forces of evil in the world with a strong united front. We, the Israeli Ice Hockey Community, call upon your support once again in our battle against the ban of Israel by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).

The anti-Israel global effort we have stood against together had recent success after the IIHF's council's shocking decision to ban Israel from all world championships in 2024 for "security issues". The shameful decision, announced January 10, 2024, was made 12 days prior to puck drop of the U20 WC Division III, Group A, in Sofia, Bulgaria, leaving Israel 10 days to respond.

The Ice Hockey Federation of Israel (IHFI) together with the Israel National Olympic Committee (NOC) reacted quickly and determinately to overthrow the decision, battling the decision with both legal and diplomatic efforts. IHFI hired Adv. Dahlia Bushinsky, who is well known for her recent success in a case where she was able to prevent the ban of Israel in a Squash championship in Malaysia, to represent them in Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), located in Lausanne, Switzerland. Israel NOC have been leading diplomatic efforts, with official and unofficial efforts inside of Israel and with diplomats in the countries hosting the events.

The IIHF decision is not in line with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Charter and does not comply with a recent document sent by the IOC to International Federations (IF) which specifies the IF responsibility to assure when allocating host countries their world championships that the host provide assurances all teams will be able to participate according to their principle of non-discrimination.

Recent developments suggest there will be a solution allowing the U20 Israel National Team to participate in world championship beginning 22.1.2024, nine (!) days from the date this document was written. The U20 National Team, which finished 2nd in last year's championship, has been preparing on and off the ice to win the Gold Medal. Players and coaches are waiting on an official announcement by IHFI management to pack their gear.

Organizing the team to participate in the championship is a challenging and costly task drastically influenced by what we hope will be a last-minute decision that the team can participate. These include



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arranging travel for players playing in professional and semiprofessional leagues across Europe and North America, such as Mike Levin, Israeli top forward playing in the Ontario Hockey League, Yuval Turner, U20 National Team Captain, playing for the New Jersey 87s in the Eastern Hockey League, and Evgeny Kuzevnikov, U20 Head Coach, arriving to the championship from Germany.

Our ability to support our players financially has been additionally greatly reduced by the Israeli government's changing priorities in the national budget resulting in minimizing planned expenses that are not necessary for the war effort and the unexpected expense associated with our legal effort in CAS.

The goal of the Adopt a Player Program is to fully fund the expenses of participation of each national team player so all players have an equal opportunity to participate at no cost. More specifically, our short-term goal is that when we make the surprising and inspiring announcement to the players and parents of the players in the U20 national team they will attend their championship we can announce the Jewish and pro-Israel community around the world have fully supported their expenses. In essence, we will be communicating to them – WE GOT YOUR BACK. GO REPRESENT ISRAEL. BRING US A GOLD MEDAL.

2024 NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

The program serves 5 Teams

1. MEN NATIONAL TEAM:

The team is planned to participate the following World Championship (WC): Division II, Group A, SERBIA, Belgrade, 21 - 27 Apr 2024.

2. WOMEN NATIONAL TEAM:

The team is planned to participate in the following WC: Division III, Group B, ESTONIA, Kohtla-Jarve, 24 – 29 Mar 2024.

3. U20 NATIONAL TEAM:

The team is planned to participate the following WC: Division III, Group A, BULGARIA, Sofia, 22 - 28 Jan 2024.

4. U18 NATIONAL TEAM:

The team is planned to participate the following WC: Division II, Group B, SPAIN, Puigcerda, 17 - 23 Mar 2024.

5. U16 NATIONAL TEAM:

The team is planned to practice twice a month between December and April.

All national teams are planned to practice on a weekly basis prior to their WCs and to conduct a 3-5 day camp prior to their WC.

Additionally, U16, U18, U20 and Women's National Teams will participate as a team in Israel National Hockey League. This will allow them to play together as a team and prepare for their championship.



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FUNDRAISING GOALS

Our goal is to raise \$1,500 per player.

This amount will cover the entire expense of their participation in the program, including practice and camp costs, league fee, travel expenses, insurance, etc.

In order to support our U20 National Team players we must raise \$30,000 in 3 days.

A personal thank you package from a national team player, including a jersey and a thank you note will be sent to those who adopt a player by supporting the program with the amount of at least \$1,500. Any amount you feel comfortable with would be appreciated.

To support our program please click on the link bellow:

[ADOPT-A-PLAYER-PROGRAM](#)