



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, NJSIAA Executive Director

Date: October 12, 2021

RE: Girls Ice Hockey Proposal – Pilot Program

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**Background:**

NJSIAA has seen an increasing trend in the number of girls playing ice hockey – either with their school’s boys team or on a girls team. During the 2013-2014 season, approximately 200 girls played ice hockey. During the 2019-2020 season, there were over 400 girls playing ice hockey with 15 girls teams among NJSIAA member schools. It is anticipated that there will be a 16<sup>th</sup> girls ice hockey team playing during the upcoming 2021-2022 season.

**Proposal:**

I propose that NJSIAA host a two-year pilot program and sponsor a Girls Ice Hockey State Tournament during the 2021 – 2022 and 2022 – 2023 seasons. All teams will be eligible for the tournament and the teams will be seeded by a committee. We have been in communication with The Prudential Center to solicit one additional ice slot during our state championship games on Monday, March 7, 2022. However, if The Prudential Center is unable to provide one additional ice slot, then we will host the championship game at either Codey Arena or Mennen Arena.

The Finance Committee will review the estimated costs associated with this proposal.

During this two-year pilot program, all teams will follow the boys ice hockey regular season rules and regulations, specific to season dates, maximum number of games, etc., while all student-athletes will be required to meet all NJSIAA eligibility standards. In addition, during this two-year pilot program, girls will be permitted to participate on their boys team if they choose; however, they will not be permitted to participate on both the boys and girls team.