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Premier Hockey League (PHL) Set to start on the 2nd November: **COACH Announcement**

Hockey New Zealand (HNZ) is gearing up to launch the inaugural Premier Hockey League (PHL), Aotearoa's new elite domestic hockey competition. Starting on the 2nd November running through December 7th December, this elite-level competition will showcase top-tier talent across both men's and women's teams across four franchises over seven weekends.

We are now excited to unveil the coaches for the four PHL franchises: Falcons, Mavericks, Tridents, and Alpiners. These coaches have been selected for their extensive experience, exceptional skills, and their ability to inspire and lead their teams to success. Their appointment is a crucial step in shaping the league's inaugural season and ensuring a high standard of competition. They will play a crucial role in shaping the teams and the league.

"The Premier Hockey League will be a crucial component in our high-performance environment, particularly for coaching development. We've always had a wealth of coaching talent across New Zealand, but the PHL provides the challenging environment needed to push our coaches to new heights. Just as players need tough competition to grow, our coaches benefit from the intense, elite level contests the PHL will offer. This league fills a vital gap in our system, giving our top coaches, alongside players and officials, a sustained period of high performance competition. Watching our coaches match wits, adapt their tactics, and bring out the best in their teams under pressure is not just exciting it will elevate the standard of hockey coaching across the country. We are also very pleased to see female head coaches appointed to these roles from within the New Zealand coaching system". Darren Smith - High Performance Director

Franchises and Coaches:

Tridents

Men – Bryce Collins

Women – Emily Hurtz

Mavericks

Men – Brent Livermore (AUS)

Women – Danielle Cranston

Falcons

Men Co- Coaches, James Birkefield and Graeme Findlay

Women- Verity Sharland

Alpiners

Men – Aaron Ford

Women – Chris Leslie

Anthony Crummy CEO “We are thrilled to introduce the coaches of the new league, which not only celebrates the pinnacle of domestic hockey but also aims to unite our communities and build a legacy for the sport in New Zealand. Introducing these coaches is the first step in creating an electrifying environment that will resonate with fans across the country.

Stay tuned for more updates as we approach the start of the league. For more information about the new Premier Hockey League (PHL) including:

- **Team announcements:** 2nd October
- **Tickets Sales:** Available from 7th October

For more information or to follow along on social media go to the Premier Hockey League (PHL), visit:

<https://www.premierhockeyleague.co.nz/>

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