

# Springfield Invitational and Hat Trick Series Club/Team Selection Criteria

## Description

The “**Hat Trick**” series will consist of three Northeast Convention Center tournaments with an invitation-only “Power” division. For the 2023-24 season we will have at LEAST two of the three up and running: The Springfield Invitational (which will only have invited clubs/teams) and the North Atlantic Championships (which includes lower levels that any team can enter).

## Additional tournament info

- A. The Power division at each of these events is limited to 16 teams in five age groups: 14’s, 15’s, 16’s, 17’s and 18’s.
- B. Formats for the Power Division for each Hat Trick event will guarantee 5 matches for each 2-day event.

## Registration/Acceptance

Tournament registration/application for the Power Division for each event will open on July 15<sup>th</sup> via private registration link sent to those clubs who are eligible to register teams based on the Early Selection Criteria below.

- A. Clubs/teams offered a spot by “invitation” based on their club and/or team’s final ranking from the previous year will have until **September 15<sup>th</sup>** to register and pay the entry fee(s) to accept a spot in the “Power” division for each of the **Hat Trick** events. After September 15<sup>th</sup> the entry fee is non-refundable.
- B. Invited Clubs/Teams from the **Early Selection Criteria** below can enter one, two or all three **Hat Trick** events (may only be two in 2024), but spots are only “held” for these Clubs/Teams through September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- C. On September 15<sup>th</sup> registration will open to the public for teams to apply for acceptance for any remaining slots. Remaining slots in each division will be offered to teams beginning on October 1st to fill the remaining spots in each age group on a rolling basis by the Selection Committee until each division is filled.
  - a. The Selection Committee will consist of the Club Directors of the top 5 Clubs in the Final 2023 New England Region Club Rankings and a New England Region Board member assigned by the Commissioner.
- D. If a division fills a maximum of 5 teams deemed strong enough may be ranked and placed on a waitlist for each division by the Selection Committee.

## Selection Priority

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Priority: Top 6 clubs from NERVA Region Club Rankings (6 spots). Each club can enter their top team in each age group for each of the three events.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority: Up to 6 “Out of Region Clubs” Clubs from Canada, Garden Empire, Excelsior, Western Empire, Keystone, Chesapeake, or other regions as invited by the Selection Committee (6 Spots). Each club can enter their top team in each age group for each of the three events.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Priority: Top 4 teams from each of the previous season’s four younger age groups NOT invited already through the Club invites: 13’s teams from the 2023 Rankings for 14’s division, 14’s teams from the 2023 Rankings for 15’s division, 15’s teams from the 2023 Rankings for 16’s division, etc. (4 spots)
  - a. Examples of those teams who would be invited:
    - i. Club X has Team A Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the 2023 Rankings for 17’s Division that is already invited via their Club rank. Of the next ranked teams not already invited, Club X has an additional team(s) within that group. Club X would be invited to enter a team ONLY in the 18’s Division for any 2024 Hat Trick Series event.
    - ii. Club Y was not one of the clubs invited initially but has Team B of the next ranked teams in the 16’s division not already invited. Club Y would be invited to enter a team ONLY in the 17’s Division for any 2024 Hat Trick Series event.
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Priority: Teams invited by the Selection Committee who register between September 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>.