

# 2024-2025

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## ANNUAL REPORT



National Field Hockey Coaches Association

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## Executive Director's Message

NFHCA Community,

The 2024-2025 year was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together. As you turn the pages of this Annual Report, you'll see more than numbers and milestones—you'll see the story of a community committed to advancing our game and elevating the coaches who shape it.

Thanks to the unwavering support of our members, donors, and partners, the NFHCA expanded its reach and deepened its impact. We celebrated excellence through 25 awards and recognition programs, strengthened strategic alliances, launched new initiatives, and continued to invest in resources that equip coaches at every level. From mentorship and professional development to advocacy, our mission—to champion, strengthen, and celebrate coaches—remains our compass.

This report reflects the passion, resilience, and vision of our entire community.

Thank you for your commitment to the NFHCA and to the game we love. I am grateful for your engagement and confident in what we will continue to achieve.

With gratitude,  
*Cate Clark*

# ***OUR VISION***

Every field hockey coach looks to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association for the resources to grow in the game and the inspiration to stay in the game.

# ***OUR MISSION***

To champion, strengthen, and celebrate field hockey coaches and the game.

# ***OUR VALUES***

**Leadership** - Leaders are Educators. We deeply value knowledge that inspires growth.

**Collaboration** - Coaches for Coaches. We harness the brilliance of the community.

**Belonging** - Inclusion & Acceptance. We embrace diversity of identity, perspective, and experience.

**Celebration** - Recognize Greatness. We are the game's biggest fans and tell stories about greatness and grit.

**Stewardship** - Beyond Ourselves. We are ambassadors of the game and the association.

# ***OUR GOALS***

- 1 Expand Our Community** - Grow memberships. Grow partnerships. Grow alliances.
- 2 Promote Our Sport** - Improve the awareness, understanding, promotion, and visibility of field hockey.
- 3 Inspire Excellence** - Provide tools, resources, education, and development opportunities to inspire the potential of coaches and athletes.
- 4 Be the Voice** - Elevate pathways for inclusion and serve as the collective voice to governing bodies.
- 5 Optimize Organizational Effectiveness** - Mobilize and align NFHCA resources, services, and capacity.

[2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#)



# 2024-2025 BY THE NUMBERS



# OUR SPORT



**~30 million players  
worldwide\***



**60k+**

High school field  
hockey players

**6472**

Collegiate field  
hockey players\*\*

**283**

NCAA field hockey  
programs

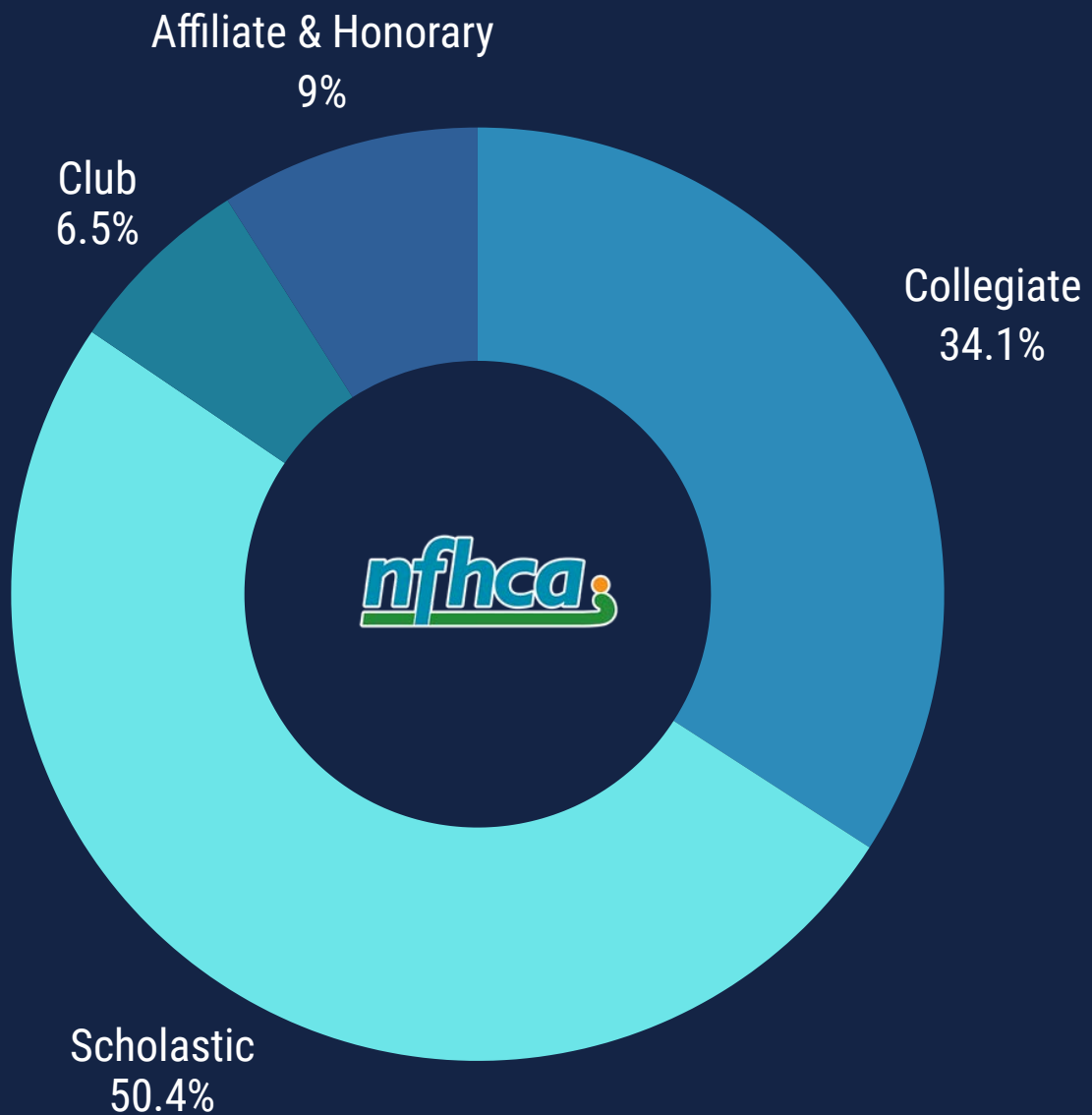
*\*Source: International Hockey Federation*

*\*\*Source: NCAA Participation by Sport Database 2024*

# ***OUR COMMUNITY***

## **MEMBERS**

**1632 MEMBERS STRONG**



**4.5%**

Increase in membership  
year-over-year

# ***OUR COMMUNITY***

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Carolyn King-Robitaille**

*President*



**Dani Kogut**

*VP Member Services*



**Annie Fowler**

*VP Sport Development*



**Georgia Holland**

*VP Finances*



**Cheryl Murtagh\***

*VP Finances*



**Lauren Cornthwaite**

*Club Representative*



**Renée Toliver**

*Scholastic Representative*



**Laura Gebhart**

*DI Representative*



**Jessica Spencer**

*DII Representative*



**Janelle Benner**

*DIII Representative*



**Tamara Durante**

*Asst. Coach Representative*

# ***OUR COMMUNITY***

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Courtney  
Deena**

*DEI Representative*



**Mimi  
Smith**

*Coaches of Color Council*



**Heather  
Lewis**

*Honorary Member*



**Sam  
Ekstrand**

*Legal Counsel*

*\*Denotes term of service ended during the 2024-2025 year*

## NFHCA TEAM



**Cate  
Clark**

*Executive Director*



**Chrissy  
Chappell**

*Awards & Member  
Services Director*



**Laurie  
Temple**

*Digital Communications  
Specialist*



**Catherine  
Wiese**

*Assistant Director*

*Staff through 2024-2025 fiscal year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025*

# OUR COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

We express our gratitude to the **234** dedicated NFHCA committee members who served in **347** committee seats, contributing their time and voice in advancing our mission. Their service and participation are truly appreciated.

## Standing Committee - Leadership

With 13 active Standing Committees, join us in sharing our gratitude for NFHCA committee members and their Chairs, listed below.

- **All-American** – Chip Rogers-DI, Marci Scheuing-DII, Janelle Benner-DIII, Renée Toliver-Scholastic
- **Awards** – Lauren Cornthwaite
- **Coaches of Color Council** – Mimi Smith
- **Bylaws** – Leslie Fry
- **Collegiate Senior Team** – Carrera Lucas-DI, Tara Zollinger-DII, Laura-Ann Lane- DIII
- **Convention** – Meredith Spencer-Blaetz, Taylor Dyer, Rayell Wallace
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** – Chip Rogers, Dani Castro
- **Hall of Fame** – Laura Gebhart
- **NCAA Legislation** – Georgia Holland, Jessica Spencer, Janelle Benner
- **Nominating** – Val Lohr, Jessica Weiss
- **Scholastic** - Renée Toliver
- **Sport Development** – Annie Fowler
- **Video Exchange & Technology** – Will Byrne

## Ad Hoc Committees & Task Forces

- **National Scheduler Task Force** - NFHCA Staff
- **Strategic Planning 2026-2029** - Carolyn King Robitaille & Cate Clark

# ***CELEBRATION***



**Celebration** is one of our core values. It is not just about winning - it's about recognizing the relentless pursuit of greatness, moments of brilliance, and stories of resilience that make this sport more than just a game.

We recognize greatness. We are the game's biggest fans. We celebrate not only the victories but the journey and unwavering passion.

We celebrate coaches, the ones who ignite the spark, and cultivate a love for the game, and who leave an indelible mark on the lives of their players.

# OUR COMMUNITY

## CELEBRATING COACHES



In January 2025, the 25th NFHCA Hall of Fame class was warmly welcomed into the prestigious ranks at a memorable ceremony held in Lake Mary, Florida. This distinguished class included **Paula Doughty**, **Sandy Miller** and **Susan Pusey**. Additionally, **Heather Lewis** was recognized and commemorated with the esteemed NFHCA Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Paula Doughty**, Skowhegan High School (ME)  
*629 win record since 1974*  
*27 Eastern/Northern Maine Titles and 20 State Titles*



**Sandy Miller**, East Stroudsburg University (PA)  
*514-292-11 record across 41 seasons*  
*4 PSAC Titles and 2 NCAA Natty Champs*



**Susan Pusey**, Pocomoke High School (MD)  
*334-53-4 record across 34 years*  
*22 Regional Titles and 16 State Championship Titles*



**Heather Lewis**, Seneca Valley School District, Bucknell University, USA Field Hockey, Springbrook High School  
*Respected and dedicated coach, voice, mentor, umpire, and leader in field hockey and athletics*

# ***OUR COMMUNITY***

## **CELEBRATING COACHES**

### **Victory Club**

#### **200 WINS**

Josette Babineau, University of Maine  
Cindy Dutt, Penn-Trafford High School  
Brooke Good, Messiah University  
Heidi Hand, Winnacunnet High School  
Julie Lajoie, Mt. Blue High School  
Eleanor, Mitchell Sacred Heart Academy  
Jennifer Schwarzenbek, Summit High School

#### **300 WINS**

Alix Barrale, Williams College  
Shellie Onstead, University of California, Berkeley  
Nanette Simone, Rondout Valley High School  
Diane Toth, Ethical Culture Fieldston School  
Andy Whitcomb, Mount Holyoke College  
Denise Zelenak, Drexel University

#### **400 WINS**

Debra McMullen, East Greenwich High School  
Terri Simonetti Frost, Thomas Worthington  
Wendy Wilson, Tabb High School  
Shelly Zaleneraitis, Quabbin Regional High School

#### **500 WINS**

Sandi Miller, East Stroudsburg University

#### **600 WINS**

Karen Funk, Marathon High School

# ***OUR COMMUNITY*** CELEBRATING COACHES

## **Collegiate Coaching Staffs of the Year**

### **Division I**

Mid-Atlantic Region - Saint Joseph's University

Mideast Region - University of Connecticut

Northeast Region - University of Massachusetts, Amherst

South Region - University of North Carolina

West Region & National Winner - **Northwestern University**

### **Division II**

Atlantic Region (Co-Winner) - Kutztown University

Atlantic Region (Co-Winner) - Shippensburg University

East Region & National Winner - **Saint Anselm College**

### **Division III**

Region I - Babson College

Region II & National Winner - **Tufts University**

Region III - SUNY Cortland

Region IV - Marywood University (Co-Winner)

Region IV - Rowan University (Co-Winner)

Region V - Johns Hopkins University

Region VI - Salisbury University



# ***OUR COMMUNITY***

## CELEBRATING COACHES

### **Club Coaching Staff of the Year**

**Pinnacle Field Hockey** in Michigan, led by current owner Keely Tamer and an outstanding team of coaches including Nancy Cox, Kristi Gannon, Tamara Durante, Corey Block, Taryn Damm, Abbey Burnett, Emmy Tran, Claudia Keen, Kelsey Chun, Kate Brondyk, and Andrea Shaner, was honored as the inaugural NFHCA Club Coaching Staff of the Year. Since its inception in 2009, Pinnacle has focused on growing the sport of field hockey in Michigan, fostering inclusivity, and developing athletes who embody compassion, communication, courage, and confidence.

#### **Pinnacle's Impact:**

- **Expanding Accessibility:** Free clinics in underrepresented areas of Michigan to introduce and expand access to the sport.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Working to establish a high-quality turf field at the Legacy Center in Brighton, MI, through Great Lakes Regional Field Hockey.
- **Leadership and Development:** Leads Michigan's chapter of US Field Hockey, while mentoring collegiate coaches.
- **Coaching Clinics:** Facilitates virtual coaching clinics through Great Lakes Regional Field Hockey to enhance coaching skills across the state.

Pinnacle's success is reflected not only in its performance but also in its lasting legacy of empowering young athletes. The club has consistently contributed players to NCAA Division I, II, and III programs, with 99% of these athletes graduating from their collegiate careers. Notably, Abby Tamer, an Olympic athlete and Pinnacle alumna, became the first Michigan player to represent the state in Field Hockey at the Olympics.



# **OUR COMMUNITY**

## CELEBRATING COACHES

### **Junior Hockey Award**

Shelley Pieklik, Mt. Lebanon Field Hockey Association

Jamie Pollock & Brandy Michael - Lower Dauphin Youth Field Hockey and PA Revolution Field Hockey Club

### **Coaching Impact Award**

Nancy McHale, Spirit of USA Club and Camden Catholic High School (New Jersey)

### **Under 30 Coaching Award (NEW!)**

Rachel Beam, Head Coach, The Taft School (Connecticut)

Breanna Page, Head Coach, Yarmouth High School (Maine)

### **President's Service Award**

Will Byrne, Assistant Coach, Northwestern University

Annie Fowler, Head Coach, Vassar College (*Honorable Mention*)



# OUR COMMUNITY CELEBRATING PLAYERS

DI

**Maddie Zimmer**  
Northwestern

DII

**Jady van Gils**  
East Stroudsburg

DIII

**Amy Griffin**  
Middlebury

**National Players of the Year**

**136**

Collegiate Senior Team

**550**

All-Region

**176**

All-American



**9**

Players of the Month

**64**

Players of the Week

**857**

Watchlist

# OUR COMMUNITY

## CELEBRATING UMPIRES

Nearly **100 teams** at all levels participated in the second annual **NFHCA Umpire Appreciation Week** where umpires were honored before and after games the last week of September 2024, with special pre-game announcements and gifts. [#umpireweekfh](#) was used on social media to bring awareness to umpires across the nation.



# INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

## COACHING EDUCATION



**126** coaches attended one of five clinics offered from July 2024 through June 2025 across five regional locations. An additional **300+** coaches attended the Ready2Coach sessions hosted at the 2025 NFHCA Annual Convention.

**537** attendees engaged in virtual professional development programming offered over 15 hours of online sessions.

## COACHES CORNER



**18** new Campfire mentoring groups assembled in March 2025 with **99** mentor and mentee participants.

The second **Aspire Coaches Academy**, launched in March 2025, and sponsored by ZAG Tours, welcomed **19** assistant collegiate coaches for a nine-month program focused on professional growth and leadership development. Through virtual labs with content experts, participants refined and enhanced their coaching and leadership skills. .



# ***INSPIRING EXCELLENCE*** COACHING EDUCATION

## **The Redwood Grant**

The NFHCA **Redwood Grant**, designed to empower entrepreneurial field hockey coaches, supported three coaches this past year through their aspirational endeavors.

### **Recipients**

- **Lydia Smeltz** – PA Revs All Starz: expanding inclusion for athletes with disabilities
- **Julie Munson** – 603 Coaching, LLC: advancing mental performance training
- **Harriette Reynoso** – Lakewood, NJ: launching a new field hockey club

### **Mentors**

- Marci Scheuing (Kutztown)
- Erik Enters (Neumann)
- Liz Tchou (USA Field Hockey)

Support provided included \$3,000 in funding to each recipient, a waived 2025 Annual Convention registration, and nine months of mentorship.



# ***INSPIRING EXCELLENCE***

## ANNUAL CONVENTION



**340 members and 25** exhibitors attended the January 2025 Convention in Lake Mary, Florida.



**108** club teams and **over 1600 athletes** competed at the 2025 Winter Escape Showcase, with **over 200** college coaches in attendance during the three-day event in Sanford, Florida. PSE did a fantastic job of executing this successful showcase event.



# ***INSPIRING EXCELLENCE*** COACHING EDUCATION

## **Zag Olympic Tour**



In July 2024, 28 NFHCA member high school and college coaches joined the Zag Olympic Tour, an unforgettable week in Holland, Belgium, and France. The experience blended live Olympic events, international coaching sessions, cultural immersion, and community service.

Highlights included technical training at HC Schiedam, canal clean-up with the local community, and visits to historic sites like the Anne Frank House. Coaches also had the chance to witness Olympic competition firsthand, creating powerful moments of pride and inspiration.

Two coaches, Allison Fordyce (Susquehanna University) and Lauren Scorza (St. John Fisher University), received scholarships, sponsored by Zag Sports Tours and the NFHCA, which covered the tour experience registration fee.

Beyond professional development, the trip fostered collaboration, idea sharing, and personal growth. Coaches returned home with stronger connections and life-changing experiences. As one participant shared, it was truly “the trip of a lifetime.”



# INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

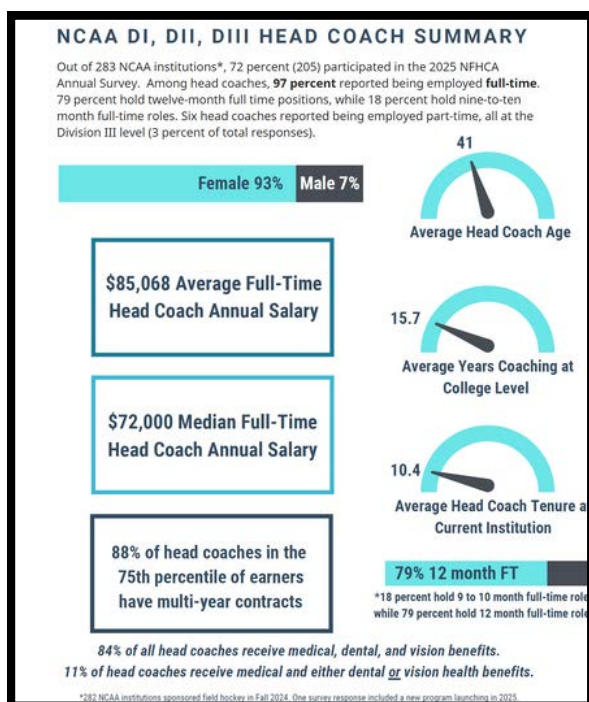
## TOOLS & RESOURCES



The seventh edition of the **NFHCA Drill Booklet**, sponsored by Penn Monto, was published in August. A special thanks to all the member coaches who contributed their drills! The **Drill of the Week** series was also shared weekly via email during the fall season.

**172** Jobs Posted  
**58,615** web page views

**nfhca**  
**JOB BOARD**



The seventh edition of the **NFHCA Annual Salary Survey Report** was published in March 2025 for each division. Based on the data provided, average head coach salaries across divisions continued to increase year-over-year. The stats pictured here reflect average and median data across all three divisions.

# OUR VOICE

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

In 2024–25, the NFHCA advanced DEI efforts through education, programming, and community outreach:

- At the 2025 Annual Convention, coaches engaged in sessions on '**Understanding Obstacles in Inclusion for LGBTQ+ People in Sports**' with Dr. Anna Baeth and '**Growing the Game for Athletes of All Abilities**' with Able Athletics. Maggie Kutz—the first female NCAA athlete with an intellectual disability—shared her inspiring story alongside members of Able Athletics.
- In March, NFHCA sponsor ZAG Sports Tours funded a **Magic All-Starz adaptive clinic** in Kentucky, hosted by the Louisville Magic. With leadership from Erin McCrudden and Melissa Ponzio, athletes of all abilities learned and played, each leaving with a starter stick and ball. The event fostered joy, movement, and community connection.



# OUR VOICE

## BRAND & REACH

Promoting the awareness and visibility of our sport, expanding our NFHCA community, and serving as an ambassador of our coaching community with all governing bodies and external stakeholders continue to be key strategic initiatives for the NFHCA. The aim to amplify content and storytelling that helps our sport expand its footprint and visibility was brought to life through the Field Hockey Forward project, NFHCA Plays of the Week, the National Coaches Polls, and the plethora of NFHCA awards and recognition programs.



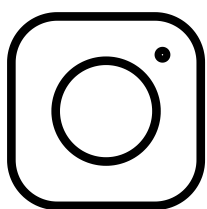
**2024 NFHCA Coaches Poll**  
150,198 web page views



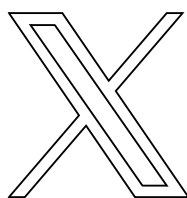
# OUR VOICE

## BRAND & REACH

In the digital world we live in, progress with our association's visibility and brand reputation can be measured through digital reach. The NFHCA expanded its reach on social media in 2024-2025, increasing across all major platforms during the year. Instagram tallied the most growth in followers with **22 percent** year over-year.



**12,120 followers**  
+22% year over-year



**7,669 followers**  
+2% year-over-year



**2,613 followers**  
+5% year-over-year



**484 hours watched**  
13.1k views  
NFHCA YouTube



# COLLABORATION

## STRATEGIC ALLIANCES



Launched through the NFHCA–USA Field Hockey Strategic Alliance in 2022, the Field Hockey Forward initiative advanced in 2024–25, with a strong focus on expanding and sustaining Division II and III programs. The field hockey community celebrated the launch of **D’Youville** (NY - Division II) and **Penn State Harrisburg’s** (PA - Division III) programs in the fall of 2024.

Advisory Committees in both divisions guided outreach and sustainability efforts, leading to direct engagement with schools and conferences. This work produced concrete results:

- **New Division II programs:** Barton College (NC) in 2025 and Dominican University (NY) in 2026.
- **New Division III programs:** Alfred University (NY, 2025), University of Hartford (CT, 2025), UMass Boston (MA, 2026), and John Carroll University (OH, 2026).

To support growth, the NFHCA published the **College Administrator’s Guide** in spring 2024, providing practical resources for institutions exploring the addition of field hockey. Four quarterly digital newsletters also reached more than 1,800 NCAA athletic leaders, keeping the sport visible and top of mind nationwide.

The initiative emphasized sustainability this past year, supporting new and at-risk programs with mentorship and resources. A virtual Campfire Mentoring Group now connects coaches launching new programs, creating peer support from the beginning.

Looking ahead, an **Operations Playbook** is in development that will include a practical operational guide for newer coaches and programs—set to launch in late 2025.

Advocacy also played a critical role. In September 2024, NFHCA Executive Director Cate Clark, alongside former USWNT and Olympic Coach Pam Hixon and USA Field Hockey Foundation’s Executive Director, Pam Stuper, met with legislators to address the implications of lawsuits such as House vs. NCAA and Johnson vs. NCAA. The group, joined by Olympic sport associations and government relations partners, advocated for national NIL legislation that protects Olympic sports and preserves opportunities for student-athletes competing outside of football and basketball.

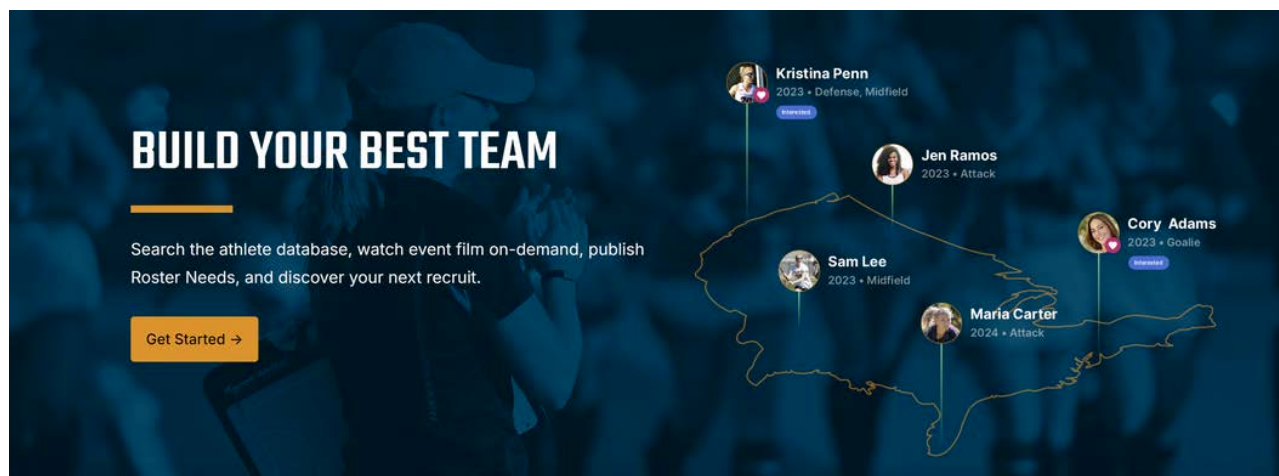
# COLLABORATION STRATEGIC ALLIANCES



The NFHCARecruits partnership with SportsRecruits continues to drive impactful results, enhancing recruitment opportunities for field hockey athletes. Over the past year, the NFHCA Winter Escape Showcase saw **165 collegiate coaches** from 127 programs generate **7,301 evaluations** of 1,118 unique athletes. 109 coaches accessed the film of 854 prospects from the 2025 Winter Escape event.

From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, NFHCARecruits tracked nearly 13,000 evaluations across three events. This partnership remains a helpful tool in connecting athletes with collegiate programs.

In addition, NFHCARecruits gave the Scholastic All-Region and All-American Committees direct access to nominated players' film.



# COLLABORATION

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



**Andy Whitcomb**, Head Coach at Mount Holyoke College and manager of the Richard & Barbara Whitcomb Foundation has made a profound impact on the NFHCA community with a remarkably **generous gift of \$9,000**. This donation is dedicated to funding Annual Convention scholarships for assistant collegiate coaches, ensuring that more emerging leaders in the field hockey community have the opportunity to advance their careers and connect with their peers at the annual gathering. This marks the third consecutive year of a gift over \$7,500 provided by the Richard & Barbara Whitcomb Foundation.

“

*I feel extremely lucky that I am able to give back to a profession that has given so much to me. I, too, was once that assistant coach who had to fund one's way to the convention, and there were other times early in my career that it was cost-prohibitive and prevented me from attending.*

**- Andy Whitcomb**



**Karren Mann**, former Assistant Coach/Goalkeeper Coach at Lynchburg University and current volunteer Goalkeeper Coach at Sweet Briar College, contributed her third annual gift of \$3,000, which she plans to continue through 2033. This generous gesture helps to fund the NFHCA Collegiate Senior Team recognition and awards program.



**Chrissy Summers**, coach, founder of Beyond Sticks, and former NFHCA Board member, contributed a \$3,000 gift to the NFHCA Redwood Grant initiative. Summers launched the Redwood Grant in 2022 and has since contributed over \$10,000 to the NFHCA.

# COLLABORATION

## DONORS

The generosity of donors is critical to fueling our future. Donations provide professional development opportunities to our members and a platform for our coaches to connect, engage, and grow. We are grateful for the 2024-2025 donors and anonymous donors whose gifts provide a brighter future for coaches and the NFHCA.

### President's Circle - >\$7500

**Andy Whitcomb - Richard & Barbara Whitcomb Foundation**

### Visionary - \$2500 - \$7499

**Karen Mann**

**Chrissy Summers**

### Changemakers - \$1000-\$2499

**Aby Deverka**

**Mary McCracken**

### Advocates - \$300-\$999

**April Abello**

**Bonny Brown-Denico**

**Tracey Fuchs**

**Margaret McConnell**

**Chip Rogers**

### Friends - \$50-\$299

**Zoe Almquist**

**Pam Arpe**

**Lisa Cellucci**

**Chrissy Chappell**

**Lauren Cornthwaite**

**Katharine DeLorenzo**

**Laura Gebhart**

**Kelly Harchetts**

**Laura-Ann Lane**

**Kelsi Lykens**

**Diane Madl**

**Becca Main**

**Brooke Marshall**

**Jarred Martin**

**Sandy Miller**

**Amanda Misselhorn**

**Julie Munson**

**Kathleen Parker**

**Hannah Prince**

**Sophie Riskie**

**Julie Ryan**

**Cheryl Silva**

**Justine Sowry**

**Pam Stuper**



# COLLABORATION

## PARTNERS & SPONSORS

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and partners whose support fuels our mission. Their investment makes it possible to deliver recognition, professional development, resources, and a national network for field hockey coaches across the U.S.

### Official Partners

**SportsRecruits**

**AstroTurf®**



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### Official Sponsors



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### Proud Supporters

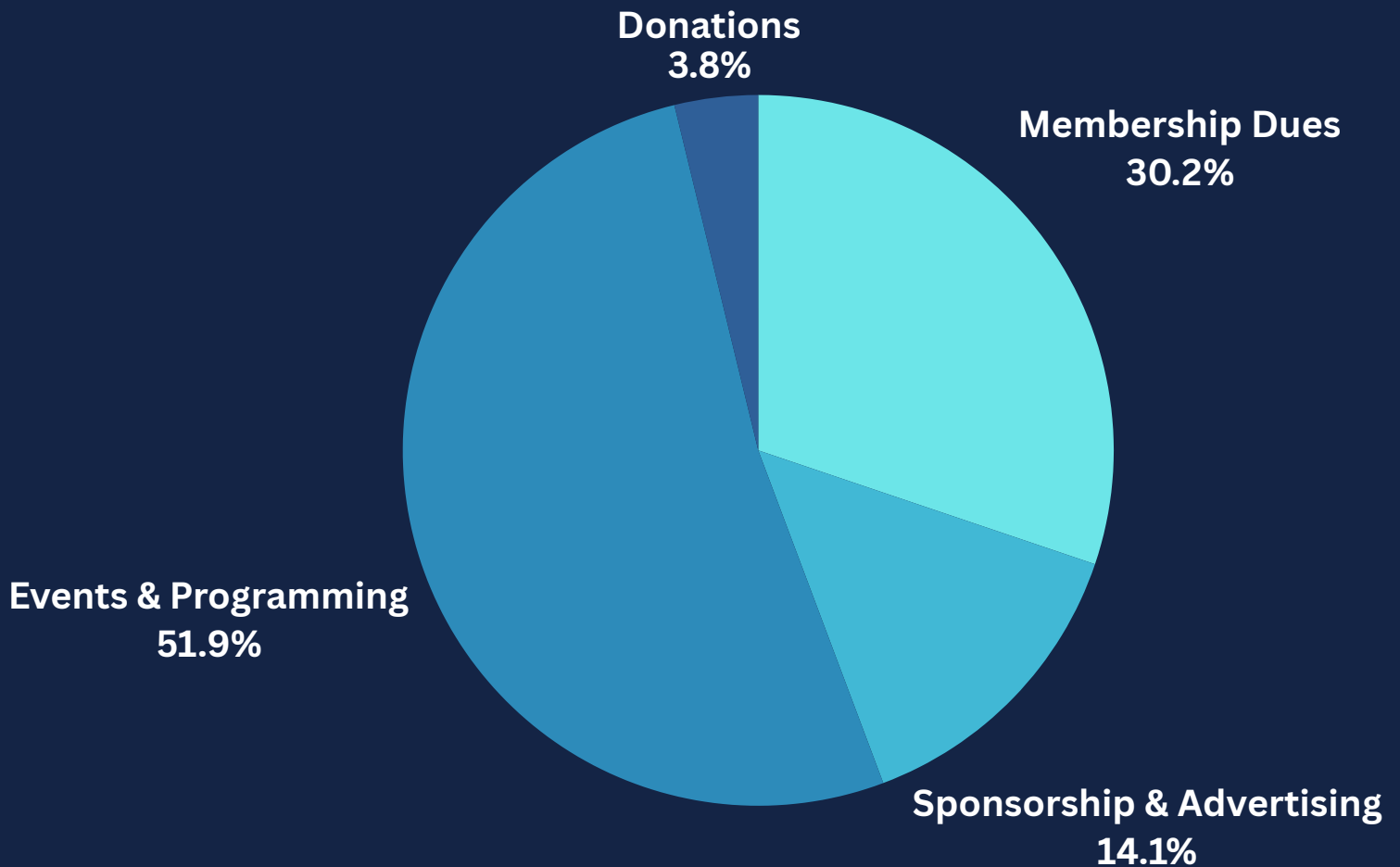


# **FINANCIAL**

## REVENUE

*\* The 2024-2025 Annual Report covers the NFHCA fiscal year, which began July 1, 2024 and ended June 30, 2025.*

**Total Revenue: \$629,011**

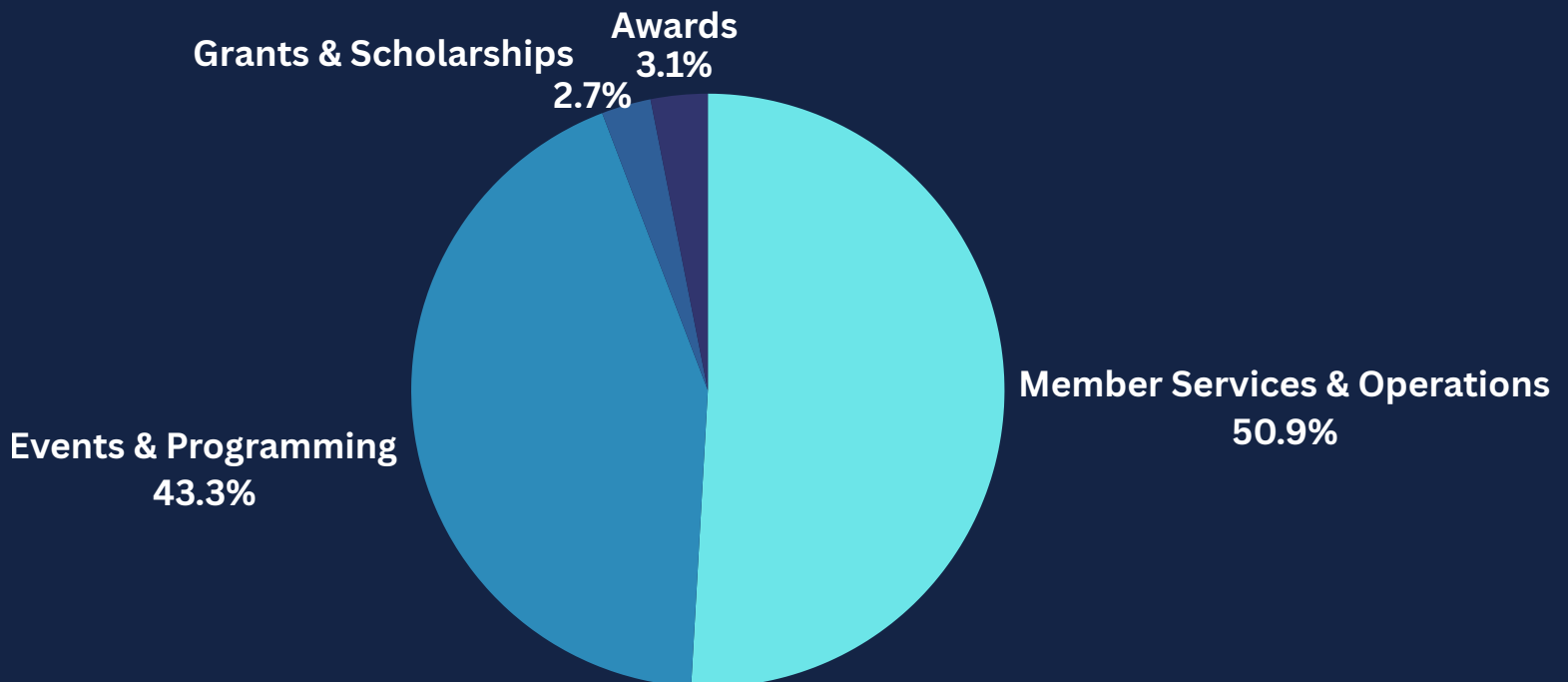


**2024-2025 Net Revenue: \$31,240**

# FINANCIAL EXPENSES

*\* The 2024-2025 Annual Report covers the NFHCA fiscal year, which began July 1, 2024 and ended June 30, 2025.*

**Total Expenses: \$597,771**



**2024-2025 Net Revenue: \$31,240**



2024-25 CONFERENCE  
**CHAMPIONS**  
GNAC



Field Hockey  
Champion  
2024

GREAT NORTHEAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
**CHAMPIONS**  
2024  2025



National Field Hockey Coaches Association

[nfhca.org](http://nfhca.org)