

TAKING THE ICE IN 2021

(From Rivier Today, Fall 2020)

It's official. Men's and women's ice hockey will join the University's roster of athletic teams in fall 2021, expanding to 15 intercollegiate teams.

At a live campus event, University leadership spoke to the benefits of bringing ice hockey to Rivier in support of Rivier's mission and growth, a vibrant campus life, and as a point of pride and community engagement for the city of Nashua.



Pictured above (L to R): Vice President for Student Affairs Kurt Stimeling, Board of Trustees Chair Brad Kreick, Rivier Raider, Director of Athletics Joanne Merrill, and Rivier President Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM.

Building momentum



“With the launch of men’s and women’s ice hockey programs, the University continues to demonstrate its deep commitment to college athletics and student success,” says **Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM**. “Recruitment of athletes for these teams will add to recent momentum generated through the expansion of our athletics and academic facilities, launch of in-demand academic majors, and addition of early admission incentives.”

Through the Vision 2020 strategic plan, the University recently enhanced athletics facilities through the construction of the Linda Robinson Athletics Pavilion, the build-out of a softball venue, and the naming of Joanne Merrill Field. The facilities support both Raiders Athletics and community events. These projects are matched with the completion of the Science and Innovation Center and the introduction of new, in-demand degree programs in Health Science, Sport Management, Homeland and International Security, and Cybersecurity Management.

Learning and leadership

Student recruitment and the search for head coaches for the men's and women's teams began in October. The University is seeking candidates that embrace a holistic approach to coaching and mentoring student-athletes.

"We're looking for hockey coaches who share our deep belief in the value of Division III athletics, which prioritizes student-athletes as students first who develop skills for learning and leadership," shares **Joanne Merrill**, Rivier's Director of Athletics. "Rivier athletes receive an exceptional education enhanced by Division III competition in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC), teamwork, and opportunities through the University's Employment Promise Program."

Bringing hockey to the Gate City

While expanding the University's athletics offerings, the launch of ice hockey will also add collegiate-level competition to the city of Nashua.

"The addition of hockey is great news for local high school players who want to compete at the University level without leaving the state of New Hampshire," says **Brad Kreick**, Chair of Rivier's Board of Trustees and a former Division I ice hockey player. "Bringing college ice hockey to Nashua is a win for both the University and the city. We look forward to our inaugural teams taking the ice in 2021."

Conway Arena in Nashua will serve as the Raiders' home ice. The University intends to apply for membership in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) and will transition to NCAA Division III status in 2022. ■

Recruit for Riv



Do you know a high school hockey player interested in competing at the college level? Encourage your student to contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (603) 897-8507 or admissions@rivier.edu for more information on our ice hockey programs and applying to the University.