



PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Luxembourg form 1st ever Women's ice hockey National Team, will compete in 2022 IIHF Women's Development Cup**

- **Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Colombia, Andorra, Ireland and Luxembourg compete in 7-day tournament**
- **All games held at Kuwait Winter Games Club**
- **Match schedule to be determined**

The Fédération Luxembourgeoise de Hockey sur Glace (FLHG) is pleased to announce that from Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> until Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 the newly-formed Luxembourg Women's National Ice Hockey Team will travel to Kuwait City to compete in the 1<sup>st</sup> ever IIHF-sanctioned Women's Development Cup.

The Development Cup was established in 2017 for IIHF members unable to compete in the worldwide governing body's world championships because they don't meet some of the organization's regulations, such as having a regulation-size ice rink in-country. While Luxembourg do meet the criteria to compete in the Men's senior and Under 18 World Championships, there are not yet enough registered Women players with Luxembourgish nationality. The Development Cup allows Luxembourg to begin international competition with the support of a few non-Luxembourg nationals. The long-term goal is to attract enough Luxembourgish female athletes to join ice hockey and therefore progress to competing in the IIHF Women's World Championships.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynUBoVTH7MM&t=12s>

### **Background of Team Luxembourg**

Ice Hockey in Luxembourg has seen a popularity boom in recent years. At club level the country only had 2 senior teams for many years, these were Tornado Luxembourg and Ice Hockey Club Beaufort. As the sport grew, so too did the number of registered players. As of March 2022, there are 7 active senior club teams. Tornado, Puckers, Cool Puckers, Silverbacks (*born from a beginner program*), **Tornado Women (the 1<sup>st</sup> all-women's team in Luxembourg)**, the rebranded Beaufort Knights and Beaufort Knights II. Throughout the 2021/22 season these 7 were joined by the junior club of Luxembourg City, the Huskies, to compete against each other in the first ever Luxembourg Hockey League (LHL). This new league was divided into 2 divisions to ensure fair competition as some teams feature experienced players and others consisted of beginners who have only recently learned how to skate. Division 2 featured Beaufort Knights II, Cool Puckers, Huskies, Silverbacks and Tornado Women.

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