

IHF MNA DEVELOPER EDUCATION 24-25



Iran Ice Hockey Association NEWSLETTER

HOPE, PEACE, EQUALITY...
WE LIVE THE DREAM OF THE FUTURE!



Iran Ice Hockey now has three “IIHF MNA Developers”

Kaveh **SEDGHI**, President of the Iran Ice Hockey Association, and Arman **BAHRI**, Head of Youth Ice Hockey Development, have successfully completed the 2024–2025 edition of the IIHF MNA Developers Program. This prestigious international course was organized by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) in collaboration with the Vierumäki Sport Institute in Finland and Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences.

Designed to empower IIHF member national associations, the program enables participants to leverage academic knowledge and international experience to design and implement tailored development plans for their home countries. As their final projects, SEDGHI submitted a national ice hockey development plan for Iran, while BAHRI's focused on national youth ice hockey development. Both projects were successfully approved. This marks a continued presence for Iran in the IIHF's development initiatives. Last year, Omid GHARACHORLOU, IIHA sport director and Secretary General, completed the program with a focus on developing ice hockey infrastructure in Iran.

Looking ahead, Farzad **HOUSHIDARI** Iran Women National Team Head Coach (focusing on coach development) and Oveis **HASSANZADEH**, Iran National Teams' Manager (focusing on event development) will represent Iran in the upcoming 2025–2026 program.



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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

12 August, 2024





1

Editor's DESK

The Sporting Spirit

S

kating Beyond Boundaries: Iran's Ice Hockey **Dream Meets the World**

In the vast arena of global sports, boundaries are often drawn by geography, tradition, or resources. Yet, true passion knows no borders. Ice hockey in Iran is a shining example of this universal truth. From the heart of a nation more known for its deserts and mountains than for frozen rinks, a new generation of players is rewriting what is possible.

Every stride on the ice by an Iranian player is not just a display of skill — it is a declaration that determination can carve rinks in the most unexpected places. The growing presence of Iran in the IIHF community proves that when talent, vision, and resilience meet, no challenge is too great.

This month, as our teams prepare for the road ahead, we are reminded that Iran's story is not only about competition; it is about connection. When our young men and women skate alongside athletes from every corner of the world, they become ambassadors of hope, unity, and cultural exchange. They show that hockey is more than a game — it is a bridge.

Just as the Persian carpet is woven with countless threads to create one masterpiece, the future of Iranian hockey is being woven through the collective efforts of players, coaches, families, and international friends who believe in the same dream.

Even if the ice melts, the spirit of our players and community will remain strong. Together, we skate beyond boundaries.



In Search of

A Bright Future!





2

Iran Hockey NEWS

- Workshops
- Events
- Education Programs
- National Teams
- Recruitment

September: A Month of Growth, Innovation, and Historic Firsts for Iranian Ice Hockey!

August was a landmark month for Iranian ice hockey, defined by remarkable progress on and off the ice. From youth development to international collaboration, the sport continued to expand its reach and impact across the country.

The new U18 Women's Youth League kicked off with thrilling games, introducing a draft system and authentic Persian team names—both historic firsts for the league. At the same time, the association hosted pivotal talent identification camps for both boys (U12–U14) and girls (U12–U14), laying the foundation for the next generation of stars.

Iranian players gained valuable international experience, with three athletes joining the Russian U17 national team in training at the prestigious Novogorsk camp. Meanwhile, the U18 women's national team intensified its preparation for the 2026 World Championship through on-ice practices, tactical workshops, and innovative off-ice training sessions, including padel workouts and psychology seminars.

Beyond the rink, a new off-ice training complex in Gilan Province marked the first step in Iran's national hockey development plan—an achievement that underscores the sport's sustainable future. Coaches and players alike emphasized the urgent need for greater infrastructure, reflecting the community's passion and determination to elevate Iranian hockey.

Together, these milestones highlight August as a turning point: a month where Iranian ice hockey strengthened its foundation, embraced innovation, and looked confidently toward a brighter international future.



Iran Ice Hockey Association Hosts Pivotal Talent Camp for Young Players

TEHHRAN – The Iran Ice Hockey Association successfully hosted a talent identification camp for male players aged 12 to 14, a key event aimed at finding the next generation of Iranian hockey stars. Held on Friday, August 1, at the Ice Box Iran Mall ice rink, the camp drew 35 promising young athletes, including 31 players and four goalkeepers.

The day-long event was a rigorous showcase of skill and potential. Participants first engaged in physical conditioning drills under the guidance of coach Ali Salehi before taking to the ice for skating skills tests supervised by Mahmoud Nikpour.

The young players then unleashed their offensive abilities, demonstrating their stick handling and shooting prowess during drills led by coaches Mohammad Amin Korei and Negar Arjmand. To ensure a well-rounded understanding of the sport, all attendees participated in a session on refereeing rules taught by Milad Amini. Goaltenders received specialized training, with coach Soheil Khalaj focusing on advanced techniques and fundamentals for the four netminders.

The camp was a crucial step in the association's long-term development strategy. The standout performers identified during this event will be invited to participate in upcoming development programs, helping to build a strong foundation for the future of Iranian ice hockey.







Women's Youth Ice Hockey League Returns with Thrilling Opening Match

TEHHRAN – The second edition of the U18 Women's Youth Ice Hockey League kicked off with a burst of excitement, as Simorgh clinched a narrow 2-1 victory over Homa in the opening match on Friday, August 1. The game, held at the Ice Box Iran Mall rink, drew an enthusiastic crowd of fans and supporters.

Melika Mahabadi and Avin Tarverdizadeh scored for Team Simorgh, coached by Hadiseh Pourhashemi, while Baran Jadidi netted the lone goal for Team Homa, led by coach Elham Modir Dehghan. The highly-anticipated match was officiated by referees Atiyeh Sharifian, Atiyeh Rezaei, and Hooria Gharibi, with Haleh Malekmadani serving as the official scorekeeper.

This season, featuring four teams – Simorgh, Homa, Sepandar, and Tondar – is set to deliver thirty games filled with action. A significant new feature for the league is the implementation of a "draft" or leveling system, a format widely used in top international hockey nations to ensure balanced teams and increase competitive excitement. This marks a pivotal step in the league's development. Furthermore, in a historic first, the teams have been given names rooted in authentic Persian culture.



Kish Island Hosts Exciting Friendly Match, Pushing Hockey's Boundaries

KISH ISLAND – A thrilling friendly ice hockey match was held on Kish Island, a beautiful island in the Persian Gulf, as the ice hockey teams of Kish and Tehran faced off in front of a captivated crowd. The event, which took place at the island's ice rink, was attended by a great number of enthusiasts and supporters of the sport.

The game was a powerful display of skill and competitive spirit, and it underscored the growing popularity of ice hockey across different regions of the country. Players from both teams showcased their abilities in what was more than just a match—it was a pivotal moment for the sport's growth in the region. The friendly contest marked an important step in promoting ice hockey and attracting new fans and players on Kish Island.









Iran Women's National Team Takes Ice Hockey Training to the Padel Court

TEHHRAN – In a move to diversify their regimen and maintain peak physical condition, the Iran Women's National Ice Hockey Team recently held a unique training session. The players incorporated new exercises at the Next Level Padel club at Iran Mall, aiming to introduce variety, boost morale, and enhance their fitness levels.

The off-ice workout, a break from their typical on-ice drills, focused on building agility, coordination, and stamina in a fresh environment. This creative approach to training, which has become common among professional sports teams, kept the players engaged and energized. The session was a testament to the team's commitment to finding innovative ways to stay prepared and focused on their goals.





U18 Women's National Team Holds Rules Workshop for World Championship Preparation

TEHHRAN – The Iran U18 Women's National Team, currently in a training camp to prepare for the 2026 World Championship in Thailand, took a deep dive into the sport's regulations by holding its first-ever refereeing workshop.

All players in the camp attended the session, which was taught by instructor Atiyeh REZAEI, Iran International Referee. The workshop familiarized the players with the latest International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) rules. Key topics covered included detailed information about rink and offside rules. This initiative underscored the team's commitment to a comprehensive approach to training, recognizing that a thorough understanding of the game's regulations is as vital as physical skill.



Sogol JAVADIAN Represents Iran at International Hockey

Forum in Seoul, Korea

SEOUL – Sogol JAVADIAN represented Iran at the prestigious "2025 Hockey Together" international program, which brought together coaches, mentors, and ice hockey activists from more than 25 countries in Seoul, South Korea.

The participants trained at an ice rink that hosted events for both the 2018 senior and 2024 Youth Winter Olympics. The program focused on a blend of theoretical learning and practical, intensive on-ice training. It aimed to transfer technical and tactical knowledge, introduce new coaching formats, and enhance coaching standards through the expertise of international coaches, including Jay Varady of the Philadelphia Flyers and Sam Kim of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The course also emphasized Player Development across various age groups, particularly for U15 and U18 divisions, as well as beginners (U10). Furthermore, it worked to build cross-cultural trust and establish an international network for exchanging experiences and promoting hockey in countries with limited infrastructure. Sogol's participation, alongside other coaches and hockey professionals, marked a significant step in enhancing knowledge and fostering international collaboration for the sport in Iran.

This was not the first time Iranian coaches participated in the program, as national team coaches Azam SANAIEI and Farzad HOUSHIDARI also completed the course and received their certifications last year.







Coach ESMAEILI Discussed Team Iran's Historic Journey to the 2026 World Championship

TEHHRAN – Fatemeh ESMAEILI, head coach of the Iran U18 Women's National Ice Hockey Team, shared details on the squad's preparations for their historic debut at the 2026 World Championship in Thailand. She acknowledged the significant challenges ahead, noting that their opponents were vastly superior in terms of experience and technical skill. "We have a tough road ahead because the teams we will play are at a high level both in terms of experience and technique," Fatemeh said. "This is the first time our girls are going to be sent to such a competition. "The team's training camp began on July 23, with 42 players working hard to secure their spots on the final roster. "We hope we can send a very cohesive and unified team to these competitions," she added.

With the tournament scheduled for January, the team had several months to prepare. Esmaeili explained that the players were gaining crucial experience by competing in the youth league, which helped them challenge themselves and prepare for high-level games. "The players are in the youth league now, playing and challenging themselves. This helps us a lot and gives the players more game experience, allowing them to test their abilities."

"The coach highlighted the dedication of her team, noting that they trained twice a week with a focus on both physical conditioning and on-ice drills. She expressed hope for a positive outcome, emphasizing that success in this tournament would pave the way for future generations of Iranian hockey players. "This is our girls' first experience in these competitions," Esmaeili concluded. "We hope to achieve a very good result even in this first appearance. The players are very motivated, and I hope our path is smooth so we can return from these competitions with great results".





Talent Abounds at Iran's First Youth Hockey Camp for U14 Women



TEHHRAN – The first training camp for girls aged 12 to 14 in the new year drew 51 young players from across Iran. The camp, which was held on Friday, August 8, at the Ice Box Iran Mall ice rink, brought together both ice and inline hockey athletes for a day of intensive training.

The event kicked off at 7:45 AM with a physical conditioning session led by Roya DEHGHANI. The participants then took to the ice for drills and exercises, which were conducted by coaches Hadiseh POURHASHEMI and Abbas DEHGHANI.

In addition to the on-ice training, the camp included specialized sessions for various positions and skills. The seven attending goalkeepers received dedicated coaching from Reza POURHASHEMI, while Laleh SHEYKHZADEH, a figure skating coach, led the players in power-skating exercises. The camp also featured a workshop on the latest refereeing rules, which was taught by instructor Hooria GHARIBI.



National Team Player Urges Officials to Invest in Iranian Ice Hockey

TEHHRAN – Abbas DEGHANI, Iran national ice hockey team player, recently spoke out in an interview with Borna News Agency, urging officials to provide more support for the sport's rapid growth in Iran.

DEGHANI said he began his professional career in inline skating back in 2005 before seriously entering the world of ice hockey in 2017. In the years since, he earned a number of honors, most notably a silver medal at the Division IV World Championships in Kyrgyzstan.

In the interview, he emphasized that the current facilities and resources were insufficient for the players and called on officials to take serious steps to address these issues. DEGHANI described ice hockey as a burgeoning but expanding sport in Iran, one that needed more support now than ever. He noted that the infrastructure, especially the number of ice rinks, was severely limited, even as the number of enthusiasts and players continued to grow each year.

The national team player also spoke about the talent identification camps that were held for all age groups, stating that while they attracted many new, promising young athletes, continued progress required greater motivation and special attention from officials.





Coach MOGHADDASI Hopes Growth Trend Continues for Iranian Hockey

TEHHRAN – Farshad MOGHADDASI, the assistant coach of the men's senior national ice hockey team, expressed his optimism for the sport's future in Iran, citing a major collaboration with Russia as a key factor in its recent growth.

MOGHADDASI stated that a significant development for Iranian ice hockey was the start of a partnership with Russia, which he called a "very important and major event" due to Russia's status as a powerhouse in the sport. "Using the experience and coaches of Russia greatly helped our sport," he said. He added that a large number of Iranian players participated in training camps in Russia. "A few of our coaches also gained experience alongside them, and we used Russian coaches in our camps as well, which helped the growth of our culture and our players."

Farshad confirmed that a contract was signed between the two nations to ensure the continuation of this cooperation, with the goal of securing a bright future for the sport. He also noted that competing in various tournaments, including the Islamic Countries Games, provided excellent experience for the athletes. He expressed his hope that this positive momentum would continue.

Iranian Hockey's Future Depends on Support

TEHHRAN – Mahbod ABDOLLAHI, Iran men's national ice hockey team player, stated that while the sport was new to Iran, it had the potential to become one of the country's top disciplines. He emphasized that its development hinged on more support and better infrastructure.

Mahbod said he had been playing ice hockey for four years, having transitioned from a professional inline skating career. His international journey began with a tournament in Dubai, followed by competitions in Kyrgyzstan and Armenia. He proudly noted that the team secured a silver medal at the World Championships in Kyrgyzstan, which helped them advance in the global rankings.

ABDOLLAHI, who is also a physical education student and coaches specialized skating, pointed to the lack of infrastructure as a major obstacle. He highlighted a shortage of ice rinks and necessary equipment, problems he was currently experiencing while in the national team's camp. He appealed to sports managers, the Ministry of Sport, and the National Olympic Committee to provide standard ice rinks to foster the growth of the sport.

The player believes that with proper planning, ice hockey—a popular sport in countries like the United States, Canada, and Russia—could secure a special place in Iran's athletic landscape. He also encouraged young boys and girls to start playing the sport at a young age to take advantage of its growing appeal.



National Team Goalie MAHDAVI Calls for More Rinks to Boost Sport's Growth

TEHHRAN – Alireza MAHDAVI, goalkeeper for the Iranian national ice hockey team, called for the immediate development of more standard ice rinks across the country. He argued that the new facilities were urgently needed to ensure players from Tehran and other cities had adequate access to training. MAHDAVI said he had been involved in ice hockey for five years, following a career as a goalkeeper for the national inline hockey team. He expressed his pleasure at being able to share his experiences with the country's younger generation of hockey players.

Progress and Preparation

The goalkeeper spoke about the upcoming international competitions for the U20 and U18 national teams. He explained that all efforts were focused on ensuring the players were fully prepared to achieve respectable results. Despite the fact that ice hockey in Iran had a history of less than five years of having a standard rink, MAHDAVI highlighted the significant progress the sport had made. He credited the Ice Hockey Association, the Federation, and the tireless efforts of Kaveh SEDGHI, Mr. HOOSHYARI, and Ms. SANAEI for this advancement. MAHDAVI also discussed his role as a coach for the U10 and U10-12 age groups. He said he worked to ensure these young players learned fundamental skills, such as skating, passing, and shooting, in a standardized way so they would not face difficulties at higher levels. He emphasized that these age groups were crucial for the growth and development of the sport's future in Iran.

An Urgent Appeal for Infrastructure

While Alireza was grateful to supporters like Kaveh SEDGHI, the Ice Hockey Association, and the Iran Mall complex for providing free use of their standard rink for all national teams, he also noted the facility was at full capacity. This, he said, underscored the urgent need for more standard ice rinks to be built in Iran to support the growing number of young players and ensure a bright future for the sport.

Women's Youth Hockey Team Mixes Up Training with Padel Session

TEHHRAN – The Iran Women's U18 National Team held a unique training session at the Next Level Padel club at Iran Mall. The session aimed to add variety to the team's regimen while boosting morale and bringing the players closer together.

The off-ice practice served as a refreshing change of pace from their regular training. By incorporating the new sport, the team focused on improving their fitness in a fun environment, which enhanced both their physical conditioning and their team chemistry.











Life ENERGY DRINK

Sparkling Water Lime

250ml

Drink Without Limits

Sparkling Water Classic

R8

Zero Sugar

Drink Without Limits

250ml

ICEBOX
IRAN MALL

رویا تو آست



Young Star NAGHELI Calls for Increased Investment in Iranian Ice Hockey

TEHHRAN – Soheil NAGHELI, a 17-year-old national ice hockey player, said the sport could achieve far better results in Iran if it received more support from officials. Soheil, who has been playing for about five years, is currently on the Zeytinburnu Istanbul team in Turkey and competes in the U18, U20, and senior categories. In an interview, NAGHELI noted that he believed international camps were crucial for young players to gain experience and become familiar with different playing styles. He said his personal goal was to continue his progress and gain experience to contribute to the sport's growth in Iran.

Infrastructure and Support Are Crucial

NAGHELI emphasized that ice hockey was a very specialized sport and that Iran lacked many of the necessary facilities, including ice rinks in many cities. He stressed that infrastructure was vital, and without it, players could not train properly. "Support from officials is low," he said. "But if we are supported, we will get better results."

"According to NAGHELI, Iran has many talented players, but their progress was being hindered by the lack of facilities. He also said that bringing inline hockey players to the ice would lead to better days for the sport. He acknowledged that while players had a great deal of motivation, the lack of facilities prevented them from achieving the results they truly deserved.

Soheil KHALAJ Points to Infrastructure as Key to Continued Development

TEHHRAN Soheil KHALAJ, a national ice hockey team goalkeeper and assistant coach for the Women U18 team, said that Iranian ice hockey had made remarkable progress over the past five years.

He credited this significant advancement to the efforts of the Ice Hockey Association and the passion of the athletes and enthusiasts of the sport.

Soheil noted that there was a high level of interest in the sport in Iran, but he believed that the only thing missing was a greater number of ice rinks in Tehran and across the country. He said this infrastructure was crucial for achieving better results in the future. He also emphasized the importance of international competitions in the sport's development.

Drawing on his own experience, KHALAJ explained that he was currently a goalkeeper for the senior national team and an assistant coach for the U18 team. He believed that given the high level of interest, having good rinks was of great importance. He recalled his time with a club in Canada, where he saw multiple good rinks in every neighborhood, which underscored the infrastructure gap in Iran.





Asal SADEGHI Discusses Need for Financial Support, Better Infrastructure

TEHHRAN – Asal SADEGHI, Iran Women national ice hockey player, said that despite the sport being relatively new in Iran, its athletes had already achieved significant results in international competitions. However, she emphasized that more attention to infrastructure and financial support was crucial for future success.

Asal added that for Iranian hockey to thrive on the world stage, it needed a greater focus on building standard infrastructure and providing better financial backing. She said that sponsors played a vital role in the future of the players and that when athletes were relieved of financial pressure, they could dedicate themselves to their sport with greater ease.

The national team player concluded that if the sport received more visibility, it would lead to greater development and would help to discover more talented individuals.

Association Officials and Parents Discuss Future of U18 Women's Hockey

TEHHRAN - Officials from the Iran Ice Hockey Association held a coordination meeting with the parents of the U18 girls' team players on Wednesday, August 13, at Iran Mall. The session, which aimed to address the challenges and concerns of the families, was attended by a number of key figures, including Association President Kaveh SEDGHI, Team Manager Omid GHARACHORLOU, and Coach Fatemeh ESMAEILI.

The meeting began with President SEDGHI providing a report on the association's future plans and goals. Following his presentation, the parents raised their own concerns and suggestions on various issues, including financial support, training schedules, and team facilities. The officials, including SEDGHI, responded to the families' questions and anxieties, emphasizing the importance of greater interaction with parents to improve the team's overall situation.

In a significant outcome of the session, it was decided that a parent representative, as well as an economic representative, would be selected to follow up on the team's financial and support issues, ensuring continuous communication with the association.





Training, Tactics, and Psychology: U18 Women's Team Prepares for the Championship

TEHHRAN – The Iran U18 Women's National Ice Hockey Team continued its intensive preparation for the upcoming Youth World Championship in Thailand with a full day of training and strategic meetings. The team held a morning practice session at the Ice Box ice rink, focusing on executing the detailed plan laid out by the coaching staff.

Following the on-ice workout, the coaching staff and the players gathered for their third coordination meeting. The session, attended by all team members, served as an opportunity to review tactics and discuss strategies for the international competition.

In a significant step toward a comprehensive approach to preparation, the team held its first psychology session. Led by Ms. HAJIABOLGHASEMI, the meeting set the stage for one-on-one sessions that were planned to begin soon. The team's psychologist aimed to improve the players' mental and emotional readiness in addition to their physical and tactical preparedness for the demanding international tournament. The Youth World Championship is scheduled to take place in Thailand in January 2026.

Top U12 Women's Hockey Talents Mix Up Training at Padel Facility

TEHHRAN - The top female talents from the U12 Women's hockey program held a unique training session at the Next Level Padel Club at Iran Mall. The off-ice workout aimed to provide the young players with a fun and engaging way to improve their physical conditioning and coordination.

The session offered a refreshing change from the team's typical on-ice drills. By incorporating a new sport, the coaches helped the young athletes build agility and quickness, which are crucial skills for ice hockey. The creative approach underscored the comprehensive development strategy for the sport's youngest generation.











Iranian Players Train with Russian National Team at Novogorsk Camp

NOVOGORSK – Three Iranian ice hockey players—Arshia GHAFURI, Parsa JALALI, and goalkeeper Mohsen YONESZADEH—participated in a training camp at the Novogorsk facility in Russia. The athletes trained under the supervision of Russian coaches and alongside the country's U17 national team.

The players' attendance at the camp was aimed at achieving several key goals: improving their technical and tactical skills, exchanging experiences with the Russian players, and preparing for their upcoming competitions. The camp provided a significant opportunity for the Iranian athletes to train in a high-level environment, which underscored the ongoing collaboration between the two nations to develop the sport.



Support for Association Leadership

TEHHRAN - Farzad HOUSHIDARI, the head coach of the Iran National women's ice hockey team, said that while every sport and athlete required attention, he believed the president of the Ice Hockey Association was the one who needed support right now.

Farzad reflected on his long career, which began with inline skating at age three. He said he later took up inline hockey, even though there were no rinks at the time. At age 30, he was the captain of the inline hockey team that won the Asian Championship. Having also played ice hockey in Turkey, he used his experience to coach others. Now on the verge of retirement, he said it was difficult to leave the sport, as it had shown a "remarkable upward trend" past five or six years.

HOUSHIDARI added that he was also the coach of the women's national team, which performed exceptionally well in recent competitions. He expressed his hope that they could face more serious challenges and powerful rivals in the future.





2026 IIHF ICE HOCKEY U18 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Division III

THAILAND, Bangkok

29 Jan -
04 Feb 2026



Tehran – The roster for the Iran U18 Women's National Ice Hockey Team was officially announced for the upcoming World Championship in Thailand. The team, composed of the country's youngest and most talented Players, was set to embark on a significant international journey.

The final roster of 20 players who will travel to Bangkok will be selected from this list of 28. The Division III World Championship, which will be held in January-February 2026, will feature national teams from Thailand, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Iran, and Croatia.

The full list of invited players is as follows:

Aida YAZDANIAN, Sharmin TABATABAEI, Melika MAHABADI, Zahra MIRAKHORLOUF, Arnia YOUSEFI, Parmis DOLATABADI, Maliheh ALIBEGLOU, Ava MOHAMMAD, Mahya HASHEMI, Avin TARA VARDIZADEH, Sara ARSHIYAN, Dina SAVEHSHAMSHAKI, Yassina KARIMZADEH, Baran KHOUYLO, Elena KHORAMINIA, Aylin ADINELOU, Mahrsa GHOLAMI, Saghar HASHEMI, Romina HADAVAND, Baran JADIDI, Shahgol ARAB, Nafas GHORBANI, Arisa RAMIN, Parmis JAVANROUH, and Dorsa SHABANI

Goalkeepers: Taranom TAJIK, Romina ESMAEILI, and Nazanin KARGAR

Senior Women's National Team Victorious in a Friendly Match for World Lakes Day



TEHHRAN - The senior and U18 women's national ice hockey teams faced off in a friendly match on Wednesday, August 27, as part of the observance of World Lakes Day. Held at the Ice Box Iran Mall ice rink, the event was dedicated to raising awareness for the "Saving Lake Urmia" campaign.

The senior national team secured a decisive 6-1 victory over the U18 squad. While the match provided a competitive test, it served as a valuable opportunity for the younger players to gain experience against their more seasoned counterparts. The event highlighted the team's dual commitment to developing the sport and supporting a key environmental cause.

1st Sept. 2000

1st Sept. 2025



New Off-Ice Complex in Gilan Marks First Step in National Hockey Plan

Rasht – Following the unveiling of the national ice hockey development plan by Iran’s Minister of Sport and Youth, the country’s first-ever off-ice training complex was built in Gilan Province. The project, which was a collaboration between the Gilan Province Ski and Winter Sports Board and private investors, marked a significant milestone for the continuous expansion of ice sports across Iran.

The new facility, a crucial first step in the national development plan, was created using multi-purpose plastic flooring specifically designed for off-ice training. In addition to preparing ice hockey players, the versatile surface was also fully functional for inline skating, making it a valuable resource for athletes of all ages and disciplines.

A Global Approach to Training and Development

Scientific studies have shown that dryland training, which the new facility enables, helps athletes increase their speed, explosive power, agility, and balance. The skills gained from these workouts are then transferred to the ice, accelerating a player’s overall technical development.

As global experience has shown, off-ice facilities play a key role in maintaining athletes’ fitness and promoting the sustainable growth of ice sports, especially in countries with limited access to ice rinks. In addition to its athletic benefits, the new center is also expected to create jobs for coaches and players, improve public health, and help nurture a new generation of sports enthusiasts.



HAPPY
INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY
12 AUGUST





3

IHL Women U18

Simorgh 1(2) Homa 1



Simorgh 1(2) Homa 1



Sepandar 6 Tondar 5




Sepandar 6 Tondar 5



Homa 4 Tondar 1



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Homa 4 Tondar 1



Sepandar 2 Simorgh 1



Sepandar 2 Simorgh 1



Tondar 2 Simorgh 1



Tondar 2 Simorgh 1



Homa 1 (2) Sepandar 1



[@alirezaakbari_photographer](#)





Simorgh 2 Homa 1




Simorgh 2 Homa 1



Homa 4 (5) Tondar 4



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Homa 4 (5) Tondar 4



Tondar 0 (1) Sepandar 0



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Tondar 0 (1) Sepandar 0





3

IHL

Men U20

Alborz 5 Koolak 4



Alborz 5 Koolak 4



Koolak 3 Azarakhsh 1



Koolak 3 Azarakhsh 1



Zagros 5 Azarakhsh 3



Zagros 5 Azarakhsh 3



Zagros 2 (3) Alborz 2



Zagros 2 (3) Alborz 2



Zagros 4 (5) Alborz 4




Zagros 2 (3) Alborz 2



Alborz 7 Azarakhsh 3



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Alborz 7 Azarakhsh 3



Alborz 6 Zagros 2



Alborz 6 Zagros 2



Koolak 5 Azarakhsh 3



Koolak 5 Azarakhsh 3



Zagros 5 Azarakhsh 2



Zagros 5 Azarakhsh 2







4

Welcome New Parents!

Eight useful tips to help you adjust to being a hockey parent

By Christie Casciano Burns



Becoming a new hockey parent is like the first time you bought a smartphone – you don't really know what you are doing. There's a lot of trial-and-error, and, at times, it can become overwhelming.

However, just like that digital device, you eventually will come to a mindset where you can't imagine life before hockey parenting.

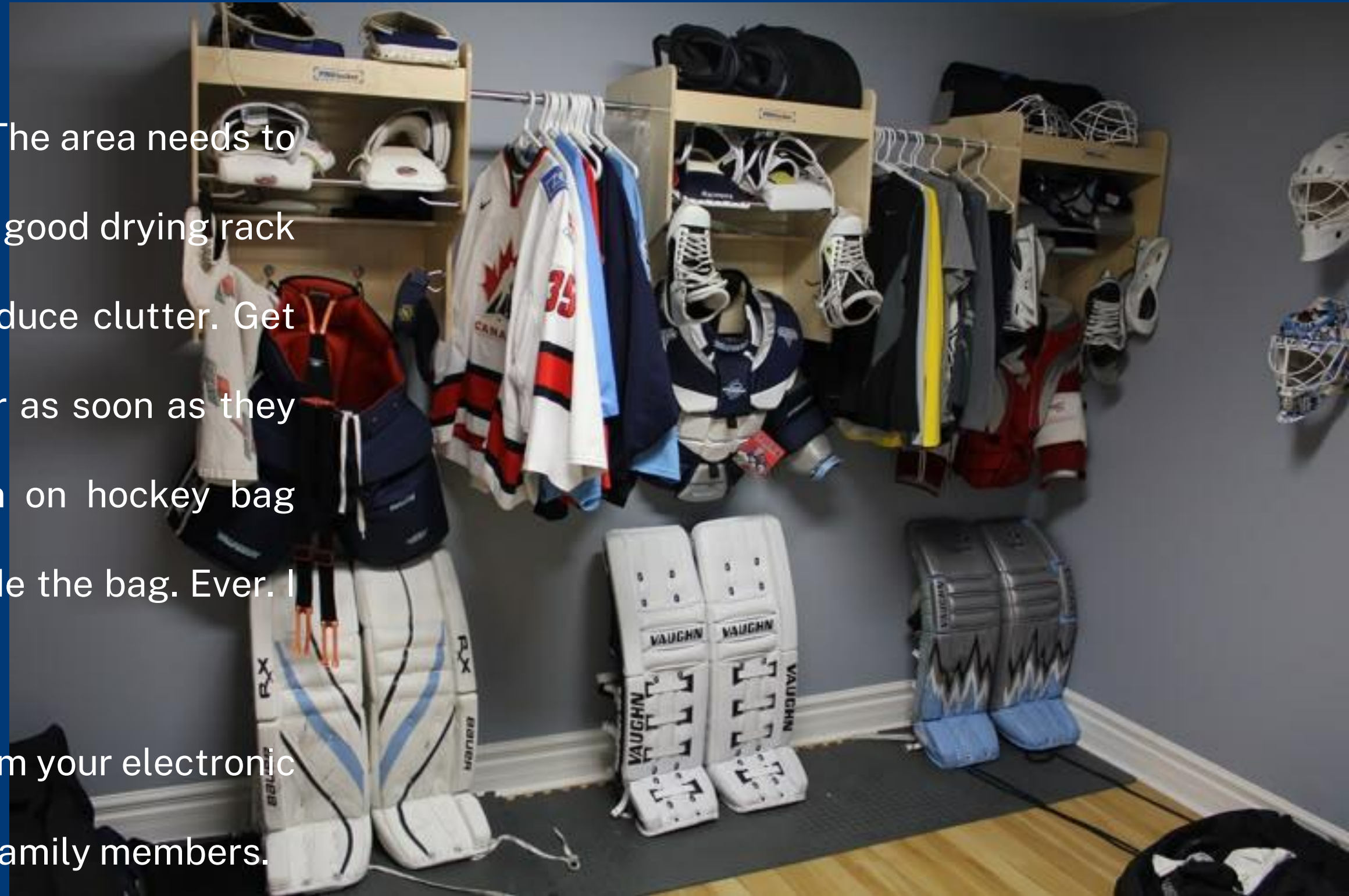
We are fortunate to get a lot of help along the way from veteran parents. Make sure to team up with those who are not strangers to our game, and here are some keys as your child embarks upon the greatest sport in the world.



Get Organized

Find a place in your house for all things hockey. The area needs to be functional with room for your players' gear. A good drying rack and hooks to hang bags and sticks will help reduce clutter. Get your kids into a routine of hanging up their gear as soon as they get home from a practice or game. Cut down on hockey bag stench, don't allow the equipment to fester inside the bag. Ever. I speak from experience.

Free apps allow easy access to your calendar from your electronic devices that can be shared with other team and family members.



Keep Your Focus

Never lose focus on what matters most to your family and your child's development as a hockey player and person. As obvious as it seems, it has taken some of us years to figure this out; focus on effort given. Encourage them to always give their best effort. That character trait will transcend the game and pay a lifetime of dividends.



No Car Coaching

Let your child dictate the conversation during the car ride home. Don't beat them up by going over game situations. Tell them you love watching them play instead of being critical and pressuring them to produce more goals and assists. Use the 24-hour period before going to the coach with concerns/complaints.



There's Always The One

New parents should brace themselves for that one parent. There's one in every group that forgets we are paying for our kids to play and that they are not getting paid. When you run across that one parent who is acting like his/her kids' agent just remember they may feel the need to be the loudest, but they are not the majority.

Never presume that you know your child's hockey sense better than their coach. Let hockey be exposure to the real world and build their work ethic.



Behave

Don't be that parent. You know, the one who screams non-stop at their kid from the sidelines, antagonizes the refs, cheers when an opponent gets hurt or picks verbal fights with the opposing teams' parents. Remember the young refs are somebody's kid, brother, friend and teammate. They will make mistakes. They will miss an offsides or a trip. They really don't care who wins. Oh, and it's a physical game. Some kid will probably hit your child hard, but your player will stand back up and be ready to go.

Your child is watching, listening, and observing your behavior, so talking behind other parents/teammates backs does no good. For youth hockey, the team extends beyond the locker room into your entire family. Be a good teammate and family.



Get Ready for Life on the Road

Keep an emergency kit in the car with laces, mouthpieces and extra helmet parts. Keep a rink bag/blanket packed and because there are always rinks that are colder than you can expect.

Use your travel time to and from games and practice to bond further with your kids and really get to know them better. Listen to their stories and music they like. Don't let them just plug in the headphones right away.



Save When You Can

Buy used equipment when possible. Team up when traveling. It's always fun to have room for friends and to travel as a group. Splitting the cost for travel is always helpful as well.



Most of all: Have Fun!

A simple one. Keep it fun. Always tell your kids you're proud of them - no matter what. Remember that they are kids and not NHL/PWHL prospects.

Welcome to hockey and now it is time to look forward to this new adventure. As a wise hockey parent once advised me, it's more about where you are going than where you have been.





WORLD
PHOTOGRAPHY DAY
— 19 AUGUST —



Upcoming Events:

5

Upcoming
Events



UPCOMING EVENTS

MNA Developers Program
3rd edition First on-site Week
Vierumäki (FIN)

07-13
August

U18 Women's League
Tehran (IRN)

AUGUST

IIHF Coaching Level I
Taipei City (TPE)

10-15
November

07-13
September

AUGUST

Youth Hockey Director Program
(YHDP)
Bangkok (THA)

U20 Men's League
Tehran (IRN)



6

Persian Carpet

Lydia Pyne

An Object History of the Persian Carpet

The famous Persian carpet, woven by female artisans in southwestern Iran, may be going extinct. Its story can be told in spindles and whorls.

The Persian carpet, it seems, is an endangered species. Persian carpets, beautiful, detailed, and sometimes years in the making, hold particular significance for the nomadic, pastoralist Qashqa'i tribe of southwestern Iran, near the city of Shiraz. "Iran's carpets," The New York Times reported, "are among the most complex and labor-intensive handicrafts in the world." However, Qashqa'i carpets have had trouble keeping pace with broader global trends, both aesthetic and economic. Demand for them simply isn't there, and the cost of manufacturing them is extremely high. Doves of carpet weavers are now looking for jobs with better security and better wages elsewhere.

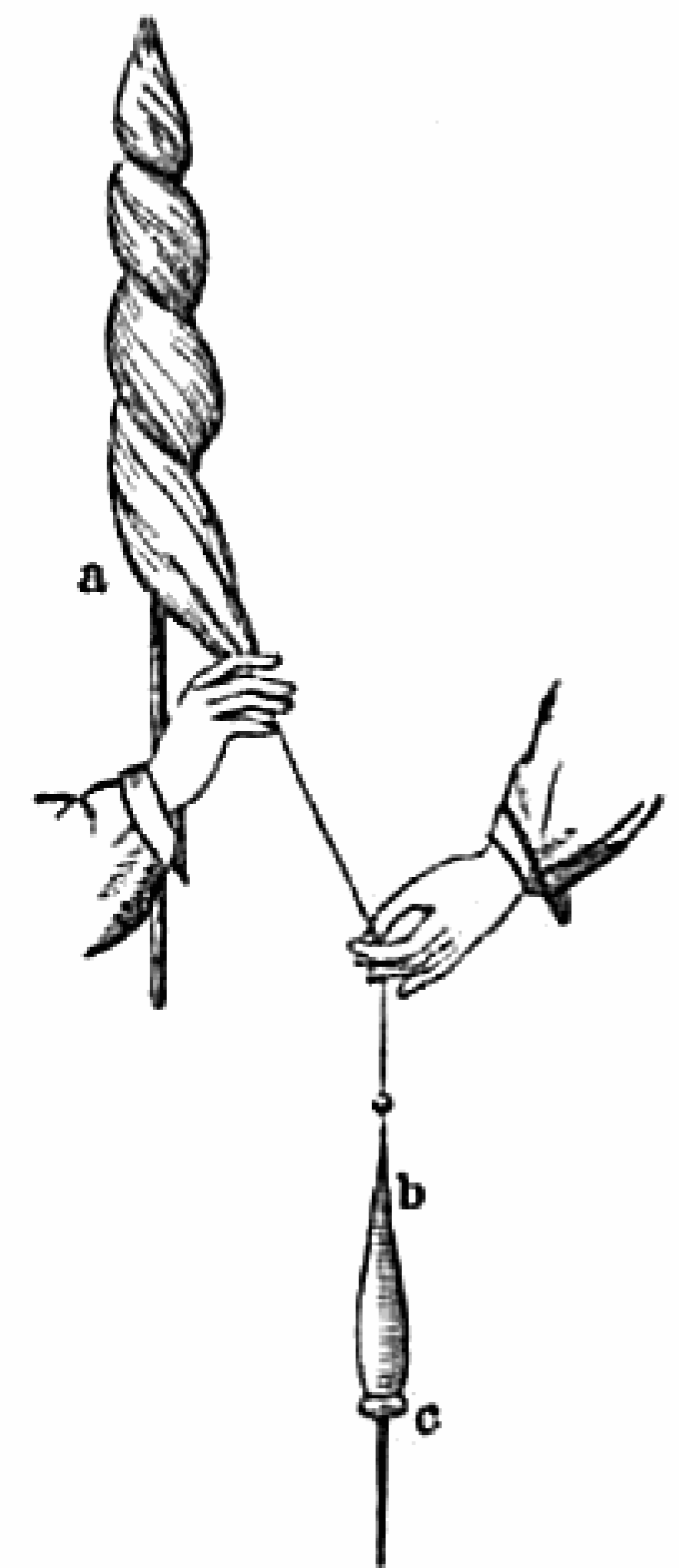
The craft and expertise associated with weaving these carpets tells a tool-based story: fleece to fiber to finished rug. Touted as the most authentic of Iran's many varieties of carpet, a Qashqa'i weaving begins with turning a sheep's wool into fiber. Once the sheep has been shorn, its wool is collected, cleaned, and spun into yarn. The yarn, in turn, is dyed with vegetative materials that weavers have gathered during their travels. They then weave the dyed yarn into carpets, composed of hundreds of individual knots per square inch, and featuring geometric designs and a plethora of decorative motifs.



“The personal selection, the proximity to ‘nature’ and the locality of origin are seen as essential in both guaranteeing the provenance and authenticity of the woven carpet,” design historian Patricia Baker writes in the Journal of Design History, describing how the creation of these carpets falls completely in the domain of Qashqa’i women. “It is these elements... which directly contribute to the woman-weaver achieving individuality and authenticity in design and colouration in her work.”

Turning fleece into fiber requires the use of a spindle—a long, straight rod, usually made of wood, that gathers the spun thread. A spinner will take small chunks of a clean, shorn fleece and have the spindle pull the fleece ever-so-gently into a narrower and narrower string. This narrow string is then carefully gathered along the end of the spindle. A spinning wheel then pulls the fleece evenly, turning it into thread. The spindle typically sits above the wheel. Historically, however, the more common form of spindle is the kind that dates back to the Neolithic, called a drop spindle. The drop spindle hangs in front of the spinner, allowing a person to move about and keep spinning. The spinning wheel, which spins thread more quickly, requires the spinner to sit in front of it. The drop spindle, by contrast, uses gravity to pull the fleece into the thread. The drop spindle is usually weighted by a whorl.

Whorls are among the most abundant artifacts in the archaeological record. Unlike spindles, they are made from a variety of materials that do not deteriorate over time. The whorl is a cylindrical disc-shaped object that fits over the spindle, giving it more weight. As the wool is pulled downward by the combined weight of the spindle and whorl, the spinner can start to swing the spindle. This weighted momentum helps pull the fleece into the desired fibrous string.

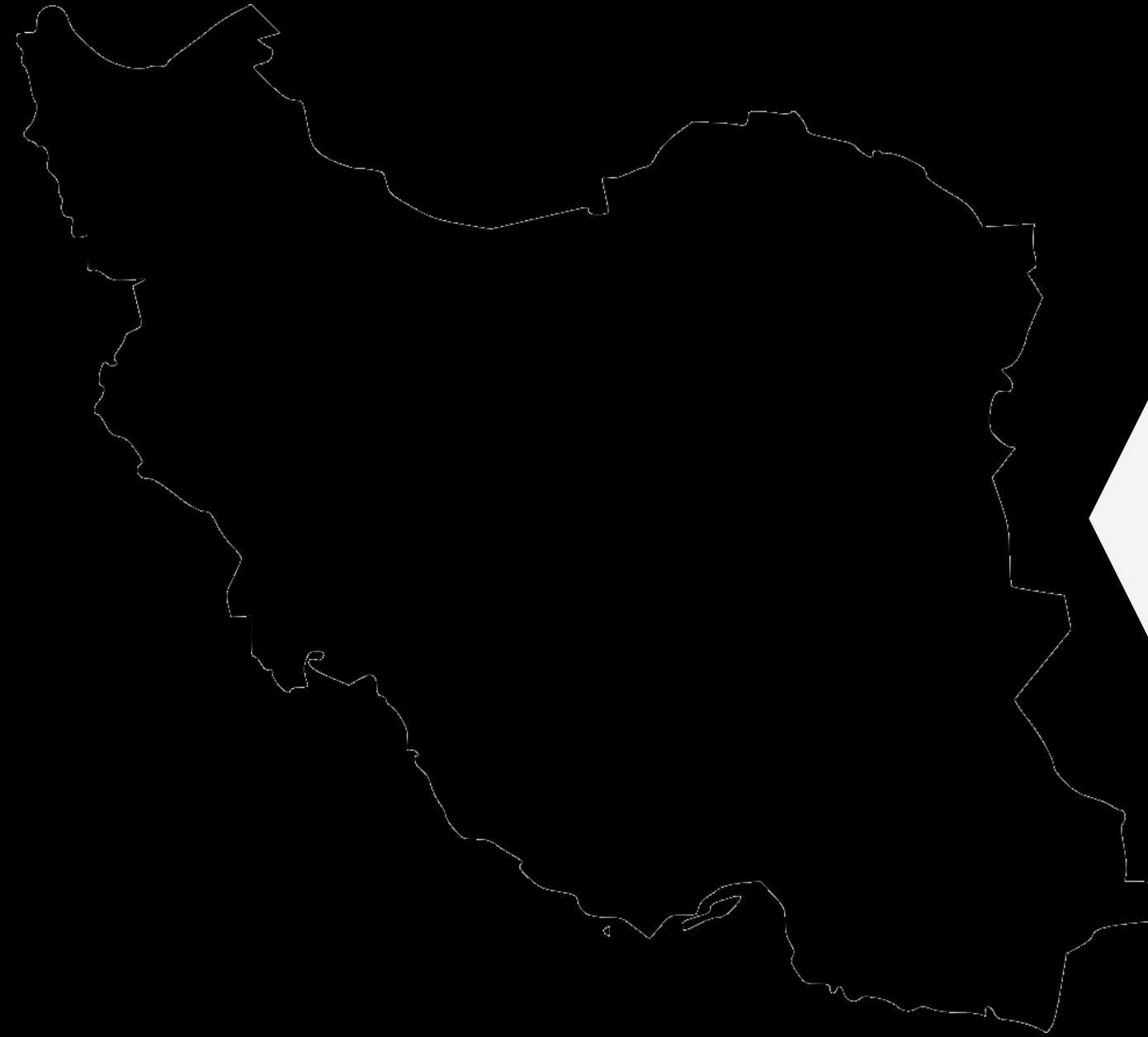


For thousands of years, spinners have used everything from antler bone to ceramics to polished rocks to create whorls. Some whorls are small, measuring just a few millimeters in diameter, and some span almost 30 inches. Some are lavishly decorated; some are but re-purposed bits of broken ceramics with a hole drilled in the center, giving archaeologists little doubt about their purpose. Since the spindle is generally made from materials that do not preserve well, the whorl is often the best proxy in reconstructing a culture's the fleece-to-fiber technology.

With automated spinning and weaving, rugs can be produced more quickly and at much less expense than the conventional Qashqa'i ones. But the tools traditionally associated with Qashqa'i weaving speak to the cultural durability of the weaving process. Qashqa'i carpets tell a powerful story of a complex technology that women have employed to create their crafts.







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