

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MODERN

BLACK WOMEN IN HOCKEY

HOCKEY IS A WHITE-DOMINATED SPORT, BUT OVER THE LAST HALF-DECADE, BLACK WOMEN HAVE MADE MAJOR STRIDES AND BROKEN NUMEROUS BARRIERS

MARCH 2015

The National Women's Hockey League is founded, becoming the first professional league to pay its players

OCTOBER 2015

Blake Bolden signs with the Boston Pride, becoming the first Black player in the NWHL

MARCH 2016

Blake Bolden becomes the first Black player to win the Isobel Cup, winning the league's inaugural championship

JUNE 2016

Kelsey Koelzer is selected first overall in the NWHL Draft, marking the first time a Black player was selected with the first pick in a North American professional hockey league

FEBRUARY 2018

Sarah Nurse becomes the first Black woman to play for the Canadian National Team in the Winter Olympics

OCTOBER 2018

Renee Hess founds Black Girl Hockey Club to help create more opportunities for Black women on the ice and give them the necessary assistance they need

SEPTEMBER 2019

Kelsey Koelzer is announced as the head coach for the inaugural season of the Arcadia Women's Hockey team in 2021

FEBRUARY 2020

Blake Bolden is hired by the LA Kings as a scout, becoming the first Black woman professional scout and the second woman scout in NHL history

APRIL 2021

Mikyla Grant-Mentis wins the Most Valuable Player award, becoming the first Black player in a professional hockey league to be named MVP

MARCH 2020

Kelsey Koelzer is named the Advisor to the Commissioner on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the NWHL

JUNE 2021

Angela James is hired to the Toronto Six's coaching staff, becoming the first Black coach in NWHL history

OCTOBER 2021

Kelsey Koelzer coaches her first game at Arcadia, becoming the first Black head coach of an ice hockey program in NCAA history

