

Asian Hockey Championship takes to the ice in Scarborough

Jeff Chang, the organizer of the 18th annual Asian Hockey Championships, which are being held this weekend in Scarborough for the second year, proved to be a good predictor of the future.

Last year, the tournament featured its first women's team, competing in the recreational division, and Chang, at the time, suggested a women's division wouldn't be far behind.

And sure enough, this year the tournament features a four-team women's division among the 31 teams – up from 24 teams last year.

The rest of the divisions are

men's teams, competing in various levels up to elite.

Add together the players and their friends, families and fans, and more than 1,000 people are expected "to come through Scarborough Ice Sports that weekend," Chang said.

Player demographics, he said, are about "50 per cent Chinese, 20 per cent Korean, 15 per cent Japanese, 10 per cent Filipino and other."

The tournament runs Friday to Sunday at Canlan Ice Sports - Scarborough on Dynamic Drive (just south of Steeles Avenue at Markham Road and Passmore Avenue). "We've got the whole complex for the Friday, Saturday, Sunday," Chang said. "It's a real fun weekend altogether for the families. We put on a family skate, children's activities, we have a band that comes, and we do have cultural aspects to the whole event."

Pair of Scarborough orchestras have concerts set for this month