

NHL To Open 2010-11 Season with Six Teams Playing in Europe

Written by Matthew Coller
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Something about the NFL in Europe feels strange to Americans. Probably feels strange to Europeans. The NHL, however, has a more natural feel overseas. The NHL thinks so, too. To open the '10-11 season the NHL will expand on its Premiere Games from a single game in London to begin '07 to three major events to begin the 2010-'11 season. A record six teams will be opening in three different European cities.

[NHL. Com reported](#) The Carolina Hurricanes and Minnesota Wild will play two regular-season games in the Hartwall Arena in Helsinki, Finland, on Oct. 7 and Oct. 8. October 8 and Oct. 9 will feature the Columbus Blue Jackets and San Jose Sharks at Ericsson Globe Arena in Stockholm, Sweden. And, the Boston Bruins and Phoenix Coyotes will square off at O2 Arena in Prague, Czech Republic on Oct. 9 and Oct. 10.

"The Premiere Games are a highly anticipated part of our season launch, and we are extremely pleased that six teams -- more than ever -- will open their season in Europe," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "With these games, nearly half of our Clubs will have participated in Premiere -- a testament to how excited our teams are to be playing before our outstanding fans in Europe."

If they played the Premiere Games today, 18 players would be playing in front of their home crowds.

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