

# Steamy hockey drama Heated Rivalry gets Irish release date

Prepare for pecks, pucks, and stolen looks in this queer sports romance series.

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IMAGE: BELL MEDIA VIA PINKNEWS

Queer TV fans rejoice – *Heated Rivalry* is finally coming to Ireland. The steamy show premiered in late November on Crave in Canada, then in the US, and Irish people have been held in the penalty box, lagging 4 whole episodes behind so far.



Curious Irish onlookers have had to survive on a diet of sexy screenshots from the series and are no doubt building up quite a severe thirst. The horny [hockey](#) show has been announced for release in Ireland on January 10, 2026, and it will be available on Sky and NOW.



The sports-romance series covers the classic star-crossed forbidden lovers story in a completely new way. It's so hot, they're about to be playing water polo instead of ice hockey. It's so hot, I think we can blame them for the iccapps melting. For those wondering why Ireland is so warm this December, maybe it's all of the *Heated Rivalry* blowing in from the west.



In an interview with CTV, Hudson Williams, who plays Shane on the show, said he was "butt-obsessed" in his preparation for the role. He said, "I've never opened my legs more", and that he is "too comfortable" with having his derriere on display.



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Meanwhile, Connor Storie, who plays Ilya, said he focused more on biceps for the show. The pair said the shower scenes were amusing to film as their intimacy garments would fill up like a water balloon and needed to be wrung out in between takes.

The pair are also making waves with their off-screen chemistry and highlighting the beauty of physical touch in platonic friendships. "It's taboo for men to be friends and grab each other a certain way or hold hands", stated Storie in an interview with [Variety](#).



There was already a substantial fandom for Rachel Reid's *Game Changers* novels, on which the series is based, so it's not surprise that *Heated Rivalry* has already been renewed for a second season.



The show, adapted for television by openly gay writer and director Jacob Tierney, is taking a swing at the toxic masculinity of sports and how queerness and interpersonal relationships interplay [in that environment](#).

Sky announced the date *Heated Rivalry* will be available in Ireland with a teaser you can watch below.

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Your winter just got a steamy upgrade. You can thank us later 🍷

#HeatedRivalry is coming to Sky and NOW in the UK and Ireland on 10 January.

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Watch the official trailer for *Heated Rivalry* in anticipation of its Ireland release here.



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