

## Definition of International Cap

January 2021

### Introduction

Since 2010 FIH has standardised the definition of an international cap and the criteria that must be met for international matches so that they can count for the award of a cap on a player's, umpire's and technical official's record. In 2013, FIH introduced its Tournament Management System (TMS) and in 2014 FIH's Executive Board determined that all official matches that would count for the award of caps must be recorded on TMS. In 2017, FIH started a project in collaboration with National Associations to establish a baseline figure of all players' caps and since 2018 TMS has provided the official record of the number of caps for players, umpires and technical officials.

From time to time, FIH has updated the definition of an international cap and this latest update reflects the changes that have been made to the FIH World Ranking System, in particular the need to ensure each match is officiated by umpires and officials of an appropriate standard.

### International Match

An international match is defined as:

1. An official match between senior national teams played in a sanctioned FIH or Continental Federation tournament; or
2. An official match between senior national teams that is sanctioned by the FIH or Continental Federation as appropriate (i.e. an inter-nation Test Match).

Outdoor, Indoor, Hockey5s and ParaHockey (ID) internationals shall be maintained and counted separately on TMS. These criteria are also to be used for Junior matches (U21) for the various formats of Hockey and, where relevant, other age limited matches.

### Criteria for the Award of International Caps

In order to qualify for an international cap, the following criteria must be followed so that a match is recorded as an official match:

- (a) Matches must be sanctioned by FIH or the relevant Continental Federation as appropriate.
- (b) All matches must be recorded on TMS.

- (c) Matches must be played in accordance with the prevailing Rules of Hockey and FIH Tournament Regulations (e.g. for Outdoor Hockey a maximum 18 players per team (providing 2 are fully kitted goalkeepers) and 4 quarters of 15 minutes), formal Match Sheet and match controlled by registered umpires overseen by at least one Technical Official.
- (d) Matches must be controlled by two umpires.
  - 1. The umpires for a match can be:
    - i Neutral to both teams. In the context of a tournament this is mandatory unless authorised by FIH.
    - ii One from each of the participating nations.
    - iii Both from the host nation if agreed between the teams involved.
    - iv A mixture of i, ii or iii above.
  - 2. The umpires for a match must be approved to control the match by the sanctioning body (FIH or the Continental Federation). For matches in the context of a match series or tournament, approval to control a match results from the TD(s) and/or UM(s) appointing from the panel of umpires which has been approved for the series or tournament by the sanctioning body.
  - 3. Umpires should preferably be of FIH International Panel standard. Where it is proposed that a non-FIH International Panel umpire is appointed for a match, match series or tournament, approval of the proposed appointment may be refused by the sanctioning body if an appropriate level of experience and expertise cannot be conclusively demonstrated.
- (e) Matches must be managed by at least one technical official, who shall be responsible for recording to TMS the match details (either live or after the match) and ensuring that a Match Report form is completed and signed by the team managers of both teams, the match umpires and all technical officials.
  - 1. The technical official(s) for a match must be approved to manage the match by the sanctioning body (FIH or the Continental Federation). For matches in the context of a match series or tournament, approval to manage a match results from the TD(s) and/or UM(s) appointing from the panel of technical officials which has been approved for the series or tournament by the sanctioning body.
  - 2. Technical officials should preferably be of FIH International Panel standard. Where it is proposed that a non-FIH International Panel technical official is appointed for a match, match series or tournament, approval of the proposed appointment may be refused by the sanctioning body if an appropriate level of experience and expertise cannot be conclusively demonstrated.

- (f) The responsibility to advise FIH of the details required to assign appointed officials correctly on TMS, to complete records and/or to create records for new officials as and if required, lies with:
1. The host National Association in case of FIH-sanctioned matches or invitational events.
  2. The sanctioning Continental Federation in case of CF-sanctioned matches or events.