FIH COMPETITION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

March 2025

This paper sets out the policies and procedures that will generally be followed by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for its competitions, and which should also be followed by the Continental Federations (CFs) for their competitions and by National Associations (NAs) for invitational tournaments.

From time to time FIH may vary these policies and procedures in its absolute discretion depending on the particular circumstances of a competition. CFs and NAs must obtain permission from FIH to vary these policies and procedures before doing so.

1. Authorisation and Sanctioning

All events, competitions, tournaments and matches must be sanctioned in accordance with the FIH Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events. Domestic events, ie those with teams from the same NA are sanctioned by the relevant NA; continental events, ie those with teams from the same continent are sanctioned by the relevant CF; events with teams from more than two continents are sanctioned by FIH.

Global events organised by FIH are deemed sanctioned. Continental Tournaments and events organised by CFs, such as Continental Championships, are deemed sanctioned

The request for the authorisation to organise an invitational tournament must be forwarded by the host country concerned to the FIH or to the appropriate CF before any invitation letters to participating countries are issued. It must mention the name of the tournament, the dates, the city, the venue and the number / panel of the participating countries which are going to be invited. In order to be considered as a sanctioned event, the authorisation to organise must be received from the FIH or the CF.

At present, no fees are charged for the sanctioning of inter-nations competitions, tournaments and matches.

2. Duration of Tournaments

The duration of a tournament depends on the number of the participating countries.

2.1 FIH / Continental Events

The following requirements apply to competitions and tournaments where the participating countries are nominated by a qualification system established by FIH or a CF.

- a maximum of 2 matches for a team on three successive days ;
- one day's rest between pool and classification matches;
- Where possible, and unless broadcast or commercial reasons are more important, one day's rest between the semi-finals and final matches for the 1st / 4th places will be applied

Note: In the case of *force majeure* the above requirements may be relaxed.

Minimum duration of an FIH / Continental Competition

Based on the above, and the number of participating countries, the minimum duration of an event is as follows:

2 Nations Play-off competition

To be scheduled for 4 days, but a real duration of 2 days if a 3rd match is not required. However, it may be scheduled for 3 days, provided that the authorisation to waive the rest day is obtained from FIH at the initiative of one of the participating NAs prior to the commencement of the tournament, and subject to the prior written agreement of the other participating NA.

3 Nations tournament:	3 days	
4 Nations tournament:	3 / 4 days (°)	
5 Nations tournament:	7 days (°)	
6 Nations tournament:	7 days (°)	
7 Nations tournament:	(Preferably) 1 pool competition:	9 days (°)
	2 pool competition: depends on format	- 7 / 9days
8 Nations tournament:	2 pool competition: depends on format	- 7 / 9 days
9 / 10 Nations tournament:	2 pool competition: depends on format	- 10 / 12 days
11 / 12 Nations tournament:	2 pool competition: depends on format	- 10 / 12 days
16 Nations tournament:	4 pool competition: depends on format	- 9 / 10 days

(°) A final classification play-off competition to follow the 1 pool competition may be allowed by FIH on a case of case basis. If so, the minimum duration of the tournament will be extended by 1 or 2 days as appropriate.

2.2 Invitational Tournaments

For a single one pool 4 team competition and subject to the prior agreement of the other participating NAs, which is automatically deemed to be the case in the absence of adverse notice in writing to FIH, a 3 day tournament is allowed. The start-times of matches played by a same team on consecutive days may be reduced to minimum 15 hours between the penultimate and last match of the team.

If the pool competition is followed by a final classification play-off competition, 4 matches on consecutive days for a same team are allowed, subject to the following:

Reduced rest time of minimum 15 hours between (only) the penultimate and last matches of the teams

- Upon request of any of the participating countries, a mandatory rest day during the tournament if played under tropical weather conditions ie hot and humid.

Tournaments with more than 4 countries

The following formats are allowed.

- 1 pool competition with maximum 7 countries: up to 3 matches unless agreed by FIH for the same team on consecutive days (if 6 / 7 countries and if followed by a final classification play-off competition, mandatory rest day during the tournament);
- mandatory two pool competition as from 8 countries, but with possible waiving of quarter-final and / or semi-final matches: up to 3 matches unless agreed by FIH for a same team on consecutive days
- if required or so wished, rest-time in any format reduced to minimum 15 hours between (only) the penultimate and last matches of a team, if on consecutive days.

The reduction in rest time to a minimum of 15 hours is subject to the following criteria:

- Medical evidence that the tournament is not being played under extreme tropical weather conditions, ie hot and humid;
- Not more than one participating from a continent other than that of the host country;
- The agreement of all participating countries, which is automatically deemed to be the case in the absence of adverse notice in writing to FIH;
- Receipt by the host country of FIH approval of the proposed format in writing.

2.3 Break between the start of successive matches

At present there is no medical evidence as to what should be the minimum time between the start times of a team's matches on consecutive days. As a guideline for FIH and CF competitions, a minimum of 20 hours will be scheduled but wherever possible a time of 22 hours will be sought.

2.6 Break between the start of successive matches on last 2 days

In FIH and CF single pool competitions where classification matches follow the last round of pool matches, a minimum break of 15 hours between the start times of a team's successive matches may be scheduled.

3. Tournament Management System (TMS)

The use of FIH's TMS is compulsory for all sanctioned official inter-nations matches and all sanctioned FIH, CF and invitational tournaments, seniors and juniors, outdoors and indoors.

For individual matches to be recorded as official and therefore count towards the awarding of international caps and world ranking points, the match must:

- Be played in accordance with the Rules of Hockey and FIH Tournament Regulations, unless FIH has granted a specific derogation before the match is played;
- Be umpired by two official umpires;

- Have a match report completed, signed by the two team managers, the match umpires and a match official and forwarded to FIH, unless the match report details are entered directly into TMS by the host NA.

4. Technical Officials

4.1 Number of Technical Officials

The panels of officials will be based upon the FIH Responsibility Chart current at the time of the sanctioning of a competition / tournament / event.

The following panels of Technical Officials are the standard for invitational matches / tournaments:

2 Nations Test Match

1 Match Official from the host NA; 2 umpires.

3 Nations Tournament

1 Technical Delegate (TD) from host NA; 1 Technical Officer (TO) and 2 judges, either from the host NA or the participating NAs; 1 umpire from each participating NA. **Where a NA cannot provide an umpire, the host NA will propose an umpire to the FIH for approval and all travel and accommodation costs of the appointed umpire will be at the expense of the defaulting NA.**

4 / 5 Nations Tournament

1 TD appointed by the sanctioning Federation. 1 TO and 2 judges, either from the host NA or the participating NAs; 1 neutral umpire and 1 umpire from each participating NA

6 / 7 Nations Tournament

1 TD appointed by the sanctioning Federation. 1 TO and 3 judges, either from the host NA or the participating NAs; 2 neutral umpires; 1 umpire from each participating NA; 1 Umpires Manager appointed by FIH or the relevant CF.

8 / 9 / 10 Nations Tournament

1 TD appointed by the sanctioning Federation. 2 TOs and 3 judges or 1 TO and 4 judges, either from the host NA or the participating NAs; 2 or 3 neutral umpires; 1 umpire from each participating NA; 1 Umpires Manager appointed by FIH or the relevant CF.

4.2 Appointment of Technical Officials

FIH Competitions and Events

All appointments for FIH competitions and events will be confirmed by FIH's Officials Committee. Normally, appointees will come from the relevant FIH lists but from time to time

the opportunity will be taken to appoint officials from the host NA in order to help with the development of local officials.

CF Competitions

Appointments for continental competitions will be made by the Appointments Committee of the relevant CF. For competitions that provide qualification for an Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, World Cup, Junior World Cup and Indoor Hockey World Cup, the appointments of TD, Umpires Manager, Neutral Umpires, TOs and Judges must be agreed / approved by the FIH Officials Committee

Invitational Tournaments

The appointment of a TD, Umpires Manager (where relevant) and neutral umpires will be made by the relevant Committee of the Federation that sanctioned the event.

Individual Test matches

Appointments for match officials and umpires will be as agreed between the NAs involved. Umpires can be from the host NA, each participating NA or neutral from another NA.

5. Tournament Regulations

FIH will publish from time to time updated Tournament Regulations, which must be followed for all sanctioned inter-nations events, unless a specific derogation has been granted by FIH. FIH reserves the right to issue specific Tournament Regulations for specific events as necessary.

The Tournament Regulations current on the opening day of a competition / event / tournament shall apply throughout that competition / event / tournament.

6. Pitch Certificates

Venues that host Top Tier FIH events (World Cup, Junior World Cup and any other event specified in the relevant Tournament Regulations must have a current FIH Pitch Certificate, Global Elite or Global Category as specified in the relevant Event Manual. Venues for continental competitions that qualify teams for an Olympic Games, World Cup and Junior World Cup must also have a current FIH Pitch Certificate, Global Elite or Global Category.

7. Composition of Pools and Match Schedules

The composition of the pools for competitions / tournaments / events with two pools will be based on the position of the participating NAs in the FIH World Ranking at the time of the initial drafting of the Match Schedule, as follows:

Two Pool Competition

Pool A	Pool B
Top ranked NA	2nd top ranked NA
4th	3rd

5th	6th
8th	7th
9th	10th
12th	11th

The composition of the pools for competitions / tournaments / events with four pools will be made through a draw respecting the following premises:

I. The Top four (4) qualified teams according to the WR on that date will be placed in the first row of each group in ranking order (1st in Pool A, 2nd in Pool B, 3rd in Pool C and 4th in Pool D) unless there are 2 hosts both ranked in the top 4, in which case they will each be placed in different sides of the draw.

II. The remaining qualified teams will be placed into 3 groups according to the World Rankings on that same date and then a draw will take place to put each team into a Pool –
   - Group 1 for the teams ranked 5,6,7 and 8th highest of the qualified teams
   - Group 2 for the teams ranked 9,10,11,12th highest of the qualified teams
   - Group 3 for the teams ranked 13, 14, 15 and 16th highest of the qualified teams
   - If the two hosts are in the subsequent lines of the ranking, they will also be drawn but on opposite sides of the draw so each hosts can play their pool matches at least, at home

Four Pool Competition

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
1st WR	2nd	3rd	4th
5/8 WR			
9/12 WR			
13/16 WR			

The composition of pools for Junior (under 21) competitions / tournaments / events will be based upon the ranking of the participants' senior teams, unless agreed otherwise by FIH. For the Junior World Cup, this may be modified to ensure an appropriate continental spread in each of the pools.

The Guidelines for the order in which matches should be played is given in the table below.

Round	4 teams in a Pool (if 3 teams in a pool, omit the match against team 4)	6 teams in a Pool (if 5 teams in a pool, omit the match against team 6)	8 teams in a Pool (if 7 teams in a pool, omit the match against team 8)
Round 1	1 v 3 2 v 4	1 v 6 2 v 5 3 v 4	1 v 8 2 v 7 3 v 6 4 v 5
Round 2	3 v 4 2 v 1	1 v 5 2 v 4 6 v 3	1 v 7 2 v 6 3 v 5 4 v 8
Round 3	1 v 4 3 v 2	6 v 2 4 v 5 3 v 1	1 v 6 2 v 5 3 v 4 7 v 8
Round 4		4 v 6 2 v 1 5 v 3	1 v 5 2 v 4 3 v 8 6 v 7
Round 5		1 v 4 5 v 6 3 v 2	1 v 3 2 v 8 4 v 7 5 v 6
Round 6			1 v 2 3 v 7 4 v 6 8 v 5
Round 7			1 v 4 2 v 3 5 v 7 6 v 8

For invitational tournaments, the composition of the pools as well as the match schedule should follow FIH Guidelines and will need FIH / CF approval, as appropriate, in good time prior to the commencement of the tournament. The host NA should in first instance draft the composition and schedule and propose them to FIH / CF. In special circumstances or for commercial reasons, the host NA can request a variation to the FIH Guidelines for the schedule and / or composition of the pools for a specific tournament.

When drafting a schedule, the constraints mentioned above in Section 2 and the following points must be taken into consideration:

- To have a minimum interval of 2 hours between the start of two successive pool matches;

- To have a minimum interval of 2 hours 15 minutes between the start of two successive classification matches;
- Not to have particular teams playing their pool matches at identical hours too often;
- Where more than one field of play is being used, to have each team playing a similar number of matches on each field of play.

When approved, it is the duty of the host country to communicate without delay the details of the match schedule to the participating countries.

Note: Where two or more of the participating NAs have the same World Ranking, priority will be given to the NA with the more recent or superior result/ranking in the respective competition cycle.

8. Tournament Forms

A comprehensive set of FIH Tournament Forms can be found on the FIH website in the section Inside FIH / Our Official Documents / Event Resources. Match reports, shoot-out forms and appointment sheets are automatically generated by TMS. The use of standard FIH forms during a match / tournament is compulsory.

The host country of a tournament / match is at liberty to add a translation of the headings of the various forms in the country's normal language as well as to place the logo of the NA and / or CF and other logos on the document on condition that the content laid down for the document by FIH continues to appear. The event logo may be sent to FIH for inclusion on match documentation on TMS.

FIH or the relevant CF will issue team entry forms to participating NAs in FIH / CF events some 8 weeks before the start of the event. Completed team entries must be returned to FIH / CF and the host NA no later than 2 weeks before the start of the event.

For invitational tournaments and individual inter-nations matches, it is the responsibility of the host NA to circulate a copy of the entry form to the participating NAs in due time before the start of the event.

Guidelines for Managers of National Senior and Under 21 teams

A copy of the Guidelines can be found on the FIH website in the section Inside FIH / Our Official Documents / Event Resources.

9. Dope Testing

The host NA is responsible for the organization and for the payment of all costs involved with in-competition dope testing and must obtain the equipment and materials and make all necessary arrangements for the testing to be carried out in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Agency Code and the FIH Anti-Doping Rules, a copies of which are available on the FIH web site in the section Inside FIH / Our Official Documents / Anti-Doping and Medical.

The host NA must ensure that there is written agreement with a Sample Collection Authority (SCA), who may be the local National Anti-Doping Organization, or an independent company. Host NAs should provide the International Testing Agency (ITA) and FIH with a copy of this written agreement,

as well as the Mission Order number, if a Mission has been created in the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS) by the SCA.

Organisers of International Events must plan for Doping Controls to take place in accordance with the FIH Anti-Doping Rules requirements, and must ensure that the necessary facilities and Doping Control personnel are available. The Host NA must also ensure that at least one staff member is designated as point of contact for the Doping Control Officers and the chaperones, with the contact name and details to be communicated to ITA and FIH at least 4 weeks before the start of the event.

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The number of in-competition tests to be performed at FIH Events is as follows will be decided between FIH and ITA and will be communicated to the hosts at least 6 months prior to the Event. The percentage of tests for Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESA / EPO) and for Growth Hormones will be stipulated by ITA.

The Sample Collection Authority (SCA / DCO) and / or host NA must ensure that all Doping Control Forms are sent by email to ITA by the day after the Competition.

For all testing, the Testing Authority (TA) and the Results Management Authority (RMA) must be entered in ADAMS as FIH.

International Athletes must apply to ITA for Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). If the Athlete already has a TUE granted by her / his National Anti-Doping Agency, ITA and FIH may recognise this TUE for international-level competition, provided that such TUE decision has been reported in ADAMS in accordance with Article 5.4 of the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemption (ISTUE), and a complete medical file from a specialist doctor is available. An application for a TUE should be made as soon as the need arises. For substances prohibited In-Competition only, the Athlete should apply for a TUE at least 30 days before the next competition.

10. Tournament Reports

For FIH Top Tier events, FIH will prepare an Event Evaluation report, which the Technical Delegate will be asked to contribute to. For other events, the Technical Delegate must use the “FIH Feedback to National Association on their Organisation of a Tournament" and forward:

- The TD report within two weeks after the end of the tournament.
- The Umpire Performance Feedback reports & Marks, Umpire Managers Performance Feedback reports & Marks and Technical Officials Performance Feedback reports within two weeks from the end of the tournament.
- Any reports on recommendations to suspend any player during or after the last match played by their team in the tournament, within three (3) days from the end of the tournament.

Umpires Managers must forward their report within two weeks from the end of the tournament.

The distribution of reports to the host NA, the relevant CF and the NAs of the event's Umpires, Umpire Managers and Technical Officials will be arranged by FIH.

Results of matches will be captured live by TMS. Where TMS is not being used live, match reports must either be input into TMS by the host NA after completion of the day's matches or forwarded to FIH for input.

11. Indoor Tournaments

The above mentioned procedures and regulations must also be followed for indoor tournaments, with the exception of the indoor specific constraints regarding the match schedule, namely preferably a minimum rest period of 4 hours between the start of consecutive matches played by the same team and not more than 2 matches for a team per day.

12. Club Tournaments

Approval and sanctioning of continental club tournaments will be arranged by the relevant CF. All reports from continental club tournaments must be sent to the relevant CF, with a copy to FIH. Should a CF wish to vary the Rules of Hockey for a continental club tournament, it must request so from FIH at least 8 weeks before the tournament.
Inter-continental club tournaments must be approved and sanctioned by FIH in accordance with the requirements of section 1 above.

13. Competitions for Other Formats of Hockey

FIH is the recognised International Federation for all forms of Hockey except Ice Hockey. The popularity of the sport is growing rapidly and new formats are emerging. Hockey5s has already proven to be an extremely popular format and Beach Hockey and ParaHockey (ID) have also been showcased on a number of occasions.

As all different formats take off in new competitions, FIH will publish new and appropriate
Rules and Re