# BID MANUAL

## FIH HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2026

#Hockey Invites

FIH

# BIDDING PROCESS
# 2026 WORLD CUP

## GLOBAL, DYNAMIC & INCLUSIVE SPORT

**30 MILLION**
participants

50 50

**EQUALLY AMAZING**

**388 MILLION**
followers worldwide

**1 BILLION**
broadcast views

**1,65 MILLION**
followers on FIH social media accounts

**1 MILLION**
tickets sold

**120 MILLION**
impressions on FIH social media in 2020

Watch it Hockey

**BRAND NEW OTT**
matches, interviews, behind-the-scenes etc.

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Bidding Process

# FIH HOCKEY WORLD CUP

**16 MEN'S & 16 WOMEN'S TEAMS**
equally amazing – total of 850 players & support staff

**390 THOUSAND TICKETS**
distributed (general admission & VIP tickets)

**480+ REPRESENTATIVES**
from media organisations on-site

**28 THOUSAND ARTICLES**
in various media outlets worldwide

**22 MILLION VIEWERS**
of cumulated TV audience in 198 broadcast markets

**1.83 BILLION IMPRESSIONS**
through broadcast & official social media

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Held every four years, the FIH Hockey World Cup is the highlight of the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) event portfolio which brings together the best teams in the world competing for the World Cup trophy. This flagship event in the hockey calendar is guaranteed to showcase the very best of our sport and is set to fascinate hockey fans all around the world.

The FIH Events Department is pleased to provide this bid manual to National Associations ("NAs") that are interested in hosting the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026. Within the deadline set by the FIH, all interested parties are entitled to submit their candidature to host the World Cup.

This document provides key facts and information about the event and about the bidding process through the following sections:

| SECTION | CONTENT |
|---|---|
| 1. Introduction | |
| 2. Event Explanation | explains details around this event incl. qualification and competition format; |
| 3. Process & Instructions | explains what your National Association must do to submit a bid to host the FIH Hockey World Cup; |
| 4. Financial Terms | provides further information with respect to the commercial rights as well as financial terms of the bid; |
| 5. Hosting Agreement | explains the agreement that will be signed by both parties; |
| 6. Useful Documents | lists reference documents that may assist your understanding and preparation of your bid; |
| 7. Legal Provisions | explains the legal terms of the bidding process; |

## FIH Contact

FIH provides further documents for a more detailed understanding on the requirements with regard to the event upon request (refer to section 3.1). For more information, and for any inquiries you may have, please contact the FIH Events Director.

E-mail: gabrielle.vanzwieten@fih.ch

# 2. EVENT EXPLANATION

## 2.1 Qualification

Teams will qualify for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 through one of the following pathways:

- Host NA;
- Teams will qualify through FIH and Continental qualification Events. The Qualification Process will be later confirmed.

## 2.2 Competition Format

The FIH Hockey World Cup is an outdoor hockey competition that is held every four years.

### TEAMS

16 teams per gender qualified to participate in the World Cup through the World Cup Qualification Tournaments.

### MATCH SCHEDULE

The competition format is expected to maintain the same number of matches (44) as in previous editions. However, the FIH Competitions Committee will review the match schedule following the 2022/2023 World Cup to confirm if any adjustments for the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup are required.

The standard match schedule for the 2022/2023 FIH Hockey World Cup is scheduled to comprise for each gender

POOLS

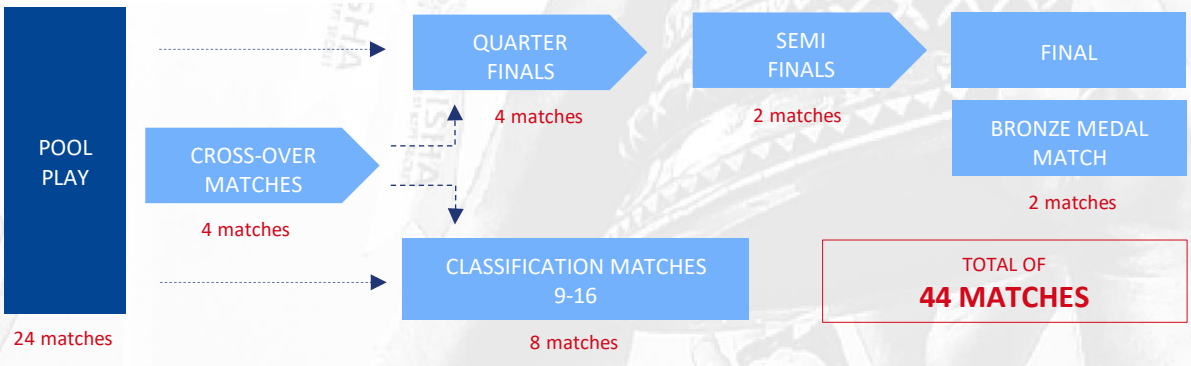
**4 POOLS OF 4 TEAMS EACH**

| POOL A | POOL B | POOL C | POOL D |
|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | B1 | C1 | D1 |
| A2 | B2 | C2 | D2 |
| A3 | B3 | C3 | D3 |
| A4 | B4 | C4 | D4 |

**FOR EACH POOL** (FOLLOWING POOL PLAY):

- 1st — to proceed directly to quarter finals
- 2nd & 3rd — to play cross-over matches
  - Winners to proceed to quarter finals
  - Losers to proceed to classification matches 9-16
- 4th — to proceed to classification matches 9-16

POOL PLAY + CLASSIFICATION MATCHES



The World Cup needs to be played in max 17 days (incl. rest days).

The full competition format will be communicated following the review of the Competitions Committee. FIH is responsible for the formulation of the match schedule but liaises with the Host NA about the sequence of match and rest days, the match times for each day's/session's play, the sequence of matches within each day/session etc. to ensure the schedule not only reflects any broadcast requirements but also considers local circumstances such as climatic conditions and helps to maximise spectator attendance.

## 2.3 Event Dates

Following the International Calendar the FIH Hockey World Cups are scheduled to be played in **July and December 2026.**

# 3. PROCESS & INSTRUCTIONS

## 3.1 Bidding Documents & Questionnaire

Bidding to host the FIH Hockey World Cup is open to all National Associations with manageable and appropriate level of event delivery and presentation. The bidding process and the requirements that need to be fulfilled to host these events are set out in this bidding manual as well as in the relevant Event Manual and the documents listed therein.

FIH will distribute the following documents:

- Bid Questionnaire – FIH Hockey World Cup 2026;
- Event Manual – FIH Hockey World Cup 2026
- Field Specifications – FIH Hockey World Cup;
- Venue Specifications – FIH Hockey World Cup;
- Hosting Agreement – FIH Hockey World Cup 2026.

These documents are essential for the interested NAs to understand the requirements of hosting a FIH Hockey World Cup event and will be part of the bidding process as well as the preparation phase for the NA(s) selected.

Interested NAs are required to complete and submit the online bidding questionnaire indicating which event they are interested in hosting (men, or women) and showing their ability to effectively host the event.

The bidding questionnaire can be accessed through the following link:
https://fih.formstack.com/forms/fih_hwc2026_bid_questionnaire

Additionally, each NA will be required to submit a signed Hosting Agreement committing to delivery of all obligations, should their NA be selected to host the event.

Separate bids are being sought for the Women's and Men's event.

## 3.2 Timeline

### Bidding Questionnaire

The deadline for submission of the completed bidding questionnaires and supporting documents is **Tuesday 31st May 2022**. FIH reserves the right not to consider any bidding questionnaire received after this date.

## Review Phase/Bid Evaluation

Following the deadline to submit the bidding documents for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 the following review phase will take place:

- **Deadline for submitting the bidding documents, 31st May 2022**
- **Questions and Answers NA's and signing Hosting Agreement – June – September 2022**
- **Bid evaluation will involve analyzing commercial and broadcast prospects in respective bidding countries. Extensive talks to be held with such prospects to scope out the revenue potential for final evaluation.**
- **Bids need to fulfil all requirements on various areas (venue structure, legacy, sustainability, etc).**
- **Evaluation will be carried out during June 2022 – Mid October 2022**

| Criteria | Weightage |
|---|---|
| **Commercial Attractiveness**<br>1. Sponsorship opportunities available.<br>2. Number of endorsements/LOI from exisiting sponsors in the local market.<br>3. Any past commercial benchmarking if available to guage sponsorship interest for the event. | 40% |
| **Broadcast** | 30% |
| **Event/Marketing & Promotion/Sport**<br>1. Venue facilities<br>2. Accessibility<br>3. Govt. Support<br>4. Legacy<br>5. Sustainability<br>6. Etc. etc. | 30% |

Bid evaluation results will be submitted to the FIH (Event Hosting) Taskforce and a final proposal to be prepared by the task force to the FIH Executive Board for approvals (Mid – end October 2022).

## Announcement

The announcement of host(s) is scheduled to be made by the FIH Executive Board at the FIH Congress (online) 5th November 2022.

Once successful host(s) are announced, FIH will countersign the Hosting Agreement for it to take effect.

The below is a summary of the timelines for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 bidding process:

**BIDDING**

**1st February 2022**
Bid Manual & Bidding Questionnaire distributed, Hosting Agreement & Event Manual available

**31st May 2022**
Interested NAs submit the completed Bidding Questionnaire & supporting documents

**EVALUATION & DECISION**

**June-September 2022**
Questions and answers NA's Hosting Agreement signed by NAs and returned to FIH

**June-October 2022**
Analyzing commercial and broadcast propsects

**October/November 2022**
Recommendations by Task Force to EB, Announcement of FIH HWC 2026 Hosts

FIH, at its own discretion, reserves the right to amend the bidding process if it deems, in its sole discretion, that such amendment is necessary or desirable.

# 4. FINANCIAL TERMS

## 4.1 Hosting Fee

No Hosting fee needs to be paid. The Host NA keeps financial support from local government all the income from general ticketing.

## 4.2 Commercial Rights

The following packages are allocated and can be sold by FIH. Host can request in writing for procuring any of these packages from FIH. Grant of any of these packages to the Host NA (upon their written request) will be at the sole discretion of FIH.

| | FIH |
|---|---|
| Global Partners | 4 packages |
| Event Partners | 4 package |
| Associate Partners | 3 packages |
| Global Supplier | 3 packages |
| Event Supplier | 3 packages |

# 5. HOSTING AGREEMENT

The Hosting Agreement will be made available along with other bidding documents (refer to section 3.1). The Hosting Agreement is to be signed by the NA once finalised and to be returned to FIH together with the Bidding documents or at the latest by September 2022.

The Hosting Agreement will be counter-signed by FIH upon the successful award of the event to the Host NA. The Host NA makes an unconditional and irrevocable offer to FIH to host the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 and agrees to cooperate with FIH in accordance with the terms and subject to the conditions set out in the Hosting Agreement.

All material comments on the draft Hosting Agreement should be provided at this stage as they will be taken into account by FIH during the evaluation of the bids. Any attempt by an NA to introduce further material comments to the Hosting Agreement template after the submission would require FIH to re-evaluate the relevant bid.

# 6. USEFUL DOCUMENTS

The following list of documents (in addition to those mentioned under section 3.1) should be considered supplementary to this bid manual and the online bidding questionnaire. It is recommended that any NA submitting a bid to host an FIH event should also be familiar with these documents:

- FIH Rules of Hockey;
- FIH Top Tier Tournament Regulations;
- FIH Medical Officers Manual;
- FIH Anti-Doping Rules and WADA World Anti-Doping Code.

The above documents are available from the official documents section of the FIH website at this link: http://www.fih.ch/inside-fih/our-official-documents/

These documents are updated from time to time and should be checked regularly.

# 7. LEGAL PROVISIONS

Nothing contained in this bid manual and in the online bidding questionnaire shall be construed as any form of commitment by FIH to proceed with a bidding NA. FIH reserves the right to short-list or reject a bid at any time and no reasons need to be given.

FIH reserves the right at any time and without giving any reason to amend the bidding process if it deems in its sole discretion that such amendment is necessary or desirable.

The bidding NAs shall keep the terms of this bid manual and the online bidding questionnaire, the bidding process and all related documents confidential, however it is understood that NAs will have discussions with public authorities and potential partners during the bidding process.

Each bidding NA is solely responsible for all costs which it incurs in connection with the bidding process and, in particular, the preparation of its bid and any related documentation.

Any and all disputes arising out of or in relation to this bid manual and the online bidding questionnaire or the bidding process, contemplated thereby shall be subject to Swiss law and the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts in Lausanne (Switzerland).

Any attempt by any bidding NA to unduly influence FIH or any representative or affiliate of FIH (for example, by offering an advantage or inducement which is not related to the bid proposal) in the process of the examination or evaluation of the bids or in any decision taken in respect of the bids, may result in the rejection of the bids of the relevant NA.