

FIH Umpiring Committee

Terms of Reference

January 2024

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aims and objectives of the Umpiring Committee are to assist the FIH in the following ways in relation to all formats of the game of hockey and any other Hockey disciplines.

1. to establish the necessary infrastructure to provide for the identification, development and ongoing training of Umpires and Umpires' Managers;
2. to ensure that there are sufficient Umpires and Umpires' Managers trained and prepared for the appropriate level, representing all continents, to officiate at all levels of International Tournaments sanctioned by the FIH throughout the world;
3. to be the focal point for the FIH for all matters relating to International Umpires and Umpires' Managers;
4. to appoint Umpires and Umpires' Managers for hockey tournaments as required by the Hosting Contracts with National Associations and/or the various FIH policies and procedures based upon, but not limited to, the following criteria, as appropriate to the particular tournament:
 - Quality
 - Neutrality
 - Global spread
 - Development
 - Education
 - Set Committee appointment criteria and career path considerations
 - Cost implications for host organisers

2. AUTHORITY, STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The UC derives its authority from the FIH Executive Board, and the members agree to be bound by and to comply with the Integrity Code, Code of Conduct, the Committee and Panel Protocols established by the Executive Board, and any other applicable FIH Regulations.

2.2 The membership of the UC shall be as directed by the FIH Executive Board, currently being:

Committee	Executive	By Invitation
1 x Chair appointed by the FIH EB; 5 representatives (1 per CF); 1 x Athlete representative; Additional members at the FIH Executive Board discretion Secretary will be a member of the FIH staff;	The President is an ex-officio member of the UC but does not have the right to vote. The CEO is an ex-officio member of the UC but does not have the right to vote, however can refer items from time to time for consideration.	The FIH Sport Director will be solicited for his opinion but will not be a member. If necessary and/or appropriate, members of other Committees and/or FIH staff can be invited.

The Committee may create temporary Sub-Committees for specific projects.

2.3 Gender Equality

The Committee aspires to 50/50 representation aligned to the FIH Gender Equality Policy.

2.4 Competencies / Attributes

- Experience of international hockey as player, coach, team official, technical official, umpires' manager, or umpire
- Extensive knowledge/experience of international, continental and domestic umpiring matters
- Extensive knowledge of FIH, Continental or National competitions and their respective appointment procedures
- Good knowledge of the Rules of Hockey and Tournament Regulations

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To assist/advise the FIH Academy in developing FIH Academy resources for the purposes of helping National Associations and Continental Federations to develop their Umpires and Umpires' Managers;
2. To assist/advise on creating and maintaining FIH Grading Guidelines Covering the Grading of Umpires and Umpires' Managers;
3. To provide a support structure for the ongoing development of Umpires and Umpires' Managers;
4. Assist/Advise to implement a Fitness Training and monitoring Programme for Umpires;
5. Assist/Advise to provide opportunities for the top elite group of Umpires and Umpires' Managers and high potential Umpires and high potential Umpires' Managers to regularly improve their skills and experience;
6. Assist/Advise to approve the grading and upgrading of Umpires, Umpires' Managers and to publish/maintain a list of Umpires, Umpires' Managers and their grades;
7. Assist/Advise to appoint Umpires and Umpires Managers' to FIH world level events, and to approve nominations to events that are qualifiers to World level tournaments.
8. To assist/advise the FIH Rules Committee by making recommendations on the FIH Rules of Hockey.

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ALIGNMENT WITH THE FIH STRATEGIC PLAN

- Assist/Advise to enhance and develop pathways for growth for Umpires and Umpires' Managers in accordance with the aims of the FIH Strategic Plan
- Assist/Advise to develop an accreditation pathway for Umpires and Umpires' Managers backed by on-line resources and the FIH Academy programmes
- Assist/Advise to enhance and develop links with the Continental Federations, to better co-ordinate and integrate the appointments process
- Assist/Advise to integrate and standardize the appointing, reporting, presenting and distribution processes using technology and platforms such as TMS

5. WORKING METHOD

Upon request to the FIH, meet once per year physically or hold virtual meetings or similar. Sub-Committees will normally hold virtual meetings or similar and report back to the main Committee. In all its responsibilities and strategic priorities, the Umpiring Committee will closely consult and collaborate with the Technical Officials Committee to ensure equal support and opportunities for all categories of international officials, including technical officials, Umpires and Umpires' Managers. The two Committees will also closely collaborate with a view to ensuring the best possible equality and consistency of any documentation, principles, systems and any other matters the equally affect or apply across all categories of officials.

6. TERM OF PANEL

The Committee will be appointed on a biennial basis.