2025
FIH Junior World Cups

Competition & training fields

Field requirements & quality standards

VERSION 1.0

Table of Contents

1. GENERAL

This document has been prepared to ensure the hockey fields provided for the FIH Hockey Junior World Cups 2025 are to the standards required by the FIH for its premier sporting events. It forms part of the FIH Hockey Junior World Cups 2025 Event Manual and should be read in conjunction with all other relevant FIH documentation

Two events will be held at different locations. At both venues, the following hockey fields are required:

- Two FIH certified category 1 or category 2 hockey fields for use as Competition Fields, allowing matches to be played simultaneously. Ideally, both fields will be floodlit to at least satisfy the FIH lighting category TV3 – as specified in the FIH TV Lighting Guide. Where this is not possible, at least one field shall be lit to this lighting standard, with the second field at least complying with the FIH Class II level of lighting, as specified in the FIH Lighting Guide for non-televised matches.

- One FIH certified category 2 hockey field that will be used as the official training venue. Ideally, this field will also be located at the venue of the competition fields. Where this is not possible this field shall be located within a 30-minute drive of the official event hotel.

The fields may either be permanent (new or existing) hockey fields or temporary overlay pitches (TOP) built specifically for the tournament.

2. DEFINITIONS

TERM / ACRONYM	EXPLANATION
Competition Field	a field used for competitive games during the Tournament
FIH Hockey Turf and Field Standards	all parts of the *FIH Hockey Turf and Field Standards*[1].
FIH TV Lighting Guide	*FIH Facilities Guide – Sports Lighting for Broadcasting 11 a-side Hockey, Outdoors*[1].
FIH Lighting Guide (non-televised matches)	*FIH Facilities Guide – Sports Lighting for Non-televised Outdoor Hockey*[1].
Field (also known as the Pitch)	the total playing area (TPA) comprising the FoP and run-offs
Field of Play (FoP)	the playing area contained within the side lines and back (goal) lines
Hockey Turf	a synthetic turf surface specifically designed for the game of hockey
LOC	Local Organising Committee
Media and operational zone	a margin outside the run-offs that is used by Tournament management.

[1] Available at Facilities Guidance – 11 a-side hockey facilities | FIH Resources Hub

TERM / ACRONYM	EXPLANATION
Total playing area (TPA)	The synthetic turf field comprising the field of play and perimeter run-offs
Run-offs	margins around the perimeter of the FoP that form safety zones for players
Warm-up / Training Field	a field provided to allow teams to warm-up and train, but not used for competition matches

3. FIELD REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Field dimensions and layouts

The fields should comply with the layouts shown in Drawings 1 and 2, as appropriate.

Competition field:	Each competition field should have end-run-offs measuring at least 5.0 m and side run-offs measuring at least 3.0 m (total field size 101.4 m x 61.0 m).
Training field:	The training field should have end-run-offs measuring at least 3.0 m and side run-offs measuring at least 2.0 m (total field size 97.4 m x 59.0 m).

3.2. Field orientation

The fields should be:

Competition field:	aligned North/ South, with a maximum deviation from north of ± 15^0.
Training field:	preferably be aligned North/ South.

3.3. Playing surfaces

The fields should be:

Competition fields:	be surfaced with FIH Approved Global category hockey turfs [2]. be no more than five, and preferably less than three, years old at the time of the Tournament have either a TPA that is an approved shade of blue, or a field of play that is an approved shade of blue, with run-offs a different colour Be certified as requiring irrigating at a rate of 1 l/ m^2 or less.
Training field:	be surfaced with FIH Approved Global category hockey turf.

[2] A list of FIH approved hockey turfs is available at Providers and Suppliers Hub (fih.hockey)

	• be no more than five, and preferably less than three, years old at the time of the Tournament • Require irrigating at a rate of 1 l/ m^2 or less.

3.3.3 Field markings

Each field shall be marked in accordance with the current Rules of Hockey, applicable at the time of the Tournament. Line markings shall be white in colour, 75mm wide, and in-laid (cut-in) or tufted into the carpet, not painted.

Competition fields:	No additional line markings shall be present. This includes cross pitch hockey training markings. No commercial logos shall be present on the FoP or run-offs without FIH's prior approval. Venue, Tournament and FIH logos may be sited on the side run-offs providing they are positioned at least 1m from the side lines.
Training field:	The field may have cross-pitch line hockey markings. No commercial logos shall be present on the FoP or run-offs without FIH's prior approval. Line markings shall be white in colour. All lines shall be 75mm wide, and preferably be in-laid or tufted into the hockey turf carpet, not painted. No commercial logos shall be present on the FoP or run-offs without FIH's prior approval.

3.4. Field watering

If the type of Hockey Turf being used requires watering, the method of irrigation shall provide a uniformly wet playing surface in accordance with *FIH Hockey Turf and Field Standards*.

3.4.1 Water quality

In locations where any of the conditions listed below could occur, the irrigation system shall be designed to ensure the risk of water borne bacterial infection of players or spectators from diseases such as Legionnaires Disease is eliminated:

- the water temperature in all or some parts of the system is between 20 °C and 45 °C;
- water is stored in an open loop system;
- water is re-circulated;
- there are sources of nutrients such as rust, sludge, scale, organic matter or biofilms within the irrigation or storage system;
- local climatic conditions are likely to encourage bacteria to multiply.

Sprinklers must not be located within the FoP or within 2m of a goal or side-line.

Rain-guns shall not be located within the run-offs. The design of the irrigation system should consider prevailing wind directions and minimise water spray drift onto spectators.

The minimum quantity of water applied to the playing surface shall be in accordance with the requirements of the installed Hockey Turf and shall be applied within 10 minutes.

The irrigation control system should allow varying cycles and individual programmes to ensure the entire playing area and surrounds can be watered. It should allow the following cycles:

- 8 minutes;
- 3–4 minutes;
- Single station activation.

Adequate water storage shall be provided to ensure the field(s) can be fully watered in accordance with the projected schedules of play during the Tournament.

The sprinklers or rain guns shall be capable of sectoring to 90° or 180°. The discharge rate shall be such that an irrigation cycle of all six emitters (operating in matched arc pairs) shall achieve an even precipitation over the FoP as specified in the *FIH Hockey Turf and Field Standards*.

4. Field equipment

4.1. Goals

Goals should be FIH Approved Class 1 Hockey Goals [3] . The nets shall be the same colour as the Field of Play.

Number required:	
Competition fields:	One pair per field and one spare: 5 total
Training field:	One pair and one spare: 3 total

4.2. Corner flags

Corner flags shall be mounted on flexible (22mm diameter) posts and be fitted into surface mounted base plates or ground sockets.

Number required:	
Competition fields:	one set per field and two spare (10 total)
Training field:	One set and two spare (6 total)

4.3. Team Shelters/ benches

Team benches shall be provided on each field. They should be FIH Approved Team Benches[4].

[3] Details of FIH Approved Hockey Goals can be obtained from Approved Field Equipment | FIH Providers and Suppliers Hub

[4] Details of FIH Approved Hockey Goals can be obtained from Approved Field Equipment | FIH Providers and Suppliers Hub

Each bench shall provide:

- seating for 12 people per bench
- protection from the weather and water spray during above-ground watering

The benches shall be positioned:

- Either side and within 10 m of the field centre line.
- No more than 5m beyond the outer margin of the side run-off.
- to allow immediate access to the fields.
- So they are separated from the field by a 1 m high fence (with top rail) to provide player protection.

4.4. Suspended player seats – competition fields

Seating for suspended players (2 per team) shall be provided.

When the Technical Officials' booth is located at field-level the seats shall be provided either side or in front of the booth, but not on the field run-offs.

If the Technical Officials' booth is in a spectator stand the seats shall be positioned at field level, in a position approved by the FIH, that allows immediate access to the field.

Seats at field level shall ideally be positioned behind a 1 m high fence to provide protection to players from balls leaving the FoP.

4.5. Technical Officials' booth – competition fields

Technical Officials' booths measuring a minimum of 6m x 3m x 2m high shall be provided to each Competition Field.

The location of the booth shall allow easy access to the FoP by match officials. It shall be positioned so it is aligned with the centre-line of the field. It may be positioned:

- adjacent to the team benches

or

- within a spectator stand on the same side of the field as the team benches.

If positioned alongside the field, the booth's floor should be elevated 300mm, with suitable steps to allow safe egress.

The booths must be watertight when closed and provide impact protection from hockey balls leaving the FoP. They shall be fitted with impact resistant front and side windows that allow match officials a clear view of the whole field.

They must contain an internal bench top (nominally 6m long by 0.8m deep) at a suitable height to allow match officials to sit at it using office chairs. This bench may either be supplied as part of the structure or as a separate table installed for the Tournament. Each booth must contain a minimum of six waterproof mains electrical power outlets and a LAN internet connection.

Details of FIH Approved TO Booths and their manufacturers can be found at Approved Field Equipment | FIH Providers and Suppliers Hub.

5. Perimeter field fencing & access gates

Each field must be fenced to ensure balls do not leave the TPA. Fencing heights should be determined by assessing the risk of balls leaving the field and striking spectators, players, Tournament officials, etc. The minimum fencing heights shall be:

Side-line boundaries	≈ 1.2 m
Along back-line boundaries where spectator seating will be located, or pedestrian access will be allowed	≥ 7.0 m
Along back-line boundaries where spectator seating will not be located, and pedestrian access will not be allowed	≥ 4.5 m

The fencing mesh (normally 50mm) shall not allow hockey balls to pass through, but it shall allow spectator visibility. It may either be:

- ball catch netting suspended from tensioned cables and fixed to prevent it billowing in the wind
- weldmesh/ chainlink panels.
- a combination of panels and netting

Player and match officials' access gates to the field shall be at least 1.0m wide. They should be provided adjacent to the point of access from the changing accommodation.

At least one set of double gates shall allow maintenance and emergency vehicle access to the field.

6. Field maintenance equipment

The LOC shall ensure that all necessary maintenance equipment, as recommended by the Hockey Turf manufacturer, is available to enable the hockey turf on each Field to be fully maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. They shall also ensure an adequate number of trained maintenance staff are available throughout the Tournament. The minimum maintenance equipment requirements for each venue are:

- Tractor and brush to groom the surface and remove any debris or detritus

- On fields that do not have a permeable base construction (allowing vertical drainage) in locations where intense rain may reasonably be expected, squeegees (minimum 8 per field) to allow the removal of excess surface water.

If intensive rainfall (thunderstorms, etc.) may be anticipated during the Tournament, suitable squeegees to remove any excess water ponding on the TPA shall be provided.

If painted lines are to be used the LOC shall ensure that suitable maintenance equipment and paint is available throughout the Tournament to allow the remarking of lines as required.

7. FIH Field certification

Between three and 12 months prior to the Tournament, each field shall be tested to allow certification by the FIH Quality Programme.

Category of FIH field certification required:		
Competition fields:	Preferred category	Category 1
	Minimum category	Category 2
Training field:		Category 2

8. Sports lighting

Sports lighting shall be provided to each field. Each lighting system may either be:

- a permanent lighting system,
- a permanent lighting system augmented by temporary lighting

Each lighting system shall satisfy the following requirements[5]:

Category of lighting required:			
Competition fields	Principal competition field	TV3 – as specified in the FIH TV Lighting Guide	
	Second competition field	FIH preference	TV3 – as specified in the FIH TV Lighting Guide
		Option	Class I (500 lux), as specified in the FIH Lighting Guide for non-televised matches
Training field:		Class II (350 lux), as specified in the FIH Lighting Guide for non-televised matches	

If the lighting system is a permanent installation, lighting tests to verify performance should be undertaken no more than 12 and no less than three months in advance of the Tournament.

If a temporary lighting system is being provided to light the field (or augment an existing lighting system) a lighting test should be undertaken and the results submitted to the FIH for approval no more than five days in advance of the Tournament.

9. Video tower

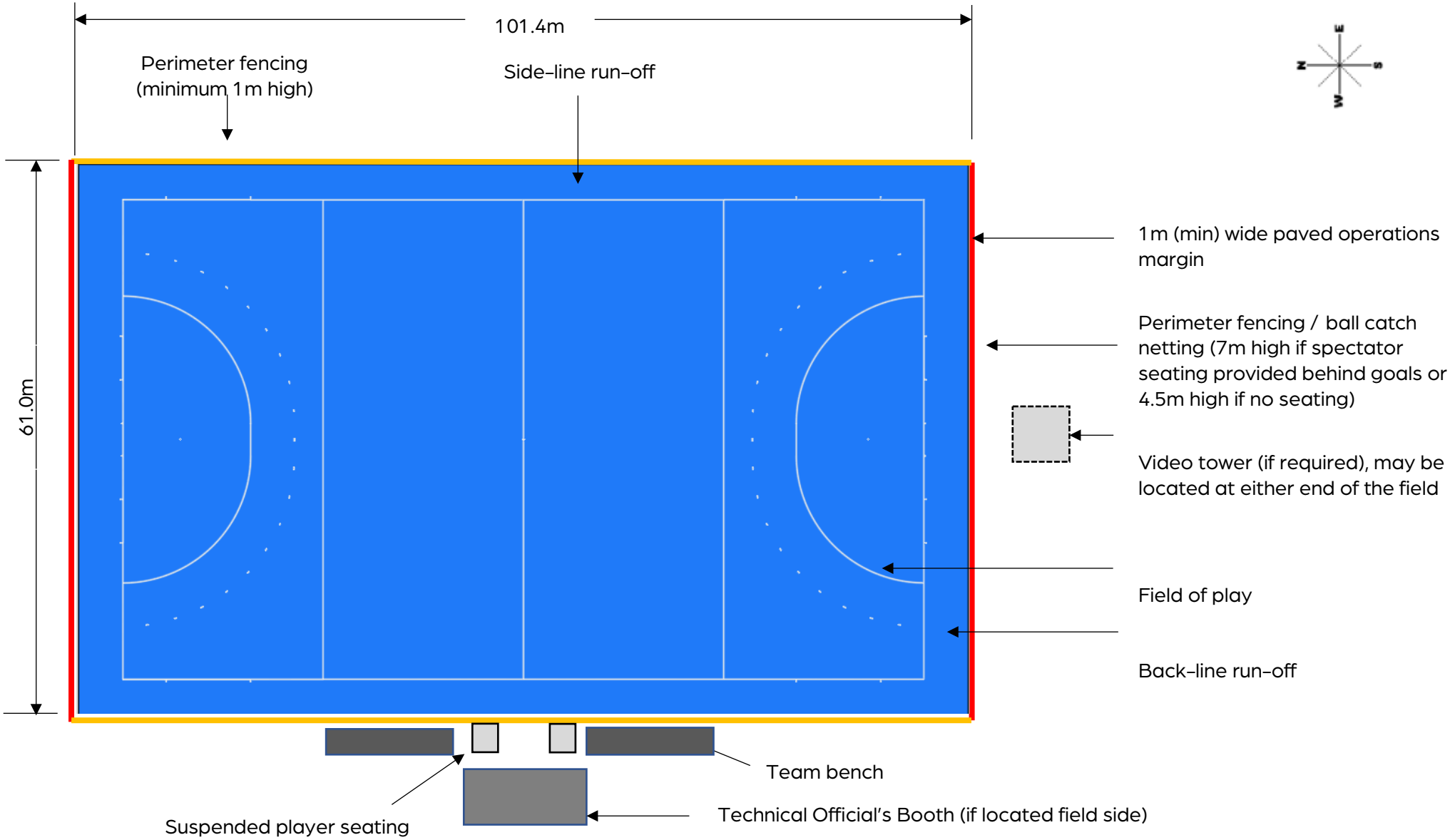
If matches are being filmed for broadcasting (TV or on-line streaming) a live feed shall be provided to a centralized position in the spectator stands, as agreed with FIH, for use by each team's video analysts. If there is no provision for broadcasting a video tower shall be provided to allow the analysts from each team to film matches. The tower should be located behind one goal, positioned as centrally as possible, at a

[5] FIH Lighting standards may be found at: FIH Quality Standard – non-televised lighting | FIH Resources Hub

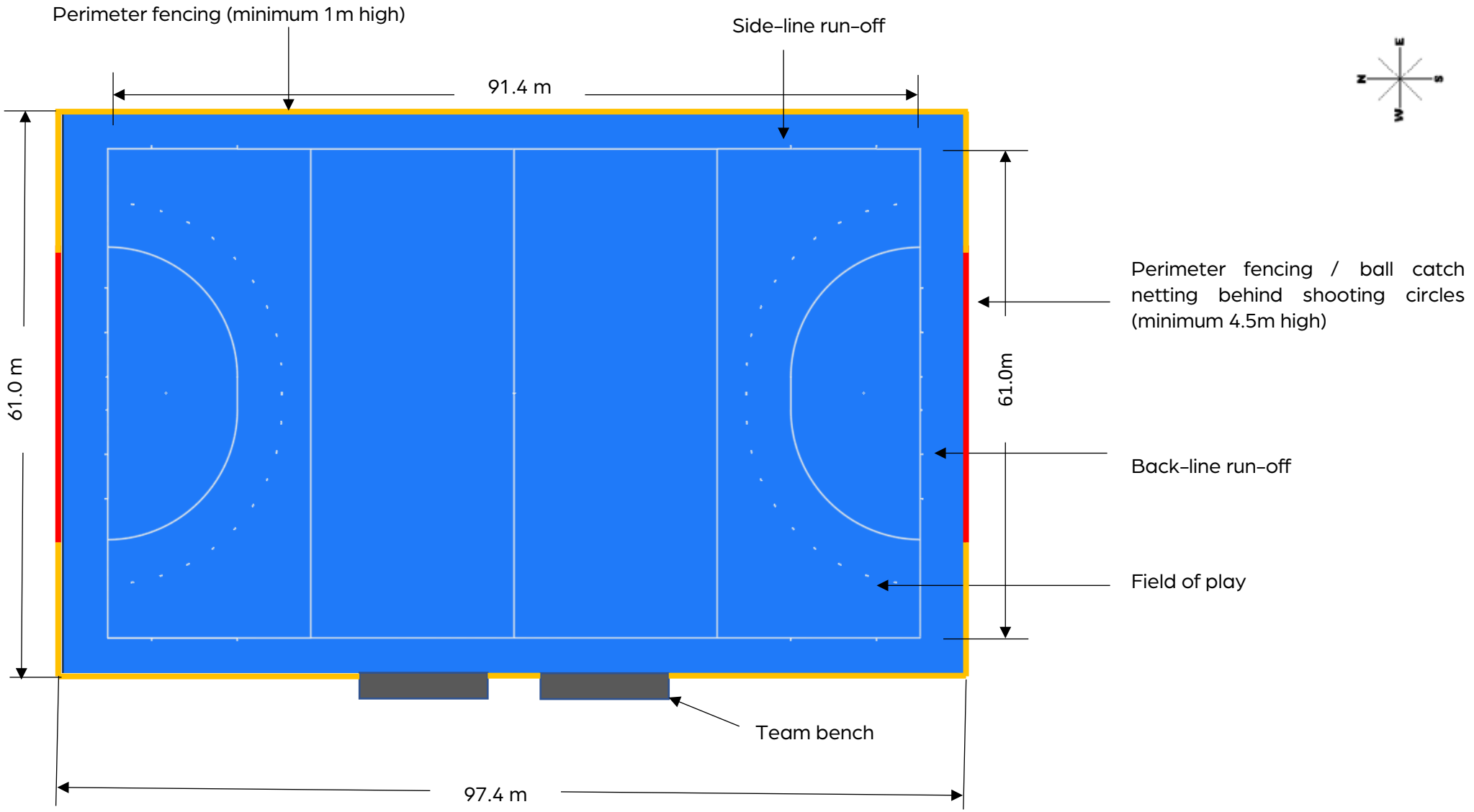
distance far enough behind the goal and of adequate height to ensure the operators can clearly film the entire FoP, but be safe from any hockey balls leaving the field. It should be located separately to any broadcast tower.

The tower should have a platform measuring at least 3.0m by 3.0m deep and have a roof height of 2.5m high. The platform shall be covered on the roof, back and sides and there should not be any fencing mesh in the camera lines. The platform shall include a safety railing to a height of approximately 1.2m to ensure a safe working environment and include netting across the front to prevent objects falling off the tower. One small table and two chairs per competing team should be provided on the platform

Drawing 1: competition field minimum layout requirements



Drawing 2: training field minimum layout requirements



Examples of ancillary field fixtures

Techncial Official's booth – located field side

Techncial Official's booth – located within spectator stand

Team bench

Suspended player's seats

Rue du Valentin 61
1004 Lausanne
Switzerland
www.fih.hockey

events@fih.hockey – facilities@fih.hockey