FIH PRO LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

WWW.FIHPROLEAGUE.COM

Season 8
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1 GENERAL

1.1 Definitions

The following definitions apply throughout these Regulations.

Appearance Fee	As set out in the League Manual (as may be amended from time to time)
Appeal Jury	A panel of persons appointed by the FIH Director General to consider an Appeal
Broadcaster	A person who has been granted any Broadcasting Rights by FIH.
Cancelled	A Match which either does not take place in full or commences and has to be abandoned.
CAS	The Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.
FIH Director General	The Director General of FIH or his designee.
Code of Conduct	The FIH Code of Conduct detailed in Appendix 3, as amended from time to time.
Continental Federation	A continental or national entity which is a member of or is recognised by FIH as the entity governing the sport of Hockey in a continent.
Delayed	If a Match cannot be started at its scheduled start time, or is interrupted after the scheduled start, it will be considered delayed.
Disciplinary Commissioner	The person appointed from time to time to the position of Disciplinary Commissioner of FIH by the Executive Board in accordance with FIH Statutes.
Equipment	A Player's stick, helmet, hand protectors, leg guards, kickers, sweatbands, mouth protector, knee protectors, shin pads, chest protector, elbow protectors, throat guard etc.
Executive Board	The Executive Board of FIH.
Field of Play	The Field of Play (FoP) comprises the pitch, its surrounding run-offs, team benches, video analysts' area and the Technical Table, including the seats for temporarily suspended players.
FIH	The International Hockey Federation.
Force majeure	Any circumstance(s) not reasonably foreseeable arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of the affected party including without limitation any strike or lock out or industrial action of whatever nature, accidental fire, storm or tempest, act of God, explosion, sabotage, flood,

	earthquakes, subsidence, epidemic or other natural physical disaster, structural damage, failure of power supplies, riot, crowd disorder, act of terrorism, war, civil commotion or any legislation, regulation, ruling or omissions (including failure to grant any necessary permissions) of any relevant government, court or any competent national or international authority;
Hockey	The sport of Hockey in all of its various forms, variations and / or derivatives, except Ice Hockey.
International Event	A duly sanctioned Match or event contested by national representative teams, including the FIH Pro League.
League Director	The member of FIH staff responsible to oversee the development, implementation and review of the FIH Pro League.
League Manual	The manual issued by FIH from time to time setting out, inter alia, the requirements for the logistics, event organisation, promotion and management of Matches and the League.
League Partner	The entities referred to in paragraph 1.1.1(a) of Schedule 4 of the Participation Agreement along with any other third party approved by FIH who may exploit the Player Promotional Rights.
League Term	Has the meaning given to it in the Participation Agreement.
Match	A match to be played by a Team in the League.
Match Schedule	The schedule of Matches and other key events for each Season.
Match Manager	Has the meaning given to it in the League Manual.
Media Policy	The FIH Pro League Media Policy, Image Rights and Personal Appearances detailed in Appendix 5 and as varied from time to time.
Stages	For PL Season 8, a stage means a country. The matches during the season will be grouped into 8 stages, each played in a single country in either one or two venues and each involving a minimum of 2 nations and both genders. These stages are outlined as: 1. Argentina, 8 - 13 December 2026 2. Spain, 14 - 22 December 2026 3. Argentina, 9 – 14 February 2027 4. India, 13 – 28 February 2027 5. Australia, 13 - 21 February 2027 6. Belgium, 12 - 27 June 2027

	7. Germany, 12 - 27 June 2027 8. Netherlands, 12 - 27 June 2027
National Association	Has the meaning given to it in the Participation Agreement.
Participation Agreement	The agreement between FIH and each National Association taking part in the FIH Pro League and which sets out the relationship between and obligations of all parties.
Participant	All National Association team members and officials including but not limited to Players, Team Management, Coaching Staff, Medical Staff, Technical Support Staff and any duly appointed representatives of the National Associations of the participating teams, Technical Officials, FIH staff, Media Officers, the host National Association's representatives.
Personal Appearance	An appearance by a Player for or on behalf of FIH and / or any League Partner at promotional events or public relations exercises or for the recording of audio and / or visual materials which may be incorporated and used in advertising and promotional materials including without limitation television, radio and print advertisements for the products and / or services and / or activities of such parties in accordance with the terms of these Regulations, excluding any appearances made pursuant to the Media Policy.
Player Promotional Rights	The right to use or authorise others to use the name, nickname, image, likeness, photograph, signature, initials, voice, statements, biography and endorsement of each Player in their capacity as a player of a Team.
Player	A player of a Team.
Season	Each Season of the League during the League Term, commencing on the date of the first Match in the Match Schedule in each Season and concluding on the date of the last match of the last Match in the Match Schedule in the same Season.
Statutes	The Statutes of FIH.
Team	The men's or women's national team selected by the National Association to represent that National Association in the FIH Pro League.
Team Kit	Each item of Team uniform or kit worn by a Player when participating in the League which shall include: socks, shorts, skirts, shirts, tracksuits and other jackets / covering attire.
Technical Officials	Match Manager, Match Umpires, Video Umpire and Judges.
Global TMS	FIH's Global Tournament Management System.
Venue	The ground at which a Match is played, and shall include the

field of play, the stadium, back of house areas, spectator areas and hospitality areas (including corporate hospitality areas and hospitality marquees) and associated facilities.

1.2 Preamble

a These Regulations apply to the FIH Pro League Season 8 (hereafter referred to as "the League") and will be updated from time to time by FIH. A copy of the current edition of the Regulations will be published on the FIH website www.fih.hockey and circulated to all National Associations with teams playing in the League. Any amendments from the previous edition will be shown by a vertical line in the right hand margin.

b The competition shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Hockey in force on 1 September before each Season, except as varied by Appendix 1 of these Regulations, and in accordance with these Regulations.

c The FIH Code of Conduct (Appendix 3) will apply throughout the League Term.

d The Media Policy (Appendix 5) will apply throughout the League Term.

e In addition to the above, FIH Statutes and General Regulations, League Manual, FIH Anti-Doping Rules, FIH Integrity Code, FIH Standard Event Operating Procedures and any other rules and regulations that are applicable and may come into force from time to time, shall apply throughout the League Term.

1.3 Authority

The League is sanctioned by and held under the authority of FIH.

1.4 General Powers of FIH

Any breach of these Regulations will be reported to the FIH Director General and he will determine what action under the terms of FIH's Statutes and Regulations will be taken.

1.5 Participation Agreement and League Manual

These Regulations should be read in conjunction with the Participation Agreement and the League Manual. Should there be any conflict between these Regulations and the Participation Agreement, the Participation Agreement will always take precedence. If there is any conflict with the League Manual, these Regulations shall take precedence.

2 MANAGEMENT OF LEAGUE

2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

a The FIH Director General has the full power and authority of FIH in relation to technical matters concerning the conduct of the competition in accordance with these Regulations.

b The FIH Director General may delegate the exercise of his powers and authorities to another person, in whole or in part and for such duration as deemed necessary. Any reference to the FIH Director General in these Regulations also applies to any of his

designees delegated to act on his behalf on any specific matter. A list of delegated authorities will be issued prior to each Season and may be varied as appropriate at any time throughout the Season.

c The FIH Director General will appoint a League Director for each Season.

d The FIH Director General will appoint two (2) Technical Delegates, one male and one female, to ensure that the technical requirements of these Regulations are complied with.

e The FIH Director General will appoint a Match Manager to each stage. The Match Manager will lead the Technical Officials team in all technical aspects of the field of play, ensuring that the Rules of Hockey and these Regulations are upheld. He / she will be the point of contact for the participating teams in any given match.

2.2 League Schedule

In conjunction with the National Associations with teams in the League, FIH has formulated a Match Schedule for the Season 8 and published it on 16th October, before the start of the new Season.

3 TEAM ENTRY

3.1 Long List of Players

a No later than 8 November 2026, National Associations must submit to FIH via the Global TMS a team entry list showing the names of a minimum of 24 Players who will take part in the competition. All Players must be identified by their respective playing shirts numbered within the range 1 – 99 which must remain the same throughout the Season. After this date, additions can still be made to the list. If requested by the FIH Director General, a copy of a Player's passport must be provided.

b When nominating an additional Player, 7 days' notice must be given. The notice must be accompanied by photographs of the additional Player as prescribed by the FIH Director General.

c By virtue of a Team submitting a list of Players and team support personnel (Managers, Coaches, Physiotherapists etc), all Participants are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of these Regulations, Code of Conduct, Media Policy and the FIH Top Tier Uniform Advertising Policy.

d The long list must also show the name of the Team Manager, not being the Head Coach and the name(s) of any Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Assistant Team Manager.

e Any changes to personnel listed in Articles 4.1a, 4.1b and 4.1c must be advised to the FIH Director General before they take effect.

3.2 Team Uniforms

Please refer to Participation Agreement Schedule 2 Article 1.1.3 (b) and Appendix 6 of these Regulations.

a No later than 15 November 2026, National Associations must forward to FIH for approval details of the primary and secondary colours of the playing uniforms. These details must be submitted in electronic photographic format, either as pdf, jpeg or png.

b Each piece in one set of field players' clothing must consist of at least 80% single colour and the other set must consist of a colour(s) completely different from the dominant one(s) in the first mentioned set for shirt, shorts / skirt / skorts and socks except in collars, edging, piping or other decorative features (eg an accepted manufacturer's branding).

c Goalkeepers' shirts which must consist of colours completely different from each other and the primary and alternative colours of the field players' shirts.

d Field players' numbers must:

- i Appear in distinctive filled (that is not outlined) figures;
- ii Be not less than 16 cm and not more than 20 cm in height on the back of the player's shirt;
- iii Be not less than 7 cm and not more than 9 cm in height on the front of the player's shorts / skirt / skorts at thigh level.

e Goalkeepers' numbers must:

- i Appear in distinctive filled (that is not outlined) figure(s);
- ii Be not less than 16 cm and not more than 20 cm in height on the back of the goalkeeper's shirt;
- iii Be not less than 7 cm and not more than 20 cm in height on the front of the goalkeeper's shirt.

f The display of the name (family or given) of the player is compulsory for the League. Each player's name must:

- i Appear on the back of their shirt;
- ii Be in distinctive filled (that is not outlined) letters not less than 6 cm and not more than 10 cm in height;
- iii Be positioned above the player's number so that the number remains clearly visible.
- iv. The spelling of the names must be consistent with that entered into Global TMS.

g Any additional items of clothing worn by a player during a match must be the same colour as the adjoining piece of clothing. Black inner shorts with different colours of shirts/skirts/skorts are an exception and approved. Head or wrist sweatbands

and headscarves may be any plain (but not fluorescent) colour.

h All players must:

i be uniformly and neatly dressed at all times during a match;

ii not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. All items of jewellery (watches, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Permanent jewellery or any jewellery that cannot be easily removed must be adequately covered or taped.

i Field players must:

i wear shin guards inside the socks and below the knee at all times during a match;

ii wear any form of body protection (including leg protection) underneath normal playing clothing; knee pads may be worn outside the socks, provided that the colour of the knee pads is the same as the colour of the socks or black;

iii not wear any additional protective equipment related to medical reasons or similar as specified in the Rules of Hockey unless approved by FIH.

iv wear face masks when defending penalty corners

j Any team wishing to wear black arm bands for a specific match must obtain beforehand the approval of the FIH Director General. Applications must be made in writing (for example by email) at least 12 hours before the start of the match in question. In exceptional circumstances, and at the absolute discretion of the FIH Director General, this notice period may be reduced. Additionally, subject to approval from the FIH Director General, a minute's silence may be observed as a mark of respect for the person concerned.

k When warming up during a Match, substitutes must wear bibs or some other form of clothing in a colour different to both teams.

3.3 Announcement of Match Squads and Starting Line Ups

a No later than 1 week before the start of a stage that a team is involved in, Team managers must submit to FIH the names of up to 24/28 Players that will form that team's squad for the duration of this stage.

Note: For stages where a team play more than 4 matches, all teams will be able to submit a list of 28 players. This condition applies to the matches in Spain, (M & W), Australia (M & W), India (Men only), Belgium (M & W), Netherlands (M & W) and Germany (M & W)

b No later than 1 hour before the start of a Match, Team Managers must submit to FIH via the Global TMS

- the names of up to 18 Players that will form their team's squad for the Match,
- the names of the 11 Players that will start the match, and

- the names of the Team Manager, Team Coach, Physiotherapist and Team Doctor for the match plus one other member of the team management who will be present on the team bench.

c A nominated Player who becomes incapacitated between the announcement of the 24/28 Players for a stage, and up to one hour before the start of the first match for that team in the stage may be replaced in the 24/28 by another Player whose name appears on the team's Long List, provided that a team may not nominate any Player who is suspended from playing in the League. For clarity, no replacement players will be allowed during a stage from 1 hour before the start of the first match for each team of the stage.

d A nominated starting line-up Player who becomes incapacitated between the announcement of the starting line-up and the start of a match may be replaced in the starting line up by another Player from within the match day squad of 18. The Team Manager must notify the Match Manager on duty accordingly, who will inform the Team Manager of the opposing team and the media of such a change.

4 RULES OF COMPETITION

4.1 Rules of Hockey

The Rules of Hockey 2027 applies to the FIH Pro League Season 8, except as any variations contained within these Regulations.

4.2 Competition Plan and Ranking in the League

a Each League Season encompasses a single league phase with each nation playing against the other nations 2 (two) times. Matches are played in stages, in a single country, including either the host nation against "away" nations or between the "away" nations playing against each other.

b In the event of a Match being drawn, a shoot-out competition will be played in accordance with Appendix 2. The winner of the shoot-out competition will be awarded one bonus point.

c The following points will be awarded for each Match:

i three (3) points to the winner in normal time;

ii one (1) point to the winner of a shootout following a draw plus one (1) bonus point, making a total of two (2) points.

iii one (1) point to the loser of the shootout, in the event of a draw;

iv no points to the loser of a match in normal time.

b During the Season, teams will be ranked by the points gained up to that point in time. In the case of two or more teams having an equal number of points, they will be ranked according to Regulations 4.2 e – k below.

c If at any point of time during the Season two or more teams with the same number of points for any place in the League will be ranked according to their respective number of Matches won.

d If there remains equality among two or more teams, then these teams will be ranked according to their respective goal difference in normal time (which means goals for less goals against). A positive goal difference always takes precedence over a negative one.

e If there still remains equality among two or more teams, then these teams will be ranked according to their respective number of goals for.

f Should there still remain equality among two teams, then the aggregate results of the matches played between those teams will determine the ranking of the tied teams in accordance with Regulations 5.2 c, d, e, f and g of this Article.

g If more than two teams are involved, then a ranking based upon the results of the matches among (only) them shall determine their respective position in accordance with Regulations 5.2 c, d, e, f and g of this article.

h If there still remains equality among two or more teams, then these teams will be ranked according to the number of Field Goals scored in the League.

i If there remains equality among two or more teams these teams will be ranked according to the lesser number of red cards, followed by the lesser number of yellow cards followed by the lesser number of green cards.

j During the Season, if teams are still equal after regulation 4.2 k, they will be displayed in alphabetical order.

k At the end of the Season, if teams are still equal after regulation 4.2k, they will be ranked equally.

l If all matches are not completed during the season for reasons of Force majeure (for example due to the COVID pandemic), the procedure set out in Regulation 8.1 j will apply. For the season to be considered complete and the final ranking table to be official, and League positions including the winners to be confirmed, at least 75% of the matches (54 matches) in a gender Pro League must have been completed. If less than 75% of the matches have been completed, then the season will be considered incomplete and no winner or relegated team will be announced. Individual match statistics will be maintained and recorded on Global TMS.

5 MATCH OFFICIALS

5.1 Appointment of Match Officials

a The Technical Delegate(s) appoints the Match Manager, the Match Umpires, the Umpire Manager and the Video Umpire for each match.

b Other than in exceptional circumstances Match or Video Umpires will not be appointed to a Match in which their country is playing.

c The 2 Judges will be nominated by either the FIH or the host National Association and must be

of international standard. The names of any Judges proposed by the National Association shall be submitted no later than 7 days before a match by the host National Association for approval by the FIH Director General.

5.2 Technical Officials' Liaison Officer

For each Match, the host National Association must appoint a Technical Officials' Liaison Officer. The Technical Officials Liaison Officer is responsible for the welfare and wellbeing of the appointed Technical Officials from the time of their arrival in the host country until the time of their departure. The Technical Officials Liaison Officer cannot be appointed as a Judge for a Match.

6 MATCH PROCEDURES

6.1 Composition of a team

a A maximum of 16 field players and a maximum of 2 goalkeepers wearing full protective equipment may be used by a team in a Match.

b Each team involved in a Match must have available with it two extra sets of Team Kit without number plus suitable material for numbering.

c All Players must be uniformly and neatly dressed at all times during a Match

d Players must not wear any additional protective equipment related to medical reasons or similar as specified in the Rules of Hockey unless approved by the FIH Director General.

e No advertisement may appear on any item of Team Kit or equipment used by any player or team official except as permitted in Appendix 6.

f Manufacturer identification(s) on a particular item of clothing worn by Players or team officials or equipment used by Players whilst playing is permitted in accordance with Appendix 6.

6.2 Duration of Matches

a The Umpires start, stop and re-start the Match; they also signal to the Technical Officials on duty every time stoppage they order and the subsequent re-start.

b Time-keeping is controlled by the Technical Officials on duty; they are responsible for signalling the end of each quarter. If a Match, however, is prolonged at the end of a quarter to allow for the completion of a penalty corner as specified in the Rules of Hockey, the Umpires will signal the end of that quarter.

6.3 Substitution of Players

a Substitution takes place as specified in the Rules of Hockey and these Regulations from the Players named in the Match Report.

b Substitution takes place under the supervision of the Match Manager.

c After leaving the field of play having been substituted, a Player must go to the team bench.

d Team Managers are responsible for the proper application of the procedures.

6.4 Admission to the Field of Play

a The Coach on the team bench may not enter the Field of Play during playing time under any circumstances but may do so during a shoot-out competition.

b The Team Manager and substitute players nominated for that match must remain near or within the team bench during playing time, including time stoppages, or when implementing the substitution procedures. The Team Coach nominated for the match must remain in an area designated by the Technical Officer on duty but need not be seated. Substitutes may leave their seats to warm up in an area designated by the Technical Officer on duty. The Team Medical Doctor and Physiotherapist may leave their seats to treat players; wherever possible treatment should take place at the end of the team bench.

c The nominated Team Manager for a Match is responsible for the conduct of all persons occupying the bench.

d Vocal communication by team officials and / or Players on the team bench must not be directed at any Technical Official and / or the Players of the opposing team.

e If misconduct occurs after a Team Manager has been warned about acts of misconduct on her / his team bench, the Match Manager on duty is empowered to order the person or persons involved to leave the team bench and remain in the team changing room for the rest of the Match. After the Match, the Match Manager will report the circumstances to the FIH Director General who may take further disciplinary action.

f No incapacity treatment is permitted on the Field of Play unless the Physiotherapist or Team Doctor reasonably believes that a player requires urgent medical attention and for that reason, they may enter the Field of Play without waiting for permission.

g If any person from the team bench enters the Field of Play and attends a Player:

i that Player must leave the Field of Play and return to the team bench area for a minimum of two minutes of playing time;

ii the two minutes period will be managed by the Technical Officials on duty;

iii the Player required to leave the Field of Play may be substituted in accordance with the Rules of Hockey and these Regulations.

iv As an exception to the above, if a goalkeeper is treated on the pitch for an injury incurred immediately prior to the award of a penalty corner or penalty stroke, including following a video umpire referral, the goalkeeper does not have to leave the pitch for two minutes of playing time.

h If blood staining to the Field of Play occurs, cleaning must immediately take place using a Non-Acid Disinfectant Surface Cleaner which is effective against antibiotic-resistant bacteria or, if such a material is not available, then an 80% alcohol solution

should be used. During this operation there must be a time stoppage of play.

i Team officials and Players may leave the technical facility area surrounding the Field of Play during half time.

j Coaching, shouting, and any other loud verbal communication to players during the match are permitted only from the team bench areas and are prohibited from all other locations, including but not limited to, video towers, seating areas, and open areas behind the goals or around the Field of Play. Coaches' boxes or other designated seating for coaches, if provided and identified at the Pre-Event Briefing Meeting, which are made available solely to ensure seating for selected coaching staff with an unobstructed view of the Field of Play from a vantage point suitable for observing play for coaching purposes. Communication with the bench area by radio, mobile phone, or other electronic means is permitted.

6.5 Video Umpire Protocol

Appendix 7 specifies the Video Umpire protocol.

6.6 Match Report Forms

a At the end of a Match, a Match Report is produced at the technical table. This document is a summary of the match showing the names of all Players, Team Officials and Technical Officials nominated for the Match and key statistics of the Match, including the result.

b Within ten minutes of the end of the match, the Team Manager of each participating Team must sign the Match Report. In signing the Match Report, Team Managers are indicating that the details on the report are correct. Should it subsequently come to light that a detail is incorrect (eg the scorer of a goal) and the Team Manager wants the information corrected, evidence must be submitted to the FIH Director General that an error has occurred. If the FIH Director General is satisfied by the evidence provided that a mistake has been made, he will arrange for Global TMS to be corrected accordingly.

c The Technical Officials must also sign the Match Report once both Team Managers have done so.

d At the end of a Match, Disciplinary Card and Match Injury Report Forms are produced at the Table. These forms must be signed by the appropriate Technical Official and Match Umpire as indicated on these forms.

6.7 Match Protocols

a FIH will issue protocols covering the procedures to be followed during a Match, for example the presentation of teams to spectators before the start of a Match. Such protocols must be followed and any failure to do so will be reported as a breach of FIH Policy.

b FIH reserves the right to vary protocols throughout the Season.

c Protocols covering media and broadcast requirements before, during and after a Match are covered in Appendix 5.

7 *DELAY, RESCHEDULE AND CANCELLATION OF A MATCH*

7.1 Inability to complete match, cancelations

a All Matches should start and end as defined by the Match Schedule, to ensure operational plans are effective, and in particular Broadcast schedules are unaffected.

b Under certain circumstances, outside of the control of FIH and the Host National Association, changes to the schedule may be required.

c Where a Match cannot be commenced on the day on which it is scheduled, it shall subject to agreement between the Parties be rescheduled at the earliest possible time. If the parties are unable to reach agreement on a rescheduling a match, the matter shall be referred to the FIH Director General who can at their discretion refer the matter onto the FIH Disciplinary Commissioner according to the FIH Dispute Resolution Regulations. Where there is a requirement to Delay the start of a Match, a decision will be taken on venue following consultation between the Match Manager, Host National Association and Host Broadcaster. If there is not unanimous agreement to Delay the start a Match the decision will be taken by the FIH Director General.

d If a Delay occurs once a Match is underway, priority is given to completing the Match. If the Delay impacts another Match, then operational plans will be enacted to minimise this impact.

e In the event of a requirement to Cancel a Match, the Host National Association will immediately advise the FIH Director General.

f Any decision to Cancel a Match will be taken by the FIH Director General.

g Where a Match commences and is abandoned in the fourth quarter of the Match, the score at the time of abandonment will be considered the result of the Match.

h Where a Match commences and is abandoned prior to the fourth quarter and cannot be completed, the Match is considered cancelled. In such a case international caps will be awarded to all players who entered the Field of Play.

i Where a Match is unable to commence, the Match is considered cancelled.

j If one of the two Matches played between two teams is cancelled, each team will receive one point. If both matches are cancelled, each team will receive 3 points. No statistics (i.e goals, cards and caps) will be applied to the cancelled match.

7.2 Failure to play

a Any Team either refusing to play or failing to complete a Match will be referred to the FIH Director General for the appropriate action.

b A team shall not be deemed to have failed to play a match if such failure is caused or brought about by an Event of Force Majeure.

c An Event of Force Majeure in these Regulations is meant to cover circumstances beyond the control of a team that is unforeseeable and cannot be resisted and

includes but not restricted to:

i Acts of God (such as but not limited to, pandemics, fires, explosions, earthquakes, drought, tidal waves and floods);

ii War, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), invasion, act of foreign enemies, mobilization, requisition or embargo;

iii Riot, commotion, strikes, go slows, lock outs, or disorder;

iv Acts of terrorism;

v Acts of governments or government authorities (such as, but not limited to, refusal of visas, ministerial orders and travel restrictions).

d In the event that an NA fails or refuses to play a Match in accordance with the League Manual or abandons a Match before completion and claims that its failure, refusal or abandonment is due to an Event of Force Majeure, the matter shall be referred by FIH Director General to the FIH Disciplinary Commissioner. If in the opinion of the FIH Disciplinary Commissioner, the reason for such failure, refusal or abandonment does not amount to an Event of Force Majeure, the FIH Disciplinary Commissioner shall be entitled to take such action as it deems fit in terms of the FIH Dispute Resolution Regulations including, but not limited to imposing a fine and/or requirement to pay compensation or rescheduling the Match

8.3 Withdrawal from FIH Pro League

If any Team withdraws from the FIH Pro League during a Season;

a All of its results will be removed from the records of that Season's Match Schedule.

b Matches that have been played will be recorded separately on Global TMS and all associated statistics, eg caps, goals scored, disciplinary cards etc will be recorded.

8 MEDICAL

8.1 Participants' Medical Data

a FIH may collect and assess injury data in a Match in order to monitor injuries sustained by all players. Such studies are conducted in the interests of players' health and safety.

b Players are requested to participate in FIH medical injury surveillance studies conducted in connection with International Events. For the avoidance of doubt any information gathered in the course of any medical injury surveillance study shall not identify players personally and shall be used for statistical purposes only. It is the right of players not to participate in any medical injury survey should they not wish to.

8.2 Anti-Doping

a As a pre-condition of their participation in the League, all Players must have

undertaken an Anti-Doping education programme prior to the commencement of the League (if not completed within the preceding 24 months). Each National Association is free to choose which recognised education programme is most suitable for its Players, such as the World Anti-Doping Agency's on-line course ALPHA, or a National Anti-Doping Organisation / Regional Anti-Doping Organisation organised training.

b All Anti-Doping tests will be carried out in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Agency Code and FIH Anti-Doping Rules. Any changes to the Code or FIH Rules during the Season, will be communicated to National Associations.

c All matches maybe subject to Anti-Doping tests as the FIH Director General may direct.

d Any Player listed on the Team Entry form may be the subject of an Anti-Doping test after a match even if that player has not entered the Field of Play. A Player may be the subject of more than one Anti-Doping test during the Season.

e A player selected for an Anti-Doping test may not take a shower, bath, ice-bath or similar before providing a urine / blood sample which meets the requirements in the International Standard for Testing.

9 APPEALS

a Notwithstanding the provisions of this Regulation, an appeal from a decision of an Umpire, Video Umpire or Technical Official during a match or shoot-out competition may not be made to or considered by an Appeal Jury. This includes decisions by Umpires to award a green or yellow personal penalty card, except in the case of mistaken identity, that is a green or yellow card was awarded to the wrong person for a specific incident

b An appeal may not be lodged for consideration by an Appeal Jury in respect of any decision of a Technical Delegate unless the decision appealed against is in respect of a suspension. A written notice of appeal must be given, within 3 days of the Technical Delegate's decision being published, to the FIH Director General, who will consider it and decide whether or not that the matter should be referred to the Appeal Jury.

c Written confirmation that the sum of two thousand US Dollars (US$2,000) will be paid must accompany the written notice of appeal.

d The written notice of appeal must contain a statement outlining the grounds of appeal.

e The appeal is not by way of a re-hearing of the evidence. It is limited to a review of the decision of the Technical Delegate to ensure compliance with the Regulations, Code of Conduct Guidelines and principles of natural justice.

f No fresh evidence shall be presented to an Appeal Jury without its approval. If approval is sought to present fresh evidence, particulars of such evidence and the reasons why it was not presented to the earlier decision-maker must also be included in the written notice of appeal.

g The Appeal Jury may conduct the hearing in such a manner and at such time and in such

a way as it considers desirable and / or suitable. This may include holding the meeting electronically or by written representations only. If any party fails to attend the hearing, the Appeal Jury may proceed in the absence of that or any other party.

h The Appeal Jury must publish a decision in writing. A copy must be provided to the FIH Director General. It must be published as soon as possible but not later than four hours before the start of the Team's next League match. Wherever possible, the Chair of the Appeal Jury which heard the case should orally notify the decision to the Team Manager or official concerned immediately after making the decision.

i The decision of the Appeal Jury is final and binding on all parties concerned.

j Failure to comply with any part of this Regulation will result in the dismissal of the appeal.

k An Appeal Jury has the power:

i to allow or dismiss the appeal;

ii to vary the decision of the Technical Delegate;

iii to increase, decrease, remit or otherwise vary any penalty included in the decision of the Technical Delegate;

iv to impose such other penalty or sanction as it deems fit;

v to recommend to the FIH Executive Board that the deposit be refunded, in whole or in part, or forfeited;

vi to make an order for payment of costs.

9.1 Appeal Jury members

a Before the first match of a Season, the FIH Director General will appoint a panel who may act as members of an Appeal Jury during that Season.

b Changes to the Appeal Jury panel may be made throughout the Season.

c The names of and any changes to the Appeal Jury panel will be published on FIH's website and advised to the National Associations of the Teams.

d For any Appeal the FIH Director General will appoint an Appeal Jury one of whom shall be the Chair. The names of the members of that Appeal Jury will be announced to the appellants in due course.

e An Appeal Jury shall consist of three persons from the panel who are not from the countries of those team(s) involved in the original decision or the appeal.

f Any person who has taken part in any previous proceedings relating to the matter under appeal must not be appointed to a particular Appeal Jury.

10 CODE OF CONDUCT

10.1 The FIH Code of Conduct applies to all Participants.

10.2 Appendix 4 to these Regulations provides further information for the application of the

Code of Conduct, appeal process, guidelines on sanctions and the process for hearing and determining any reported offence.

10.3 If the Match Manager determines that a breach of the Code of Conduct may have occurred, (s)he will gather all relevant material and evidence and forward it to the FIH Director General within 2 hours of the end of a Match. Having determined that a breach of the Code may have occurred, the Match Manager shall advise the Team Manager of the Participant involved that a report is being compiled and collect any comments, statement and evidence from the Participant alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct.

10.4 Upon receipt of the Match Manager's report, the Technical Delegate will decide whether a Code of Conduct hearing is appropriate.

10.5 If the Technical Delegate decides to convene a Code of Conduct hearing, (s)he may conduct the hearing in such a manner and at such time and in such a way as it considers desirable and / or suitable. This may include holding the meeting electronically or by written representations only. The Technical Delegate will have the right to ask questions of the Participants or their representative. If necessary, a translator may be used.

10.6 The Technical Delegate will consider the evidence presented and decide on any disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Conduct. The Technical Delegate's decision will be submitted via email to the Participant(s), her / his / their Team Manager and the FIH Director General.

10.7 Any decision by a Technical Delegate on the duration of any suspension, is limited to the remaining matches in the Season but, if the Technical Delegate decides that the appropriate penalty may or ought to include the imposition of a suspension that affects matches or should otherwise take effect after the end of the Season, the Technical Delegate must give written notice of the decision to the FIH Director General, who will refer it to the Disciplinary Commissioner to decide on any further period of suspension or other penalty to be imposed.

10.8 Suspended persons may not enter the Field of Play or the technical facility areas (including the team benches, coaches' boxes and / video analysis area) until the completion of the match or matches comprising the suspension.

10.9 An individual or a team may appeal against any suspension imposed by the Technical Delegate or Disciplinary Commissioner. If an Appeal is made, the Team Manager must give follow the procedure set out in Regulation 10.2 above. If no appeal is lodged in accordance to the procedure in Regulation 10.2 above, the published decision is final. A valid appeal will be referred to an Appeal Jury.

11 MEDIA OBLIGATIONS AND PLAYER PROMOTIONAL RIGHTS

Each National Association and Participant shall comply, and each National Association shall procure that its Participants shall comply, with:

a the Media Policy, Image Rights and Personal Appearances as set out in Appendix 5;

b all requirements as set out in the then current Season's FIH Pro League Manual.

12 UNFORESEEN EVENTS

12.1 If circumstances arise pertaining to the technical aspects of the conduct of a Match, which are not provided for in these Regulations, the Match Manager will determine any actions necessary.

12.2 If circumstances in relation to any other matter which are not provided for in these Regulations, the FIH Director General will determine any actions as appropriate.

APPENDIX 1

VARIATIONS TO THE RULES OF HOCKEY

Below is a list of Regulations which vary the Rules of Hockey and they apply to all matches in the FIH Hockey Pro League.

1 CAPTAINS

Rule 3.3: Captains must wear a distinctive armband or similar distinguishing article on an upper arm or shoulder or over the upper part of a sock.

Regulation: Captains must wear a distinctive single colour (not black) or in the team's national colour(s) or a rainbow coloured armband or similar distinguishing article on an upper arm or shoulder or over the upper part of a sock.

2 TIME STOPPAGES

Rule 8.2: Time and play are stopped when a goal is scored and re-started when the teams are ready.

Regulation: After a goal is scored, time is stopped for 40 seconds, except in the case of goals awarded after a Video Referral or a Penalty Stroke. The umpire will then re-start play as soon as possible, unless time has to be stopped for another reason.

Rule 13.3a: Time and play are stopped on the award of a penalty corner and re-started when the teams are ready. Teams should take up their positions for the taking of a penalty corner and put on penalty corner protective equipment without delay (as a guide up to 40 seconds).

Regulation: When a penalty corner is awarded, time is stopped for 40 seconds, except in the case of a re-award of a penalty corner or the award of a penalty corner following a Video Umpire referral, when time will be stopped but the umpires will re-start time and play at the earliest possible opportunity, ensuring that any delay is kept to a minimum.

Rule 2.3(f) Time and play are not stopped for substitutions; however, at the request of a team, time may be stopped to permit a substitution involving a goalkeeper

Regulation: Time must be stopped for any substitution involving a goalkeeper, this includes where a field player is being substituted for a goalkeeper or vice versa.

3 PENALTY CORNER PROCEDURES

Regulation: When an initial penalty corner is awarded, the timing of the match shall be stopped for 40 seconds, as specified in Article 2 above to permit defenders to put on

protective equipment before the penalty corner is taken. All field players defending a penalty corner must wear a face mask (as described in Rule 4.2 of the Rules of Hockey) until the first shot at goal (as described in Rule 13.3 of the Rules of Hockey). Where a defending field player removes the face mask before the first shot at goal, the penalty corner shall be re-taken.

The Umpire shall advise both teams as the countdown clock approaches zero. After 40 seconds if both teams are ready the Umpire shall re-start play by blowing the whistle and the ball shall be injected immediately. Rule 13.6(b) of the Rules of Hockey applies if the injector does not play the ball immediately after the start of the penalty corner.

If a team is not ready, the engaged Umpire must determine whether:

a the delay was due to players finding and putting on their full protective equipment, in which case additional time shall be allowed as necessary without penalty in the interest of player welfare and safety, or

b the delay was intentional, in which case the Umpire shall identify and issue a personal penalty (i.e. a green card) to the player who is responsible for the deliberate delay and the defending team shall defend the penalty corner with one fewer player. Repeated offences by the same team shall result in an increased personal penalty (i.e. a yellow card)

c Where a delay is caused by an attacking player, the Umpire shall issue a personal penalty (a green card) to that player. Repeated offences shall result in an increased personal penalty (i.e. a yellow card)

A decision made or the failure to make a decision under this Article cannot be the subject of a Team Referral under Appendix 7.

4 GREEN CARD – TWO MINUTES SUSPENSION

Rule 14.1.b: For any offence the offending player or team official may be temporarily suspended for 2 minutes of playing time (indicated by a green card).

a For the duration of each temporary suspension, the offending team plays with one fewer player.

b If a field player receives a green card, the Umpires stop the match (but not necessarily the time) to issue the card; if time has been stopped, the Umpires restart it immediately after issuing the card.

c If a goalkeeper receives a green card, the Umpires stop the time and re-start it immediately after that player has left the field of play.

d The offending player leaves the field immediately and the offending team official goes immediately to the designated place; if they interfere with play on their way to the designated suspension area the Umpire may further penalise them in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.

e Timing of the suspension is controlled by a Technical Official on duty.

f The offending player is permitted to resume play, and the offending team official to resume their duties, when the Technical Official on duty indicates that the period of suspension has been completed.

g If the offending player is a goalkeeper, the Technical Official on duty notifies the Umpires when the period of suspension has been completed; the Umpires stop the time at the next stoppage of play to enable that player to resume play.

5 YELLOW CARD – TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

Rule 14.1.c: For any offence the offending player or team official may be temporarily suspended for 5 or 10 minutes of playing time (indicated by a yellow card).

a The duration of temporary suspension is indicated to the Technical Officials on duty by the Umpire who issues the yellow card.

b For the duration of each temporary suspension, the offending team plays with one fewer player.

c If a field player receives a yellow card, the Umpires stop the match (but not necessarily the time) to issue the card; if time has been stopped, the Umpires restart it immediately after issuing the card.

d If a goalkeeper receives a yellow card, the Umpires stop the time and re-start it immediately after that player has left the field of play.

e The offending player leaves the field immediately and the offending team official goes immediately to the designated place; if they interfere with play on their way to the designated suspension area the Umpire may further penalise them in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.

f Timing of the suspension is controlled by a Technical Official on duty.

g The offending player is permitted to resume play, and the offending team official to resume their duties, when the Technical Official on duty indicates that the period of suspension has been completed.

h If the offending player is a goalkeeper, the Technical Official on duty notifies the Umpires when the period of suspension has been completed; the Umpires stop the time at the next stoppage of play to enable that player to resume play.

6 PERSONAL PENALTIES TO TEAM OFFICIALS

Rule 14.1: For any offence the offending player or team official may be:

a cautioned (indicated by spoken words)

b temporarily suspended for 2 minutes of playing time (indicated by a green card)

c temporarily suspended for 5 or 10 minutes of playing time (indicated by a yellow card)

d permanently suspended from the current match (indicated by a red card).

Regulation: A card may only be awarded to a team official by an Umpire. The Technical Official

on duty may recommend to an Umpire that a card be awarded to a team official. Control of the team benches is exercised by the Technical Officials on duty in accordance with Regulation 9.

Regulation: A team official who has received a green or yellow card must immediately go to, and remain in, the designated place near the team bench area, in accordance with Rule 14.2, for the duration of the suspension. The Technical Official on duty controls the suspension time. For the duration of the suspension of a team official the team plays with one fewer player; when the suspension has been completed, the team may bring its number of players on the field up by one player immediately, even if this during the period from the award to the completion of a penalty corner.

APPENDIX 2

SHOOT-OUT COMPETITION

In a shoot-out competition, five players from each team take a one-on-one shoot-out alternately against a defender from the other team as set out in this Regulation. The shoot-out competition comprises all series of shoot-outs required to determine a result.

The following sets out both the playing Rules and the procedures to be followed.

1 If the shoot-out competition takes place after the end of a Match, the first shoot-out should take place as soon as possible after the end of the Match but no later than five (5) minutes after the end of regulation playing time.

2 The respective Team Managers provide five players to take and one player to defend the shoot-outs from those on the Match Report except as excluded below. A player nominated to defend the shoot-outs can also be nominated to take a shoot-out. No substitutions / replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition other than as specified below.

3 A player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the Match which leads to the shoot-out competition, cannot take part in that shoot-out competition. A player who has been warned (green card) or temporarily suspended (yellow card) may take part in the shout-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match.

4 The Match Manager will specify the method of timing shoot-outs taking account of the facilities available and the need to control time accurately.

5 The Match Manager will specify the goal to be used.

6 A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot-out.

7 All persons listed on a team's Long List other than any player who has been excluded permanently (red card) during the match which leads to the shoot-out competition are permitted to enter the field of play outside the 23m area used for the shoot-out but must be at least 10 metres from the spot where the ball is placed at the start of the shoot-out.

8 The goalkeeper / defending player of the team taking a shoot-out shall wait on the back-line outside the circle.

9 A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.

10 Players taking a shoot-out and also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents are allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put back on their protective equipment.

11 Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper / defending player of the other team making a total of 10 shoot-outs.

12 Taking a shoot-out:

a the goalkeeper / defending player starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts;

b the ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;

c an attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;

d an official at the technical table starts the clock either

- when the Umpire blows the whistle to start time, or
- when the Umpire has indicated that the players are ready and an automatic whistle sound is made over the venue PA system when the clock is started (if the venue includes this technical set up)

e the attacker and the goalkeeper / defending player may then move in any direction;

f the shoot-out is completed when:

i 8 seconds has elapsed since the starting signal;

ii a goal is scored;

iii the attacker commits an offence;

iv the goalkeeper / defending player commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle in which case the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper/defending player;

v the goalkeeper / defending player commits an intentional offence inside or outside the circle, in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;

vi the ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper/ defending player intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.

13 If a technical error occurs during the shootout (eg the 8 second clock does not start or work correctly, the PA system does not work correctly) then the shootout must be retaken regardless of the outcome of the original shootout

14 If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above, it can be taken and defended by any eligible player on the Match Report subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 17 and 18 of this Appendix.

15 The team scoring the most goals (or ahead by more goals than the other team has untaken shoot-outs available) is the winner.

16 A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot- out competition.

17 If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:

a that player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper / defending player, cannot be replaced;

b the replacement for a suspended goalkeeper / defending player can only come from the five players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition:

i the replacement goalkeeper / defending player is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper/defending player they are replacing was wearing;

ii for taking their own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.

c any shoot-out due to be taken by a suspended player is forfeited; any goals scored by this player before being suspended count as a goal.

18 If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper / defending player is incapacitated:

a that goalkeeper / defending player may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular Match, except as excluded in this Appendix or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition;

b the replacement goalkeeper:

i is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper / defending player was wearing;

ii if this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.

19 If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Match Report for that particular match, except as excluded above or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition.

20 Once replaced, an incapacitated player can take no further part in the shoot-out competition.

21 If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs:

a a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix;

b the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;

c the team whose player took the first shoot-out in a series defends the first shoot-out of the next series;

d when one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot-outs, that team is the winner.

22 If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, additional series of shoot-outs are taken with the same players subject to the conditions specified in this Appendix:

a the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;

b the team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.

23 Unless varied by this Appendix or Appendix 1, the Rules of Hockey apply during a shoot-out.

APPENDIX 3

FIH CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE, SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1 The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is recognised by the International Olympic Committee as the sole ultimate governing body for the sport of Hockey throughout the world and the Code of Conduct is adopted, implemented and adapted for the FIH Pro League as part of FIH's continuing efforts to preserve the integrity of the sport of hockey.

1.2 The Code of Conduct aims to promote the highest standard of behaviour and conduct in the administration, coaching and playing of hockey and is an effective means to deter any Participant from conducting themselves improperly both on and off the field-of-play or in a manner that is contrary to the spirit of hockey.

1.3 Unless otherwise indicated, words in italicised text in the Code of Conduct are defined terms and their definitions are set out in Regulation 1.1.

1.4 All Participants are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct. Accordingly, by their participation in a Match or an International Event, such Participant shall be deemed to have agreed that it is their personal responsibility to familiarise themselves with all of the requirements of the Code of Conduct, including what conduct constitutes an offence under the Code of Conduct.

1.5 The National Association of each participating Team is responsible for informing and educating Participants about the Code of Conduct. National Associations shall share liability with Participants should breaches of the Code of Conduct occur.

1.6 All Participants are bound by the Code of Conduct at all times and shall continue to be bound by and required to comply with the Code of Conduct until they have not participated in an International Event for a period of 3 months after the end of the Season. During this period, FIH shall have jurisdiction over all Participants in the FIH Pro League under the Code of Conduct.

1.7 The Match Manager shall have jurisdiction to deal with breaches of the Code of Conduct (unless the Match Manager is in breach, in which case, the matter will be dealt with by the FIH Director General).

1.8 Breaches of the Code of Conduct by FIH Representatives and staff shall be dealt with in accordance with FIH Staff Procedures.

2: CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENCES

2.1 General Behaviour

a Participants shall comply at all times with FIH Statutes and General Regulations, Rules of Hockey, FIH Pro League Regulations, FIH Anti-Doping Rules, FIH Integrity Code, the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, FIH Media Policy, FIH Code of Conduct and any other rules and regulations that may come into force from time to time.

b Participants shall always use their best efforts during a Match.

c Participants shall conduct themselves fairly, properly and in an acceptable manner on and off the field of play, including inside or around the hockey venue and accommodation.

d Participants shall not act (or fail to act) in any way which may harm the interests and reputation of FIH, a Continental Federation or National Association or bring Hockey into disrepute.

Conduct described in 2.2 to 2.4 below shall amount to an offence by a Participant under the Code of Conduct.

Comment: Where considered helpful, guidance notes have been provided beneath the description of a particular offence. Such notes are intended only to provide guidance as to the nature and examples of certain conduct that might be prohibited by a particular Article and should not be read as an exhaustive or limiting list of conduct prohibited by such Article.

2.2 Specific Offences – Level One

The penalty for a Level 1 offence shall be an official reprimand or a suspension of the individual for a minimum of one Match with or without an official reprimand.

a Using language or gesture(s) that is obscene, offensive or of an insulting nature.

Note: This includes: (i) excessively audible or repetitious swearing; and (ii) obscene gestures which are not directed at another person, such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or misfortune.

b Showing dissent at an Umpire's decision

Note: Dissent will include disputing / protesting, reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner in an inappropriate way towards any decision made by an Umpire or Technical Official. This includes arguing or entering into a prolonged discussion about the decision of an Umpire or Technical Official or failing to comply with the directions given by a Technical Official.

c Charging or advancing towards a Technical Official in an aggressive manner.

d Excessive appealing of an Umpire's, Video Umpire's or Technical Official's decision, or crowding an Umpire or Technical Official.

Note: Excessive shall include repeated appealing of the same decision / appeal.

e Throwing a stick or ball (or any other object or item of equipment) at or near another Participant or any other person in an inappropriate and / or dangerous manner.

f Deliberate, reckless or careless physical contact between Players in the course of play

Note: Without limitation, Participants will breach this article if they deliberately, recklessly or carelessly push, walk or run into another Participant.

g Feigning injury and / or overreacting to alleged physical contact from another Participant.

Note: Without limitation, Participants will breach this article if they deliberately fake an injury in order to penalise another Participant against whom it is alleged committed

a foul against him / her.

h Abuse of hockey equipment or clothing, venue equipment or fixtures and fittings.

Note: This includes any action(s) outside the course of normal hockey actions, such as hitting or kicking the goal posts and any action(s) which intentionally or negligently results in damage to the team benches, advertising boards, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.

i Breach of the Kit Regulations.

Note: One of the core objectives of the Kit Regulations is to ensure appropriate and professional standards of appearance on the field.

j Breach of the Media Policy

Note: One of the core objectives of the Media Policy is to ensure compliance with all contractual obligations imposed upon FIH by its media partner(s). This includes failure by a Participant to participate in a press conference when requested to do so by FIH.

k Public criticism of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring in FIH Pro League or any Participant or team participating in FIH Pro League or FIH, generally, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

l Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either is contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the game into disrepute.

Note: Article 2.2 l is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover any type of conduct of a minor nature that is not, and because of its nature cannot be, adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct.

m. Repeated failure to comply with the directions of a Technical Official

Note: Repeated failure includes a situation where a player, coach, manager or other team personnel has been given directions by a Technical Official just once and fails to comply. Such directions includes being asked to remain within the team bench, to wear a bib when warming down, etc.

2.3 Specific Offences – Level Two

The penalty for a Level 2 offence shall be a suspension of the individual for a minimum of two matches.

a Using language or gesture(s) that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or have a seriously insulting nature to another Participant or any other third person.

Note: It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between Players in the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, Umpires or technical officials will be required to report such conduct that falls below an

acceptable standard.

The following factors are indicative of language or a gesture being serious:

(i) Whether the language or gesture was excessive and/or orchestrated

(ii) Whether the language or gesture could have caused or did in fact cause a reaction from the participant or third person

b Serious public criticism of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring in an International Match or any Participant or team participating in any International Match or FIH, generally, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

Note The following factors are indicative of "serious public criticism":

(i) Criticism that can reasonably be considered to be insulting

(ii) Criticism that can reasonably be considered to be meant to humiliate

(iii) Criticism of a threatening nature

(iv) Criticism that is of a disparaging nature

(v) Criticism that vilifies any Participant or team

(vi) Breach of the FIH Gender Equality Policy

c Any attempt to manipulate any Match or International Event for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons.

Note: This is intended to prevent the manipulation of Matches for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons (such as when a team deliberately loses a pool Match in an International Event in order to affect the standings of other teams in that event). It is not intended to cover any corrupt or fraudulent acts (including any use of inside information and / or related betting activity). Such conduct is prohibited under the FIH Integrity Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions and must be dealt with according to the procedures set out therein.

d Intimidation of an Umpire or other third person whether by language or conduct (including gestures) during an International Match.

Note: Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.

e Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on a Participant or any other third person.

Note: This offence is not intended to cover threats of assault, which are prohibited under Article 2.4, i.e., where directed at an Umpire or technical official.

A threat of assault includes gestures which would reasonably cause a Participant or third person to be in fear of physical harm or offensive contact

Physical assault refers to intentional or reckless physical contact with a Participant or any other person, whether by using fists, feet or equipment (including but not limited to a hockey stick or hockey ball)

f Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that is either contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the game into disrepute

Note: Article 2.3 f is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover any type of conduct of a serious nature that is not, and because of its nature cannot be, adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct

2.4 Specific Offences – Level Three

The penalty for a Level 3 offence shall be a suspension of the individual for a minimum of five matches.

a Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on an Umpire or Technical Official

b Physical assault of another Participant or any other person (including a spectator)

c Any act of violence on or off the field of play during an International Event.

d Spitting towards another participant

e Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that is either contrary to the spirit of the game, or brings the game into disrepute

Note:

A threat of assault includes gestures which would reasonably cause a Participant or third person to be in fear of physical harm or offensive contact.

Physical assault refers to intentional or reckless physical contact with a Participant or any other person, whether by using fists, feet or equipment (including but not limited to a hockey stick or hockey ball).

Injury includes bruising.

An act of violence includes the causing of deliberate physical harm to any person, whether Participant, Umpire or Technical Official. Kicking, punching or fighting would be considered to be acts of violence. The force of contact and resulting injury would be indicative of the seriousness of the act of violence

APPENDIX 4

FIH CODE OF CONDUCT – GUIDELINES ON PROCESS

1 THE REPORT

All allegations of any offence against the FIH Code of Conduct at a match shall be made to the Match Manager.

A report can be received by the FIH Director General from any person after the occurrence of the conduct said to constitute the offence. The FIH Director General will exercise discretion as to whether to accept such a report. That discretion is to be exercised taking into account the seriousness of the reported behaviour and the reason for any delay in making the report.

2 PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL JUSTICE

The principles of natural justice apply in the following way.

a The FIH Director General considers the report and decides whether to refer the matter to a Technical Delegate.

b If the report is referred to a Technical Delegate, the Technical Delegate will advise the Team Manager of:

- i the fact of the report of an offence;
- ii the identity of the team member(s) reported; iii the level of the offence;
- iv the time and format of the hearing;
- v details of the conduct and the mode of proof of it;
- vi No appeal from the exercise of the FIH Director General's discretion whether or not to refer a report to a Technical Delegate is available.

3 THE HEARING

The Technical Delegate may conduct the hearing in such a manner and at such time and in such a way as they consider desirable and / or suitable. This may include holding the meeting electronically. If any party fails to participate in the hearing, the hearing may proceed in the absence of that or any other party.

The person who is the subject of the report must participate in the hearing. The said person who is the subject of the report may invite the participation of his / her Team Manager if (s)he desires. In addition the person the subject of the report may be assisted by an interpreter.

The Technical Delegate must outline the evidence relied on to support the report including showing any video footage.

The person the subject of the report is to be asked for her / his response to the report, ie does (s)he accept the offence as alleged or not. The person the subject of the report is permitted to present material as to either or both of the fact of the offence or penalty.

Should the person who is the subject of the report fail to participate in the hearing, the hearing shall take continue in the absence of that person and the fact of the failure to participate shall be taken into account in the determination of the appropriate penalty in the event that an offence is found to have been committed.

4 THE DECISION

The decision should be in writing and, wherever possible, read to the person the subject of the report (through an interpreter if necessary). It should deal (at least) with the following matters:

a whether or not the team member accepts the breach of the Code of Conduct;

b if the team member does not accept the breach, a finding as to whether a breach has occurred and why.

Should it be found (or agreed) that an offence has been committed either the minimum penalty will be imposed or, at the entire discretion of the Technical Delegate, a greater penalty. If a greater penalty is being considered then:

a the disciplinary history of the team member;

b the attitude of the team member at the hearing;

c any penalty already incurred, eg if a card was given during the match the length of time of any suspension served under that card;

d the seriousness of the offence by comparison with other offences at this level will be taken into account in imposing a greater penalty and details of which will be set out in the written decision.

5 DEFINITION OF THE PENALTY

A clear definition of the penalty will include:

a the number of matches for which the team member is suspended;

b the date of commencement of the suspension;

c a statement whether any additional period of suspension or other penalty to take effect beyond the conclusion of the Season should be imposed or may be appropriate; and, if so

i. a statement that the decision to impose any further suspension or penalty is referred, as appropriate, to the FIH Director General for further consideration by the Disciplinary Commissioner; and

ii. a summary of the reasons that may justify the imposition of an additional suspension or other penalty.

APPENDIX 5

FIH PRO LEAGUE MEDIA POLICY, IMAGE RIGHTS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCES

1. GENERAL

1.1. The International Hockey Federation (*FIH*) is recognised by the International Olympic Committee as the sole ultimate governing body for the sport of *Hockey* throughout the world. *FIH's* purpose is to raise the global status and popularity of hockey. This FIH Pro League Media Policy (the *Policy*) is adopted and implemented as part of *FIH's* strategy to unite the hockey community to reach its ambition - a global game that inspires future generations.

1.2. The *Policy* aims to assist in the management of the relationship between the accredited media covering FIH Pro League and *Participants*. Crucially, this *Policy* also assists in maximizing and enhancing the media coverage of *International Events* to help achieve *FIH's* purpose.

1.3. All *Participants* are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of the *Policy*. Accordingly, such *Participants* shall be deemed to have agreed that it is their personal responsibility to familiarise themselves with all of the requirements of the *Policy* and acknowledge non-compliance with the Policy may result in disciplinary action being taken against them.

1.4. While the *Policy* sets out general guidelines and minimum requirements, *FIH* reserves the right to apply flexibility whenever needed, for the benefit of all parties, and to modify them following consultation with *Participants*.

1.5. The *National Association* of each participating team is responsible for informing and educating *Participants* about the *Policy* and ensuring that each *Participant's* media (and social media) activity prior to, during and after FIH Pro League is in accordance with the *Policy* and does not bring the name of *FIH* and sport of *Hockey* into disrepute.

1.6. Each Participant acknowledges the importance of communicating and cooperating with the media in order to enhance the image of FIH Pro League. The Policy applies to all *Participants* for the duration of the Season.

2. MEDIA ACTIVITIES

2.1 *Participants*, and in particular Captains, shall participate in media conferences / briefings.

2.2 *Participants* shall participate in TV and / or radio interviews pre and post *Matches*, throughout the FIH Pro League, for promotional activity and international broadcast.

2.3 The capturing of team "huddles" may take place before the start of any period of a *Match.*

2.4 Each changing room may have a small remote-controlled camera installed which will be used according to the following protocol:

a The location of the cameras will be indicated to Team Managers;

b A red cue light will indicate when the camera is live to air;

c Shots will be wide angled to encompass the team rather than focused on individuals;

d These cameras will provide vision only, there will be no audio;

e The maximum usage is specified below, however not all shots will be used for each *Match*;

f Use of the shots will be determined by the Host Broadcaster for each *Match*;

g Shots from changing room cameras may only be used at the following times:

i a single shot may be transmitted from each changing room on a delayed basis as part of a pre-recorded sequence showing the team arriving at the venue, exiting the bus, moving into the tunnel area and entering the changing room. It will be a wide shot of the team entering the changing room moving to and placing their gear in their respective positions:

ii a single shot from each changing room of a maximum of 20 seconds may be transmitted live between 8 and 10 minutes before the start of a *Match*. These shots should show the final team huddle / interaction prior to leaving the changing room;

iii during half-time a single shot from each changing room for a maximum of 20 seconds may be transmitted live at a specified time;

iv subject to prior agreement with each individual team, a maximum of 2 shots post *Match* from each changing room may be recorded and broadcast on a delayed basis. These will be a maximum of 20 seconds duration each. Agreement on the use of these shots can be reached based on results (e.g. it may be agreed that these shots are not used if a team loses a *Match*).

2.5 *Participants* may receive requests for half-time interviews, however these are subject to agreement by the respective Team Management and *FIH*.

2.6 A compulsory post-*Match* Mixed Zone or equivalent will be in operation following all *Matches*. It will be managed by *FIH* and is designed for brief commentary on the *Match,* not detailed interviews. The Mixed Zone, or its equivalent, is a managed area where the accredited media have the opportunity to interview *Participants* as they leave the Match Venue. *Participants* are separated from the media by means of suitable barriers. The Mixed Zone opens following the end of the *Match*. The host broadcaster will have priority in terms of access to *Participants* in the Mixed Zone. This is followed by TV and radio rights holders, then broadcast non-rights holders and finally the written press. All *Participants* should leave the Venue through the Mixed Zone, unless otherwise agreed by the Match Director.

2.7 *Participants* will be required to give compulsory flash interviews:

a prior to the start of the third quarter of a Match;

b within one (1) minute of the end of a Match / Shoot-out, unless it is deemed unreasonable to do so by the Match Director;

c the captains of the two teams shall attend one world feed interview on the field or in close proximity of the changing room immediately after the end of the Match / Shoot-

out and prior to returning to the changing room;

d each interview will be conducted in English by the Host Broadcaster's reporter;

e *FIH* may put in place a process to select a Player of the Match for each *Match;* if this happens the Player of the Match will conduct a flash interview after the final whistle / Shoot-out and prior to returning to the changing room.

2.8 *Participants* shall participate in a Highlights Show by providing an interview and / or commentary which will be broadcast after the conclusion of the world feed. Individual *Participants* have the right to accept or decline any such request at their sole discretion, at which time their National Association shall source an alternative *Participant*.

2.9 *Participants* shall participate in guest slots during live broadcast. Individual *Participants* have the right to accept or decline any such request at their sole discretion, at which time their National Association shall source an alternative *Participant*.

2.10 *Participants* shall participate in a "Master Class" slot during broadcast. This will provide an opportunity to analyse performances individually and as a team and will take place on non-match days. Individual *Participants* have the right to accept or decline any such request at their sole discretion, at which time their National Association shall source an alternative *Participant*.

2.11 *FIH* or broadcasters will provide a set of headphones to the team benches so that *Participants'* reactions can be captured during a *Match.*

2.12 Umpires may be required to wear for broadcasting purposes specifically designed cameras and microphones.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

3.1 *FIH* recognises the importance of social media for *Participants* communicating with hockey fans. The *FIH* Social Media Guidelines, a copy of which can be found on the *FIH* web site at http://socialmedia.fih.hockey have been developed to reflect standards expected from *Participants* at *International Events*. These Social Media Guidelines apply equally to all *Participants* and will sit alongside each Participating *National Association's* existing guidelines. Breaches of the Social Media Guidelines shall be treated in the same manner as any other breaches of this *Policy* and / or the Code of Conduct. Breaches of the Social Media Policy by FIH Representatives and staff shall be dealt with in accordance with the FIH Staff Procedures.

3.2 In addition to the Social Media Guidelines, any social media activity, including tweeting, is not permitted from the field of play, technical table and / or team bench during a *Match*.

4. IMAGE AND DATA RIGHTS

4.1 *Participants* consent to be filmed, televised, photographed, identified and / or otherwise recorded during FIH Pro League, and that their captured or recorded images, together with their name, likeness, voice, performance and biographical information, may be used in any content, format and through any media or technology whether now existing or created in

the future, by *FIH* and *Broadcasters* authorised by *FIH* during and after FIH Pro League in perpetuity in relation to the promotion of FIH Pro League, *FIH* Events, and *Hockey* and *FIH* in general, in a commercial or non-commercial manner. This content may also be used by *National Associations* and by Partners of *FIH* authorised by *FIH* during the term of the partnership agreement between the Partner and *FIH*, for the purposes of promoting their association with *FIH* and / or *Hockey*.

The copyright of footage and photographic images produced by *FIH* and third parties remains with the *FIH*. Written permission from *FIH* must be given for any *Participant* or third party to use the footage / images.

4.2 All rights to exploit any news and information services and content arising during the FIH Pro League are retained by *FIH*, including, without limitation, all data, stills, audio and audio visual archive.

4.3 *Participants* consent to their personal information ("Personal Data") being collected by *FIH* and organising committees, and to such data being stored and used by *FIH* and organising committees in any place required for its operation, for the purposes of facilitating her / his participation in, promoting and / or organising, the FIH Pro League. This consent includes the right for *FIH* and organising committees to collect and process their Personal Data, including where necessary to share such data with law enforcement authorities and other third parties, in all manners necessary for the following purposes:

a security risk assessments

b manage accreditations

c carry out Anti-Doping activities

d manage tournaments and results

e provide services to *Participants* and the media

f investigation and/or prosecution of breaches of any of the *FIH Statutes*, *Code of Conduct* and other applicable rules and regulations (which may require, for example, the collection relevant information in relation to the prevention of the manipulation of competitions);

g statistics, historical studies and other *FIH* approved research projects conducted during and after the FIH Pro League;

h any other data processing operation to which they provide their express consent to *FIH* and / or the organising committee.

4.4 All storage and usage of *Participant* personal data will be carried out in accordance with GDPR legislation.

5. PARTICIPANT PROMOTIONAL RIGHTS

5.1 Subject to compliance with the terms of *the Policy*, each *Participant* grants to *FIH* (and each *National Association* shall procure the grant by *Participants* in its Teams) the right and licence throughout the world to use, exploit, or otherwise exercise the *Participant Promotional Rights* for the purposes of advertising, marketing and promoting *FIH's*

products and services in or by means of any and all media (for example for *FIH's Hockey*, educational and charitable purposes)

5.2 *FIH* shall only, and shall procure that its League Partners shall only, use, exercise, or otherwise exploit the *Participant Promotional Rights* in relation to each *National Association Participant's* status as a member of the *National Association* and not in an individual capacity so that all promotional materials that feature the *Participant Promotional Rights* shall feature a minimum of three *Participants* from each *National Association* in total, provided that less than three *Participants* may be used:

a where the *Participant Promotional Rights* are being exploited in connection with a *Personal Appearance* for which the Participant has provided their consent to feature in an individual capacity;

b on products where the use of three *Participants* is unsuitable given the nature of the product, for example, but without limitation, calendars, player figurines, books and stickers sold in conjunction with an album provided that such products shall be sold as part of a collection or compilation containing a minimum of three Participants.

5.3 The right of *FIH* to use, exploit or otherwise exercise the *Participant Promotional Rights* is perpetual.

5.4 Individual *Participants* have the right to accept or decline any request for the use of *Participant Promotional Rights* at their sole discretion, at which time their *National Association* shall source an alternative *Participant*.

6. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

6.1 The provisions of this paragraph 6 apply to Personal Appearances by Participants, i.e. appearances by *Participants* at promotional events or public relations exercises outside those required by the *Policy*. These rights are in addition to the existing obligations of Participants (as defined in the *Policy*) to comply with the *Policy* and participate in activities required by it.

6.2 Each *National Association* and *Participants* agree that *FIH* shall be entitled to use and exploit and allow third parties (including League Partners as permitted in accordance with the terms of these Regulations) during the League Term to use and exploit throughout the world *Personal Appearances* (and any content produced from such *Personal Appearances*), in accordance with the terms of these Regulations and in agreement with the specific *National Association* and the specific participant. Individual *Participants* have the right to accept or decline any request for the use of *Participant Promotional Rights* at their sole discretion, at which time their *National Association* shall source an alternative *Participant*.

6.3 Each *National Association* and *Participant* acknowledges that *Participants* have a responsibility to promote and raise the profile of the League and their *National Association*. *Participants* are expected to act as role models for their *National Association* and the League. Each *National Association* shall use best endeavours to ensure that their *Participants* fulfil such responsibilities appropriately.

6.4 On request of a *Personal Appearance*, *FIH* will agree with the *National Association* and the *Participant*:

a the reasonable accommodation costs of the *Participant* for any overnight stay required for any *Personal Appearance*;

b any reasonable costs of travel for the *Participant* to and from each *Personal Appearance* (payable in accordance with *FIH's* expenses policy, a copy of which will be provided to the *National Association* upon request); For a *Personal Appearance* which requires a flight of more than 6 hours, *Participants* will be entitled to travel in Business Class;

c the expected duration of the appearance;

d the fee if any to be paid for the appearance.

6.5 *FIH* will specify in agreement with the *National Association* the preferred *Participants* for all *Personal Appearances* (at least three *Participants* will be listed, in order of preference). The *National Association* shall ensure that it provides a *Participant* for all such *Personal Appearances* and shall use reasonable efforts to provide *FIH's* preferred *Participant*. Individual *Participants* have the right to accept or decline any request for the use of *Participant Promotional Rights* at their sole discretion, at which time their *National Association* shall source an alternative *Participant*.

6.6 Each *Participant* agrees that he or she shall, and each *National Association* shall ensure that when sending a *Participant* to a *Personal Appearance*, such *Participant* shall, at all times adhere to any Codes of Conduct notified by *FIH* for *Participants*, adopt high standards of behaviour, dress appropriately (which shall mean in appropriate Team Kit or otherwise as directed by FIH), project a favourable and positive image of *Hockey*, act in a manner that shows proper respect for other *Participants* and colleagues in *Hockey* and conduct themselves appropriately at all times when carrying out their functions as an ambassador of the game of *Hockey*.

APPENDIX 6

FIH TOP TIER UNIFORM ADVERTISING POLICY

The FIH Top Tier Uniform Advertising Policy applies to the FIH Pro League Season 8. This document can be accessed via the following link: 260407-fih-top-tier-uniform-advertising-policy.pdf

Note: For Pro League, exceptionally, and with the agreement of their National Associations, players are permitted to have advertisements on the flat or rounded side of sticks. Advertisement shall be of a size that is no greater than 40cms in length and 4.5 cms in width. National Associations must provide FIH with a schedule of their players' individual stick advertisements for approval by 15 November 2026. Approval will not be withheld unless it conflicts with a League Partner, National Association exclusive category or FIH exclusive category as defined in the Participation Agreement.

APPENDIX 7

VIDEO UMPIRE PROTOL

The primary purpose of the Video Umpire Referral system is to assist umpires in their decision making and to help reduce major errors which could materially impact upon the result of a match.

The Video Umpire will utilise existing TV camera coverage. The Video Umpire will be located in a private room. High resolution TV monitors will be used for reviewing incidents and replays.

Changes to recent previous versions of the VU Protocol are indicated.

1 POWER TO REFER DECISIONS TO THE VIDEO UMPIRE

1.1 The On Field Umpires are the only persons who can refer decisions to the Video Umpire either directly or after a request from a team;

1.2 Referrals cannot be made as a result of protests, queries or pressure from players, Team Managers or Coaches on any decision. Teams (and their captains) will be held responsible for any violation or abuse of the Video Umpire protocols;

1.3 No one other than the On Field Umpires, can stop the match to request a referral; eg the Video Umpire or Technical Officials at the Technical Table cannot stop a match.

2 UMPIRE REFERRAL

2.1 The On Field Umpires may refer decisions to the Video Umpire when they are not convinced that they have taken, or are able to take, the correct decision relating to the awarding or disallowing of goals; or the award / non-award of penalty stroke decisions.

a the awarding / disallowing of goals;

b or the award / non-award of Penalty Strokes; or

c Serious Misconduct incidents anywhere on the field of play or in or near the team bench area.

2.2 Referrals shall only relate to whether or not a goal has been legally scored or if a Penalty Stroke has been correctly awarded or not awarded, or if Serious Misconduct has or has not occurred.

2.3 The On Field Umpires are therefore entitled to request the Video Umpire to assist in making decisions which include, but are not restricted to:

a whether the ball crossed the goal-line (within the area bounded by the goal posts and

cross-bar);

b whether the ball was legally played or touched inside the circle by the stick of an attacker and did not travel outside the circle before passing completely over the goal-line and under the cross-bar;

c whether the ball travelled outside the circle before it entered the goal from a shot by an attacker during the taking of a penalty corner;

d whether a breach of the Rules has been observed within the attacking 23-metres area in the play leading to the awarding or disallowing of a goal. It is then for the On Field Umpire to take any breach into account in reaching their decision;

e whether an offence has been committed by a defender in the circle which prevents the probable scoring of a goal, or there has been an intentional offence in the circle by a defender against an opponent who has possession of the ball or an opportunity to play the ball;

f whether any Serious Misconduct has been committed, on or off the ball, anywhere on the field of play or in or near the team bench area, by a player or a team official (see Rule 14 of the Rules of Hockey).

A referral concerning a team official can only be made where video footage of the incident is available and the person concerned can be clearly identified. Where this is not the case, the Video Umpire uses 'No Advice Possible' (see 3.4).

"Serious Misconduct" refers to serious breaches of the Rules of Hockey or the FIH Code of Conduct by a player or team official which may justify the award of:

- a red card; or
- a yellow card with a suspension of 10 minutes of playing time.

a) any conduct which may be considered to be a Level 2 or Level 3 offence under the FIH Code of Conduct should be penalised with a red card.

Level 2 offences:

- Using language or gesture(s) that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or have a seriously insulting nature to another Participant or any other third person.
- Intimidation of an Umpire or other third person whether by language or conduct (including gestures).
- Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on a Participant or any other third person.

Level 3 offences:

- Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on an Umpire or Technical Official.

- Physical assault of another Participant or any other person (including a spectator), intentional or reckless physical contact with a Participant or any other person, whether by using fists, feet or equipment (including but not limited to a hockey stick or hockey ball).
- Any act of violence on or off the field of play during a match = includes the causing of deliberate physical harm to any person like kicking, punching or fighting.
- Spitting towards another Participant.

or

b) any serious and/or physical offence by a player as referred to in the Rules of Hockey like dangerous, reckless or careless fouls should be penalised with a yellow card (10 minutes of playing time); or intentional misbehaviour in a serious manner by a player or team official as referred to in the Rules of Hockey (Umpiring, Rule 2.3 (f)) should be penalised with a red card.

c) For the avoidance of doubt, (a) and (b) above can be read jointly or separately.

3 UMPIRE REFERRAL PROCESS

If possible, the engaged Umpire signals the decision they consider to be correct.

Play and time should be stopped before referring to the Video Umpire.

The On Field Umpire requests Video Umpire assistance using the "television-screen" signal followed by a hand on chest signal to denote an Umpire Referral; they relay by radio to the Video Umpire all information necessary including the decision they made and, where applicable, that they saw the incident but played advantage or decided that it had no influence.

The Video Umpire confirms that the request has been received and understood.

At an Umpire Referral, no players may either approach or remain close to the Umpires. If any players interfere with the referral process, this will be considered as 'crowding' with the offending players liable to green card personal penalties. Repeating offences may result in yellow card personal penalties.

3.1 The Video Umpire calls for as many replays from any camera angle as necessary to reach a decision.

3.2 If the Video Umpire determines within the required time frame (preferably 60–90 seconds) that the On Field Umpire's decision is correct, they should state, "There is no clear reason to change your decision," and then confirm how play will be re-started.

3.3 If the Video Umpire determines within the required time frame (preferably 60–90 seconds) that the On Field Umpire's decision is correct, they should state, "There is no clear reason to change your decision," and then confirm how play will be re-started.

- Goal

- No Goal
- Penalty Stroke
- No Penalty Stroke

If a penalty stroke and a personal penalty have been awarded and the referral outcome is no penalty stroke, the Video Umpire should also advise whether the personal penalty should be revoked or remains appropriate.

If the referral outcome is a penalty corner rather than a penalty stroke, this should also be included in the advice.

- Serious Misconduct – the Video Umpire advice may include whether a temporary – yellow card (10 minutes of playing time) – or permanent – red card – suspension should be awarded to a player or team official.

If during the review of the replays it is observed that, immediately before or after the incident which led to the Serious Misconduct referral, a major breach of the rules occurred, the Video Umpire will additionally advise the On Field Umpire accordingly, with the recommendation for the appropriate re-start. Minor observed infringements should not be corrected.

- No Serious Misconduct
- plus, advice on any observed breach of the Rules by which the offender gains an advantage, including advice on any appropriate personal penalty in the context of goal or penalty stroke referral.

These are the only possible outcomes of Umpire Referrals.

3.4 If the Video Umpire determines within the required time frame (preferably 60–90 seconds) that there is no advice possible, they should state, “No advice possible,” and then confirm how play will be re-started.

In the case of ‘No Advice Possible’ (eg if the video footage is inconclusive, including through not having the correct replays available, the ball never being in shot in the replays, the footage being of insufficient quality to permit a decision, the person concerned (eg a team official) not being clearly identifiable, not being able to provide advice within the time frame or technical problems with the referral equipment) the original decision of the On Field Umpire stands. If there was no decision given before the referral, then the final decision is ‘No Goal’, ‘No Penalty Stroke’ or no ‘Serious Misconduct’ (depending on the type of referral) and play should be re-started according to the situation before the Video Umpire process began.

If there are enough angles provided, but the Video Umpire remains uncertain, ‘No Advice Possible’ should not be used. In such cases the On Field Umpire’s decision stands and there is “no clear reason to change your decision”.

If a breach of the Rules is observed and advised to the On Field Umpire, it is then for the On Field Umpire to take into account the breach in reaching their final decision.

An Umpire Referral that has already been adjudicated upon may not be the subject of a

subsequent Team Referral.

In general, for an Umpire Referral, the Video Umpire will provide the On Field Umpires with information as follows:

- "There is no clear reason to change your decision" – the On Field Umpire decision stands and the Video Umpire confirms how play should be re-started.
- "I have advice for you" – advice and a recommendation regarding the decision, including how play should be re-started.
- "There is no advice possible" – the On Field Umpire's decision stands and the Video Umpire confirms how play should be re-started

The On Field Umpire should repeat back the Video Umpire's advice and recommendation, if necessary, to ensure that it has been correctly heard and understood.

4 TEAM REFERRAL

4.1 Each team is allowed one Team Referral request (which must be made through the On Field Umpires) during regulation time in any match subject to article 5.6 below of this Protocol and one Team Referral request during a shoot-out competition, subject to article 5.6 below.

Referrals remaining from regular time are not carried over into the shoot-out competition.

Team Referrals are restricted to decisions within the 23-metres area relating to the award (or non-award) of: goals, penalty strokes or penalty corners.

Teams may NOT ask for a referral outside of the 23-metres area.

During a shoot-out competition, Team Referrals are restricted to decisions relating to the award (or non-award) of goals, penalty strokes and shoot-out re-takes.

The award of personal penalty cards may not be the subject of a Team Referral;

a any team player, on the field of play at the time of the incident, can request a Team Referral;

b this player must indicate to an On Field Umpire that they wish to use their Team Referral. They must do so immediately (not more than 5–7 seconds) after the incident or decision which is to be referred by using the 'T' signal as well as confirming this verbally to the Umpire;

c the On Field Umpires will not disallow any request for a Team Referral provided the 'T' signal has been used by a player and seen by the umpire;

d Umpires should not engage in any discussions as to the merits of referring, in order not to be perceived as trying to talk players out of making a referral.

e Once the 'T' signal has been received, no player other than the one making the referral (with the possible exception of one further player to assist with the question for language difficulties only) may either approach or remain close to the Umpires. If any other players interfere with the referral process, this will be considered as 'crowding' with the offending players liable to green card personal penalties. Repeat

offences may result in yellow card personal penalties.

f Once the 'T' signal has been received, the referral must be carried out. Teams cannot change their mind, after consulting each other or coaches.

g If a team abuses the Video Umpire referral system by taking a Team Referral solely to stop a counter-attack, that team loses its right to refer and the captain must be awarded a yellow card (5 minutes of playing time).

h the player requesting the Team Referral must inform an On Field Umpire of the exact nature of the decision (or non-decision) that their team wishes to be reviewed within a maximum of 20 seconds;

i if no question is received within 20 seconds, the Team Referral will automatically default to a review of the last decision or non-decision relating to the award (or non-award) of a goal, penalty stroke, penalty corner or re-take of a shoot-out;

5 TEAM REFERRAL PROCESS

The On Field Umpire requests Video Umpire assistance using the "television-screen" signal, followed by a "T" signal to denote a Team Referral; they relay by radio to the Video Umpire which team is referring, what their question is and which decision has been given by the On Field Umpire, plus any additional necessary information like advantage, including where they saw the incident being claimed but played advantage or decided that it had no influence.

The remainder of the starting process remains the same as for Umpire Referrals (see above).

5.1 The Video Umpire calls for as many replays from any camera angle as necessary to reach a decision.

5.2 If Video Umpire determines within the required time frame (preferably 60–90 seconds) that the On Field Umpire's decision is correct, they should state, "There is no clear reason to change your decision", confirm how play will be re-started and that the requesting team loses their right to refer.

5.3 If the Video Umpire is able to provide advice within the required time frame (preferably 60–90 seconds), they should initiate communication with the On Field Umpire by stating, "I have advice for you", and then proceed with the appropriate phrase from the list below and confirm the requesting team keeps their right to refer.

- Goal
- No Goal
- Penalty Stroke
- No Penalty Stroke
- Penalty Corner

- No Penalty Corner
- Shoot-out to be re-taken
- No shoot-out re-take
- plus advice on any observed breach of the Rules by which the offender gains an advantage, including advice on any appropriate personal penalty in the context of goal, penalty corner or penalty stroke referral.

These are the only possible outcomes of Team Referrals.

5.4 If the Video Umpire determines within the required time frame (preferably 60–90 seconds) that there is no advice possible, they should state, "No advice possible," and then confirm how play will be re-started.

In the case of 'No Advice Possible' (eg if the video footage is inconclusive, including through not having the correct replays available, the ball never being in shot in the replays, the footage being of insufficient quality to permit a decision, not being able to provide advice within the time frame or technical problems with the referral equipment) the original decision of the On Field Umpire stands. If there was no decision given before the referral, then the final decision is 'No Goal', 'No Penalty Stroke' or 'No Penalty Corner' (depending on the type of referral) and play should be re-started according to the situation before the Video Umpire process began.

If there are enough angles provided, but the Video Umpire remains uncertain, 'No Advice Possible' should not be used. In such cases the On Field Umpire's decision stands and there is "no clear reason to change your decision".

If a Team Referral is in respect of whether a defender crossed the back-line or goal-line before permitted at a penalty corner, then the Video Umpire should advise whether the penalty corner should be taken again AND advise whether the re-taken penalty corner must be defended with one fewer player or not (Rule 13.6 (c) and (d)).

If a Team Referral is in respect of whether an attacker entered the circle before permitted at a penalty corner, then the Video Umpire should advise whether the penalty corner should be taken again AND advise whether the re-taken penalty corner must be injected by a different player (the injector is required to go beyond the centre-line, Rule 13.6 (e)).

If a Team Referral is in respect of whether the injector played the ball before the start of the penalty corner, did not play the ball immediately after the start, or feinted at playing the ball, then the Video Umpire should advise whether the penalty corner should be taken again AND that the injector must go beyond the centre-line and be replaced by another attacker (Rule 13.6

(b).

If, during open play in the circle, a penalty corner is awarded which the defending team refer, and the decision is found in their favour that there was no breach of the Rules by the defending team, they will keep their referral and a bully will be the re-start. The bully is taken as specified in Rule 6.5.

If play is stopped during a penalty corner because of a decision by the On Field Umpire before the penalty corner has been completed and the Video Umpire advises that play has been stopped without any valid reason, the re-start is a bully in accordance with Rules 6.5 and 13.5 (g). This also applies where an umpire has awarded a re-take of a penalty corner without any valid reason (eg because of a defender's foot, however the ball hit only the player's stick). If the Video Umpire observes a breach of the Rules by the attacking team, a free hit to the defence is awarded instead. In both cases the defending team keeps its referral. If this occurs during a penalty corner that is being played after time has expired at the end of a quarter (Rule 13.4), the award of the bully (or free hit) completes the penalty corner (Rule 13.5) and the quarter ends. In these situations, the Video Umpire should promptly advise the On Field Umpire.

If the attacking team makes a Team Referral during a penalty corner that causes play to be stopped before the penalty corner has been completed, and the referral decision is in their favour, the match will re-start with a penalty corner and the attacking team will retain their referral. However, if the referral decision is not in their favour, a free hit to the defence will be awarded and the attacking team will lose their referral.

If a Team Referral is made by the attacking team following the award of a penalty corner and the request to upgrade the decision to a penalty stroke is denied while the penalty corner is confirmed, the decision of the On Field Umpire stands and the attacking team will lose their referral, since the decision is not in their favour.

5.5 If a breach of the Rules is observed and advised to the On Field Umpire, it is then for the On Field Umpire to take into account the breach in reaching their final decision.

5.6 Implications for the retention or loss of Team Referral rights:

a) in the event that the referral is upheld the referring team retains its right of referral;

In the event that the Video Umpire decision results in an outcome that is more favourable to the team asking for the referral than the original decision the referring team retains its right to refer.

The attacking team will retain their right to refer if:

- a referred no decision and play on situation results in a penalty corner, penalty

stroke or goal

- a referred free hit decision for an intentional offence in the 23-metres area results in a penalty corner
- a referred penalty corner decision results in a penalty stroke or goal
- a referred penalty stroke decision results in a goal
- a referred shoot-out results in a shoot-out re-take, penalty stroke or goal
- a referred shoot-out penalty stroke results in a goal
- the defending team will retain their right to refer if:
- a referred penalty corner decision results in a free hit (including a re-start under Rule 7.3 or 7.4) or a bully
- a referred penalty stroke decision results in a penalty corner or a free hit (including a re-start under Rule 7.3 or 7.4)
- a referred penalty corner that is re-awarded with the defence not having to defend it with one fewer player
- a referred goal decision results in a penalty stroke, penalty corner or a free hit (including a re-start under Rule 7.3 or 7.4)
- a referred shoot-out decision referral results in no shoot-out re-take or a defensive free hit
- a referred shoot-out penalty stroke decision results in a shoot-out re-take, no shoot-out re-take or a defensive free hit
- a referred shoot-out goal decision results in a penalty stroke, shoot-out re-take, no shoot-out re-take or a defensive free hit
- in the event of 'No Advice Possible' (see 5.4), the referring team retains its right of referral;
- if there is no clear reason to change the On Field Umpire's original decision, the referring team loses its right of referral.

The attacking team will lose their right to refer if:

- a referred no decision and play on situation does not result in a penalty corner, penalty stroke or goal
- a referred free hit decision for an intentional offence in the 23-metres area does not result in a penalty corner

- a referred penalty corner decision is unchanged or does not result in a penalty stroke or goal
- a referred penalty stroke decision is unchanged or does not result in a goal
- a referred shoot-out re-take decision is unchanged or does not result in a penalty stroke or goal
- a referred shoot-out penalty stroke is unchanged or does not result in a goal
- a referral is for a non-referrable reason
- a referral is made solely to stop a counter-attack (see 4.1)
- The defending team will lose their right to refer if:
- a referred penalty corner decision is unchanged or upgraded to a penalty stroke or goal (including any additional breach seen, even if their original question is correct)
- a penalty corner is re-awarded with the defence having to defend it with one fewer player
- a referred penalty stroke decision is unchanged or upgraded to a goal (including any additional breach seen, even if their original question is correct)
- a referred goal decision is unchanged
- a referred shoot-out re-take decision is unchanged or upgraded to a penalty stroke or goal
- a referred shoot-out penalty stroke decision is unchanged or upgraded to a goal
- a referred shoot-out goal decision is unchanged
- a referral is for a non-referrable reason
- a referral is made solely to stop a counter-attack (see 4.1)

If the On Field Umpire does not agree with the advice given by the Video Umpire and chooses to maintain their original decision, the referring team retains its right to refer.

5.7 A Team Referral that has already been adjudicated upon may not be the subject of a subsequent referral by the opposing team.

In general, for a Team Referral, the Video Umpire will provide the On Field Umpires with information as follows:

- advice and recommendation regarding the decision

- indicate how the play should be re-started
- update the Team Referral status in the light of the decision; in the event of No Advice Possible, this will be communicated by the On Field Umpires to the teams on the field of play via the referring player / team captain as appropriate.

The On Field Umpire should repeat back the Video Umpire's advice and recommendation, if necessary, to ensure that it has been correctly heard and understood.

As specified in the Tournament Regulations, it is emphasised that no protest may be made to or considered by the Technical Delegate from a decision of an Umpire or Video Umpire during a match or shoot-out competition.

6 FOR UMPIRE AND TEAM REFERRALS

6.1 The final decision, including any matter of interpretation, remains with the On Field Umpire and not the Video Umpire.

6.2 All other decisions remain with the On Field Umpires.

6.3 Substitutions may not take place during the stoppage of play for a video referral; substitution may take place on the resumption of play subject to the Rules of Hockey.

The aim is to correct major mistakes. Minor infringements with no significant advantage are therefore non-referrable. Non-referrable situations are:

- for Team Referrals: any situation outside the 23-metres area
- for Team Referrals: the award of personal penalties
- the penalty corner injector's foot not being completely outside the field of play
- at a penalty corner, the feet or the sticks of attacking and defending players not being completely outside the circle or behind the goal-line
- at a penalty corner, defenders not wearing penalty corner protective equipment, wearing it incorrectly, or taking part in play while still wearing it (Rule 13.3 (n))
- the ball not being exactly on the side-line or back-line to re-start play
- the ball not being exactly on the right spot at a free hit
- second ball on the field of play with no influence on play
- players being within 5 metres of an attacking free hit in the 23-metres area and who are not playing or attempting to play the ball or influencing play

- an incorrectly awarded free hit or side-line ball prior to the play leading to the award of a goal, penalty stroke or penalty corner

Referrals will also not be accepted where a team has been asked whether it wishes to refer, has confirmed that it does not wish to do so, and then changes its mind and/or attempts to refer once replays have been shown on the stadium public screen.

In general, referrals involving matters of interpretation are less likely to be successful; teams may still refer but must understand that they risk losing their right to refer.

If a team requests a referral in relation to any of the points above, it automatically loses its right of referral, and the incident will not be reviewed.

APPENDIX 8

FIH INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

For the FIH League Season 8, the FIH Inclement Weather Procedure should be considered and taken into account in the delivery of a Match. This document can be accessed via the following link: fih-inclement-weather-procedure-july-2026.pdf

Note: For Pro League, exceptionally, Procedure 2 for High Temperatures will no longer be implemented.

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