INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION

REGULATIONS ON SANCTIONED & UNSANCTIONED EVENTS

Version 3.2

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REGULATIONS ON SANCTIONED AND UNSANCTIONED EVENTS

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ARTICLE 1 – NATURE, SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1.1 These *Regulations* have been adopted by the *Executive Board*, in accordance with the *Statutes*, in recognition of the following fundamental sporting imperatives:

1.1.1 The governance of the sport of *Hockey*, like most other sports, is organised in a pyramid structure, with *FIH* as the sole and exclusive international governing body, one *Continental Federation* recognised as the sole and exclusive governing body for each continent, and one *National Association* recognised and admitted into membership of *FIH* as the sole and exclusive national governing body for each country where the sport is played.

1.1.2 This pyramid governance structure is necessary to protect and promote the sport, for a number of reasons. In particular:

1.1.2.1 The pyramid governance structure is vital to the regulatory integrity of the sport, enabling *FIH*, the *Continental Federation*s and the *National Association*s to guarantee uniform rules protecting the sport and its stakeholders throughout the sport, wherever it is played, and to hold all participants accountable under those rules -- including anti-doping rules and other rules and regulations designed to protect participants and/or to preserve the integrity, health and safety as well as the good functioning of Hockey and international Hockey competitions -- in a fair and transparent fashion. Further, the objectives are achieved by the enforcement of integrity standards of Hockey by the FIH Integrity Code, which in particular upholds integrity in the governance and administration of Hockey and on the field of play (including the protection of clean athletes and competitions).

1.1.2.2 The pyramid governance structure is also vital to the proper organisation and conduct of the sporting calendar, and to the primacy of national representative competition within that calendar as the showcase for and the main driver of development of the sport. *FIH*, the *Continental Federation*s and the *National Association*s have the right and the responsibility to maintain and control the sporting calendar so as to ensure that events are organised and staged in a coordinated fashion that does not undermine but rather promotes and furthers the development of the sport as a whole.

1.1.2.3 In particular, *National Association*s depend on their *National Representative Teams* qualifying for the finals of *International Event*s and especially the Olympic Games to drive the popularity of and participation in the sport in their respective territories. *FIH* seeks insofar as practicable to avoid fixture clashes so as to ensure that its *National Association*s have their best *Athlete*s fully available for the preparatory periods spent in the lead-up to those events, and throughout the events themselves. And for the same reasons, *FIH* recognises the right of every *National Association* to require its *Athlete*s to give precedence to national representative competition over other *Event*s.

1.1.2.4 It is necessary for there to be control over Hockey Events in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of athletes. Issues that need to be considered and controlled include, but are not limited to, the following:

i. In order to ensure reasonable recovery after a match, there should be a break of at least 20 hours between the start times of successive matches.
ii. Athletes should not be scheduled to play more than 2 matches in 3 days unless there is specific agreement with FIH. In considering any such request, FIH will take into account climatic considerations of the proposed venue.
iii. Pitches that Events are played on should be safe to do so and not present risks and hazards to athletes. International Events should be played on pitches that have an appropriate FIH Pitch Certificate.
iv. All international Events should be played with the correct level of medical support.

v. Anti-doping procedures must conform to the WADA Code and FIH Anti-Doping Rules.
vi. Operational policies and procedures should be in place to take account of the climatic conditions and that they do not pose a risk to athlete health, safety and welfare.

1.13 *Unsanctioned Event*s threaten to undermine these fundamental sporting imperatives:

1.1.3.1 They are not developed as an integrated and coordinated part of the official sporting calendar, in furtherance of the best interests of the sport as a whole. Instead they cut across that calendar and the imperatives it is designed to protect, including potentially clashing with *Sanctioned Events* and undermining the primacy of national representative competition within that calendar, and thereby creating potential conflicts between different stakeholders that could be very damaging to the sport.

1.1.3.2 They fall outside the jurisdiction of *FIH*, the *Continental Federation*s and *National Association*s, and so the organisers of and participants in *Unsanctioned Event*s are not properly accountable for compliance with the rules and regulations of the sport. This poses a significant risk to the sport because the public is unlikely to appreciate fully the distinction between *Unsanctioned Event*s and *Sanctioned Events*, and so if problems occur in *Unsanctioned Event*s the reputation of the entire sport will suffer, and public confidence in the ability of *FIH*, the *Continental Federation*s and *National Association*s to maintain the integrity of the sport will be undermined.

1.2 These *Regulations* therefore:

1.2.1 confirm the right and responsibility of *FIH*, the *Continental Federation*s and the *National Association*s to maintain and control the official sporting calendar of *International Events* and *Domestic Events*;

1.2.2 confirm the primacy of national representative competition over other types of competition by requiring an *Athlete* to obtain a *No-Objection Certificate* from his *Home National Association*, confirming that it has no objection to his participation in a *Domestic Event* organised or sanctioned by another *National Association* (or else requiring the *Athlete* to demonstrate that his *Home National Association* has waived that requirement), as a condition of participation in such *Event*;

1.2.3 stipulate that any *Athlete* or other individual who participates in any capacity in an *Unsanctioned Event* will become liable to have a sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Commissioner pursuant to art. 2.2;

1.2.4 require that an event organised by a third party and/or co-organised by a third party and a *National Association* and/or an event containing any novelty in format, be sanctioned by *FIH*, whereby the following provisions must be observed:
i. the entry of eligible Athletes may be made only under the control of the respective *National Association* of the eligible participating Athlete, or in a country where there is no *National Association* or no *National Association* for the respective branch, under the control of *FIH* with any approval by the respective *National Association* or *FIH* not be unreasonably withheld or denied, and;
ii. the event needs to be amended in accordance with the Rules of Hockey applicable at the time of the Event and the appropriate FIH Tournament Regulations approved by the Chairs of the FIH Rules and Competitions Committees, the Secretaries of those Committees and the Sport Director thus exempting them from the otherwise applicable FIH Rules;
iii. the Application (see Annex 1) has been approved by FIH.

1.2.5 require a *National Association*:

1.2.5.1 not to participate in *Unsanctioned Event*s;

1.2.5.2 to prohibit participation by *Athlete*s and other organisations and individuals under its jurisdiction in *Unsanctioned Event*s and to take disciplinary action against anyone that breaches that prohibition; and

1.2.5.3 not to permit an *Athlete* from another *National Association* to participate in a *Domestic Event* that it organises or sanctions unless he has first obtained a *No-Objection Certificate* from his *Home National Association* confirming that it has no objection to his participation in such *Event* (or else he can demonstrate that his *Home National Association* has waived that requirement).

1.3 The purpose and object of these *Regulations* is to protect and advance the fundamental sporting imperatives described above. In the interpretation and application of these *Regulations*¸ an interpretation/application that promotes the purpose and object of the *Regulations* is to be preferred to an interpretation/application that does not promote that purpose and object. Words and phrases in italicised text are defined terms that have the meaning set out in the Appendix to these *Regulations*. The explanatory notes annotating various provisions of the *Regulations* shall be used to interpret and apply the *Regulations.*

1.4 This version of these *Regulations* comes into force as of 15 December 2019 (the '*Effective Date*') and replaces the previous version of these *Regulations* (which was set out as a Bye-law to Article 5.4 of the *Statutes*) as from that date. *National Associations* must implement these *Regulations* in their own territories by no later than 1 March 2020. If a *National Association* requests more time to implement these *Regulations*, a written explanation shall be sent to FIH. They shall not have retrospective effect. Instead, the regulations that were in effect prior to the *Effective Date* shall apply in respect of any acts or omissions occurring prior to the *Effective Date*.

1.5 These *Regulations* may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time by the *Executive Board*, and/or it may issue further guidance as to their operation and implementation, as it sees fit.

1.6 The powers granted to *FIH* under these *Regulations* (including, without limitation, the power to grant or deny applications for sanction made to *FIH* pursuant to Article 3.1, below), shall be exercised on behalf of *FIH* by the *Executive Board*. Between meetings of the *Executive Board*, the power to grant or deny applications for sanction made to *FIH* pursuant to Article 3.1, below, may be exercised by the *Director General* or any person duly delegate by him. Any such decisions shall be duly ratified at the next meeting of the *Executive Board*.

ARTICLE 2 - OBLIGATIONS

2.1 It is prohibited for any *National Association*, and for any organisation or individual (including *Athletes*, technical officials, umpires, coaching or management staff) under the jurisdiction of a *National Association*, to participate in any manner in an *Unsanctioned Event*.

2.2 Any *Athlete* or other individual who participates in any capacity in an *Unsanctioned Event* commits a breach of these Regulations and will become liable to have a sanction imposed (a) where the alleged breach concerns participation in an Unsanctioned International Event by the *Disciplinary Commissioner* following referral by the *Director General*, (b) where the alleged breach concerns participation in an Unsanctioned Domestic Event by the applicable *National Association's* Disciplinary procedures unless either the *National Association's* Disciplinary procedures are not available or the *National Association* decides for good reason to refer the alleged breach to the *Director General* for referral to the *Disciplinary Commissioner* (cf. arts. 2.3.3. and 2.3.4 below). Any alleged breach referred by the *Director General* to the *Disciplinary Commissioner* shall be determined by the *Disciplinary Commissioner* after he has been provided with such evidence as may be available and he has carried out such investigations as he thinks fit, as follows:

2.2.1 The *Disciplinary Commissioner* shall determine the applicable sanction in accordance with the principle of proportionality and in consideration of all relevant circumstances of each individual case, especially the degree of fault of the offender, his previous record and the seriousness of the violation with regard to the objectives

of these Regulations. In his determination of the sanction, the *Disciplinary Commissioner* shall also take into account the features and purpose of the unsanctioned event.

222 Within this framework, the *Disciplinary Commissioner* shall, depending on the severity of the violation and considering the legitimate interests of the persons concerned:

2.2.2.1 As to an Athlete:

i) issue a "no fault" finding for a first time breach where the Athlete participated in an event that would clearly have been sanctioned by FIH but for administrative error by the organiser of the unsanctioned event or a "warning" for a first time breach where the Athlete was reasonably aware that the event was not sanctioned (and there is no suggestion of an administrative error by the organiser) but has demonstrated that the event otherwise adhered to the objectives of FIH protected by these Regulations;
ii) impose a warning or period of ineligibility for up to twelve months for a first time participation at an unsanctioned event where clearly the event would not have been sanctioned or where a notice was issued stating that the event was unsanctioned;
iii) impose a warning or period of ineligibility for up to 24 months for any further participation at an unsanctioned event, where clearly the event would not have been sanctioned.

2.2.2.2 As to a technical official, umpire, coaching or management staff:

i) Issue a warning in case of a minor violation, which includes first time participation in an unsanctioned event which would otherwise have been sanctioned;
ii) Impose a period of ineligibility for up to twelve months for a first time participation at an unsanctioned event where clearly the event would not have been sanctioned or where a notice was issued stating that the event was unsanctioned;
iii) Impose a period of ineligibility for up to 24 months for any further participation at an unsanctioned event which would otherwise have been sanctioned;
iv) Impose a period of ineligibility for up to 24 months for a second-time participation at an unsanctioned event where clearly the event would not have been sanctioned;
v) Impose a period of ineligibility for up to fifteen (15) years for any further participation at an unsanctioned event where clearly the event would not have been sanctioned.

223 Such *Athlete* or other individual may apply to the *Disciplinary Commissioner* to avoid all or part of the issued sanction for good cause shown within 30 days of confirmation of receipt by the person concerned (extendable upon reasoned request by another 30 days), provided that the circumstances will have to be exceptional to justify such avoidance. The *Disciplinary Commissioner's* decision may be appealed by the *Athlete*/other individual or *FIH* to the *Judicial Commission and eventually to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.*

224 In cases that the *Disciplinary Commissioner* considers to give rise to serious concerns for the objectives protected by these Regulations, the *Disciplinary Commissioner* has the right to impose interim measures of ineligibility when submitting a Notice to the person concerned. Any such decision shall be immediately reviewable by the *Court of Arbitration for Sport* in accordance with its expedited procedures.

225 During the period of ineligibility, the *National Association* may not select the Athlete/other individual to participate in any capacity in an *International Event*, and (without prejudice to Article 2.5) any selection made despite this prohibition may be declined by *FIH* or other event organiser.

23 A *National Association* must, to the greatest extent permitted by applicable law:

2.3.1 not participate in any way in any *Unsanctioned Event*;

2.3.2 prohibit the participation by organisations, *Athletes*, technical officials, umpires, coaching or management staff, and other individuals under its jurisdiction in any *Unsanctioned Event*;

> ***Explanatory note:*** *The integrity and efficacy of the pyramid structure of governance and regulation depends on National Associations respecting each other's territorial authority by declining to participate in (or to allow persons under their jurisdiction to participate in) Unsanctioned Events taking place in another National Association's territory.*

2.3.3 have the primary responsibility to take prompt and effective disciplinary action against any organisation, *Athlete*, technical official, umpire, coaching or management staff, or other individual under its jurisdiction who fails to comply with the clause 2.3.2 prohibition. The requirements in determining the applicable sanction(s) of art. 2.2.1 to 2.2.5 above need to be applied by the concerned *National Association*;

> ***Explanatory note (1):*** *Those who benefit from the development activities of National Associations (e.g., Athletes and other individuals who are identified by, and gain experience, expertise and status from, those activities) owe commensurate duties of loyalty and solidarity to those National Associations. They breach those duties by taking steps that undermine the collective efforts of the National Associations to promote the best interest of the sport, such as by participating in Unsanctioned Events. In such circumstances, National Associations are entitled to deny such persons the opportunity to take further benefit from the collective (sanctioned) enterprise for a specified period, and must amend and/or supplement their rules and regulations in order to enable them to do the same.*
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> *The period of exclusion to be imposed in such cases will depend upon the facts and circumstances of each particular case, as well as the constraints of applicable law. However, considering the importance of solidarity among the National Associations to the long-term future of the sport, the need to protect the strength of their collective effort for the benefit of the sport as a whole, and the need to deter free-riding by private entrepreneurs on the development efforts and other contributions of FIH, Continental Federations and National Associations, it is the view of FIH, the Continental Federations and National Associations that, other than in exceptional circumstances, a person who participates in an Unsanctioned Event should not be permitted to participate in Sanctioned Events in accordance with the Disciplinary Commission's Decision.*
>
> ***Explanatory note (2):*** *It is the responsibility of each organisation and individual wishing to participate in a particular Event to establish that that Event is a Sanctioned Event and not an Unsanctioned Event.*

234 may, if it is unable to take disciplinary procedures under its own jurisprudence or decides for good reason to, and shall, in any case of an alleged breach concerning participation in an Unsanctioned International Event, refer the alleged breach to the *Director General*, who will refer it to the *Disciplinary Commissioner* for investigation and disciplinary action in accordance with art. 2.2 above; and

235 recognise and give effect within its own jurisdiction to any restriction, exclusion or ineligibility imposed on an organisation or individual by another *National Association* for failure to comply with the clause 2.3.2 prohibition; and

> ***Explanatory note:*** *The integrity and efficacy of the pyramid structure of governance and regulation depends on National Associations recognising and giving effect in their own territories to disciplinary sanctions imposed by other National Associations on their members and affiliated persons for failure to comply with the prohibition on participation in Unsanctioned Events. Before referring any alleged breach concerning participation in an Unsanctioned Domestic Event to the Director General 'for good reason' a National Association should request advice from the Director General as to whether the breach is appropriate to be referred to him.*

236 make it a condition of eligibility for any organisation or individual from another

National Association wishing to participate in any *Event* played under its jurisdiction that the organisation or individual in question has not participated in any *Unsanctioned Event* in the twelve months prior to the *Event* in question; and

2.3.7 inform FIH, and keep FIH informed, about any investigation and decision being made by the *National Association* concerning an alleged breach of these Regulations.

2.4 *No-Objection Certificates:*

2.4.1 An *Athlete* who wishes to participate in a *Domestic Event* that is sanctioned or organised by a *National Association* that is not his *Home National Association* must first obtain a *No-Objection Certificate* from his *Home National Association* in respect of that *Event* (or else must demonstrate that his *Home National Association* has waived that requirement). Unless and until he does so, he may not participate in the *Event* in question.

2.4.2 Each *National Association* must ensure, to the greatest extent permitted by applicable law, that no *Athlete* for whom it is not the *Home National Association* participates in any *Event* that it has organised or sanctioned unless such *Athlete* holds a valid *No-Objection Certificate* from his *Home National Association* for that *Event* or his *Home National Association* has waived that requirement.

2.5 Without prejudice to the right of the *Executive Board* to suspend, and the right of *Congress* to suspend or expel, a *National Association* for any serious breach of these *Regulations*, *FIH* may bring proceedings before the *Disciplinary Commissioner* against any *National Association* that fails to comply with any part of these *Regulations*. In such proceedings, if the alleged non-compliance is established the *Disciplinary Commissioner* shall have the power to impose such sanctions on the *National Association* as he shall see fit in all of the circumstances of the case at hand, including reprimand or fine, and/or he may recommend that the *Executive Board* or *Congress* (as applicable) suspends or withholds grants or subsidies from the *National Association*, excludes its *National Representative Team(s)* from one or more *International Events*, removes or denies accreditation to officers or other representatives of the *National Association,* or suspends or expels the *National Association* from membership of *FIH*.

ARTICLE 3 - SANCTIONING PARTICULAR EVENTS

3.1 Sanctioning of *International Events*:

3.1.1 Where a proposed *International Event* would be open to any *National Association* (if necessary, through qualification events, as in the case, for example of the *FIH* World Cup), in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event*, it must be organised or sanctioned by *FIH*.

3.1.2 Where a proposed *International Event* would involve only *National Association*s from one *Continental Federation*, and would be staged entirely within that continent, in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event* (a) it must be organised by the *Continental Federation* itself, or by one or more of those *National Association*s or World Masters Hockey with the sanction of the *Continental Federation*; and (b) it must be sanctioned by *FIH*.

3.1.3 Where a proposed *International Event* would involve *National Association*s from more than one *Continental Federation*, and/or would be staged in more than one continent, in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event* (a) it must be organised by the *Continental Federation*s involved, or by one or more of those *National Association*s; and (b) it must be sanctioned by *FIH*.

3.1.4 Once an *International Event* has been sanctioned by *FIH* any changes to the date(s), venue(s), participants and/or format of that event require the approval of *FIH*.

3.2 Sanctioning of *Domestic Events*:

3.2.1 Where a proposed *Domestic Event* would be open only to teams in membership of or affiliated to one *National Association*, and would be staged entirely within that *National Association's* territory, then in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event* it must be organised or sanctioned by that *National Association*.

3.2.2 Where a proposed *Domestic Event* would be open to more than one *National Association's* teams, and/or would be staged by one *National Association* in another *National Association*'s territory or in more than one *National Association*'s territory, then in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event*:

3.2.2.1 If the event is open only to teams in membership of or affiliated to *National Association*s within one *Continental Federation*, and the event would be staged entirely within that continent, then it must be sanctioned by that *Continental Federation*.

3.2.2.2 If the event is open to teams in membership of or affiliated to *National Association*s from different *Continental Federation*s, and/or it would be staged (in whole or in part) outside of the teams' continent, it must be sanctioned by the relevant *Continental Federation*s and by *FIH*.

3.2.3 On an exceptional basis, the *Executive Board* may designate particular *Domestic Events*, not falling within the scope of Article 3.2.2.2, that nevertheless require *FIH* sanction, because of their particular characteristics.

3.3 Whether acting of its own accord or on application by a *Continental Federation* or a *National Association* or an *Event* organiser or other person, *FIH's Director General* may review any decision of a body to sanction or not to sanction a particular *Event*, and may reverse or amend that decision as it sees fit where it considers that the original decision was not in the best interests of the sport. Any such reversal or amendment shall be final and binding on all parties, provided that *FIH* shall not issue any such decision without first giving the body whose decision is being reviewed a full and fair opportunity to be heard.

3.4 Applying for sanction for an *Event*:

3.4.1 It is the responsibility of the organiser of a proposed *Event* to apply to the body or bodies specified in Articles 3.1 or 3.2 (as applicable) to sanction the *Event*. It is the responsibility of each such body to establish a mechanism for the processing of such applications.

3.4.2 Applications may be granted on a conditional basis. In particular (but without limitation), *FIH* may specify that particular *Events* must be played in accordance with and subject to *FIH*-compliant codes of conduct, anti-corruption rules, anti- doping rules and/or other rules or regulations. It shall be the responsibility of the *Continental Federation(s)* and/or *National Association*(*s)* organising or sanctioning the *Event* to ensure compliance with that requirement.

> ***Explanatory note:*** *Any sanction granted under Article 3.1 or Article 3.2 shall amount solely to recognition of the Event as a Sanctioned Event, and shall not amount to or be construed as approval by the granting body of any of the safety or security or other arrangements for the Event. Instead, those arrangements shall remain the sole responsibility of the Event organiser.*

3.4.3 The *Event* organiser should not issue any formal invitations to participate in the *Event* unless and until all necessary sanctions have been granted and any relevant conditions have been satisfied.

3.4.4 In determining whether to sanction a proposed *Event*, conditionally or otherwise, *FIH*, *Continental Federation*s and *National Association*s shall act in accordance with their obligations as custodians of the sport, and shall comply with all applicable laws relating to the proper exercise of regulatory powers by a sport's governing body.

Explanatory note: *Because decisions of FIH, Continental Federations and National Associations as to whether or not to sanction an Event are to be recognised and given effect by FIH and all other Continental Federations and National Associations (see Article 2.2, above), in making such decisions FIH, Continental Federation and/or National Association in question must ensure that it exercises its discretion consistently, validly, appropriately and lawfully.*

3.4.5 Subject always to Article 3.4.4, *FIH*, *Continental Federation*s and *National Association*s should base their decisions whether or not to sanction a proposed *Event* on the following factors:

3.4.5.1 Whether the organiser of the proposed *Event* has made a binding, unqualified and unconditional commitment to stage the *Event* in accordance with and subject to all applicable *FIH*, *Continental Federation* and/or *National Association* regulations;

3.4.5.2 Whether that commitment will be enforceable against the *Event* organiser, i.e., whether the *Event* organiser will be transparent and accountable to *FIH*, the *Continental Federation*(s) and/or *National Association* (as applicable) as regards its application and enforcement of those regulations in relation to all organisations and individuals participating in the *Event*;

3.4.5.3 The maintenance and promotion of the health, safety and welfare of *Athlete*s, including by the prevention of overplaying (*Athlete*s must have adequate time to rest and recover, as well as train, between *Events*), and by ensuring the safety and suitability of the venue(s) intended to be used for the proposed *Event*;

3.4.5.4 The extent to which the proposed *Event* may be accommodated within the existing calendar of *Events* without conflicting with or otherwise compromising (i) *Events* already in the calendar, and/or (ii) agreements to which *FIH* and/or one or more *Continental Federation*s or *National Association*s is a party;

Explanatory note (1): *Hockey, like any other sport, depends for its long- term growth on the ability of its stakeholders to make decisions and take actions in the best interests of the sport as a whole, including in relation to the exploitation of the limited fixture opportunities offered by a finite calendar. A properly structured fixture calendar, with coherent windows allowing the development in an orderly and balanced way of Events that are attractive to participants and spectators alike, is of paramount importance to the long- term future of the sport. In this context, the role of FIH, Continental Federations and National Associations who are asked to sanction proposed Events is to balance the interests of all of the sport's stakeholders, including protecting the primacy of national representative competition and respecting the history of longstanding Events, while at the same time encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in the development of new forms of competition that will generate further interest in the sport.*

Explanatory note (2): *The reference to 'agreements to which FIH and/or one or more Continental Federations or National Associations is a party' is included because it is common for a sport's commercial partners to require certain commitments to protect their respective investments in the sport. For example, a commercial partner investing significant sums in an Event may require assurances that competing events will not be organised or sanctioned. Any breach of those commitments may threaten the generation of commercial income that is required for the development of the sport.*

3.4.5.5 The extent to which the proposed *Event* would have any meaningful role in the promotion and development of the sport or any other charitable or benevolent purpose;

3.4.5.6 Any previous decision(s) by the body in question regarding recognition or otherwise of any similar *Event*;

3.4.5.7 The degree to which the proposed *Event* does or does not further the

objectives of *FIH* set out in the *Statutes*; and

3.4.5.8 Any other factor that is considered to be relevant.

3.4.6 To minimise administrative burden, *FIH*, a *Continental Federation* and/or a *National Association* (as applicable) may grant advance sanction to categories of *Events* meeting the relevant criteria stipulated in Annex 2.

> ***Explanatory note:*** *For example, a National Association may recognise in advance as Sanctioned Events all matches to be staged in its territory (a) by specified teams; (b) as part of specified Events; and/or (c) at or below a specified level of competition.*

3.4.7 If an *Event* does not fall within a category of *Events* that have been recognised in advance as *Sanctioned Events*, and the *Event* organiser fails to apply for and obtain the necessary sanction for the *Event*, in accordance with Article 3.1 (*International Events*) or 3.2 (Domestic *Events*), then the *Event* shall be an *Unsanctioned Event*.

3.4.8 To ensure clarity as to the status of an *Event*, all decisions to sanction an *Event* pursuant to Article 3.1 and/or 3.2 shall be confirmed in writing. An application for sanction may not be deemed approved unless and until such written confirmation is received. In addition, *FIH* shall include details of all *Events* that it organises or has sanctioned in the *FIH* International Calendar and/or its Tournament Management System (TMS); and *Continental Federation*s and their *National Association*s shall include details of all *Events* that they organise or have sanctioned in their own respective official fixture calendars. *FIH*, *Continental Federations* and *National Associations* shall keep a record of Events that they sanction which shall be available for inspection upon reasonable request.

ARTICLE 4 - ISSUING NO-OBJECTION CERTIFICATES

4.1 It is the responsibility of each *National Association* to establish a mechanism for the processing of applications free of charge from its *Athletes* for a *No-Objection Certificate*. Applications may be granted on a conditional basis.

> ***Explanatory note:*** *For example, a Home National Association may agree to the Athlete's participation in parts of an Event as long as he is released from other parts of the Event for specified periods so that he can train/prepare for and/or participate in International Events as part of his National Representative Team.*

4.2 In determining whether to issue a *No-Objection Certificate*, conditionally or otherwise, *National Association*s shall act in accordance with their obligations as custodians of the sport, and shall comply with all applicable laws relating to the proper exercise of regulatory powers by a sports governing body.

> ***Explanatory note:*** *Because a National Association's decisions as to whether or not to issue a No-Objection Certificate have to be recognised and given effect to by all other National Associations (see Article 2.2, above), in making such decisions the National Association must ensure that it exercises its discretion consistently, validly, appropriately and lawfully.*

4.3 Subject always to Article 4.2, further to the need to preserve the primacy of national representative competition, *National Association*s may take the following (non-exhaustive) list of factors into account in deciding whether or not to grant a *No-Objection Certificate* to an *Athlete* for a particular *Event*:

4.3.1 Whether the *Athlete* in question has been, or is likely to be, selected to play for his *National Representative Team* in an *Event* that is to take place (or the preparation for which is to take place) at or around the same time as the *Event* in question;

4.3.2 Whether the *Athlete*'s form, fitness and/or upcoming commitments to a *National Representative Team* might be compromised by his participation in the *Event* in question; and/or

4.3.3 Whether the *Athlete* announced his retirement from playing for his *National Representative Team* during the year leading up to the *Event* in question.

Explanatory note: *This provision is intended to deter Athletes from seeking to circumvent these regulations by retiring from national representative competition simply in order to participate in Events organised by other National Associations*.

4.3.4 Whether participation by the *Athlete* in the *Event* in question would compromise in any way the ability of the *Athlete* to comply with any contractual obligations owed by that *Athlete*, including obligations owed by the *Athlete* to his *Home National Association*.

Explanatory note: *The reference in this provision to an Athlete's "contractual" obligations is limited to obligations of relevance to the Athlete's participation in representative hockey for his National Association, and is not intended to be a means of indirectly enforcing personal contractual obligations between, for example, an Athlete and a club by which he may be, or have been, employed*.

44 To minimise administrative burden, a *National Association* may waive the requirement of a *No-Objection Certificate* for categories of *Athletes* for which it is the *Home National Association* and/or for categories of *Events* for which a *No-Objection Certificate* would otherwise be required. The *National Association* must ensure that it communicates any such waiver clearly to *Athletes* and to other *National Associations*, e.g., by posting notice of the waiver on its official website. If requested by an *Athlete* or *National Association*, it must confirm the waiver in writing.

Explanatory note: *For example, a National Association may (i) identify a pool of its Athletes that it requires to obtain No-Objection Certificates before participating in Domestic Events organised by other National Associations, and may waive the requirement for any Athletes not in that pool; or (ii) may waive the requirement that its Athletes apply for a No-Objection Certificate before participating in specified categories of Domestic Events organised by another National Association (e.g., local or regional events).*

45 Whether acting of its own accord or on application by a *National Association* or an *Event* organiser or an *Athlete*, *FIH* may review any decision of a *National Association* to issue or not to issue a *No-Objection Certificate* in relation to a particular *Event*, and may reverse or amend that decision as it sees fit where it considers that the original decision was not in the best interests of the sport. Any such reversal or amendment shall be final and binding on all parties, provided that *FIH* shall not issue any such decision without first giving the *National Association* in question a full and fair opportunity to be heard.

46 For the avoidance of doubt, the prohibition on participation in an *Unsanctioned Event* means that a *No-Objection Certificate* may not in any circumstances be issued in relation to participation in an *Unsanctioned Event.*

ANNEX 1 – APPLICATION TO ORGANISE AN EVENT BY A THIRD PARTY

A. APPLICATIONS

The application to organise an event by a third party and/or co-organised by a third party and a *National Association* and/or an event containing any novelty in format must be submitted by a *National Association* or third parties in writing with all available supportive documentation to FIH at least six months prior to the intended starting date of the event. FIH cannot guarantee the approval of any applications received within six months of the proposed date of the event.

1. Details of the Applicant and General Information

(i) Name of the *National Association* or alternatively name, contact address, address, phone number, email address of the third party Applicant.
(ii) If a legal entity: registered address, registration number, tax number(s), name and function of representative for Applicant, direct contact number, direct contact email address.
(iii) Venue and facilities.
(iv) Intended list of invited Athletes (eligible and non-eligible).
(v) Where the event is organised by a *National Association* or co-organised by a third party with a *National Association*, the planned TV coverage (Host Broadcaster and right holding TV companies for each territory) and tentative telecast schedule in each territory.
(vi) Prize Money and/or appearance fees.
(vii) A Draft Announcement for the event including the format of competition.
(viii) A clear description of any proposed novelty.

2. General Criteria

(i) In order to ensure the proper functioning of events by third parties, proof of sufficient financial standing for organising the planned event must be provided. Applicants are requested to provide a copy of the previous annual financial report filed with the relevant companies' registry and a letter from a reputable accountancy firm confirming that the organiser is in good financial standing for the organisation of the event and in particular has sufficient funds to pay all prize monies or payments due to participating Athletes and Officials.

(ii) Evidence of relevant professional risk liability insurance for the third party Applicant involved in the organisation of the event.

(iii) Written declaration confirming that the Applicant conforms to FIH Rules & Regulations as well as to their enforcement by FIH as applicable to events (subject to any novelties approved by the FIH Executive Board).

3. Technical & Sporting Criteria

In order to ensure the proper functioning of the mentioned events, the following technical and sporting information must be provided in the Application to demonstrate that the Applicant is capable of organising the event:

(i) Proposed dates including an indication of any potential conflicts with events on the FIH sports calendar (having regard in particular to the proposed dates, level of Athletes to be invited, and location of the proposed event).

(ii) Proposed number and qualification of Officials or officials to be approved by FIH (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld).

(iii) Health & Safety specific to Hockey: Provide details and confirmation that the venue and medical staff shall conform to the standards in the FIH Rules. Any evidence or test runs conducted by the organiser relating to the health and safety of any proposed novelty.

(iv) Confirmation of compliance at the full expense of the organisers with FIH Anti-Doping Rules. The confirmation must particularly include the assurance to provide Anti-Doping equipment, facilities for collection of samples, personnel to conduct the testing, transportation of samples and analyses of the samples at an accredited WADA laboratory in accordance with the FIH Anti-Doping Rules. FIH reserves the right to request further information on the above points relating to the technical organisation of the proposed event that is proportionate to the objective to be achieved.

4. Integrity Criteria

In order to protect ethical integrity, the Applicant and any party/person cooperating with the Applicant in the organisation and conduct of the event shall agree to the ethical principles as set out in the FIH Integrity Code. FIH reserves the right to request further information that is proportionate to the objective to be achieved. In particular, FIH reserves the right to request information concerning the directors, shareholders or de facto owners of a third party or sponsor of the event in order to ensure that there is no conflict of interest or integrity risk.

B. SOLIDARITY CONTRIBUTION

The third party agrees to pay a Solidarity Contribution in the amount of up to 10 % of its net profit of the approved event to FIH in favour of the development of hockey (which for the avoidance of doubt is used for solidarity and development purposes and not for any commercial activities of FIH or its Members). FIH has a right to request an audit of the books of the Organiser after the event.

C. AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE

The FIH Executive Board tasks the FIH *Director General* to verify the completeness of documentation contained in the Application and in case of incompleteness to grant the applicant the right to supplement its documentation. Failure to complete the Application with the requested time frame (or revised time frame agreed with the Applicant) shall result in the rejection of the Application for being manifestly incomplete.

Complete Applications will be submitted by the FIH *Director General* together with a recommendation to the FIH Executive Board. The FIH Executive Board shall decide on the Application in an Executive Board meeting or by vote in the Executive Board working room not later than two months upon receipt of the complete Application. In the event of no response from the Executive Board within this timeframe then the event shall be deemed approved.

The FIH Executive Board shall accept or reject the Application on a non-discriminatory basis between third parties and *National Associations* having regard to its objectives as set out in art. 1.2.4 of Regulations on Sanctioned & Unsanctioned Events and based on the following criteria:

(i) General Criteria; and/or
(ii) Ethical Criteria; and/or
(iii) Technical and Sporting Criteria
(iv) For any other justifiable reasons

Approval by the FIH Executive Board of a novelty shall be subject to a test run to ensure the health and safety of Athletes participating in an event with the proposed novelty (if a test run has not otherwise taken place under FIH supervision). The FIH Executive Board shall approve a novel element following a successful test run (subject only to the approval of any other outstanding Criteria to address a minor concern as outlined below).

The FIH Executive Board shall also give the Applicant the opportunity to address any minor concern and to re-submit an application within two months for a final decision.

The FIH Executive Board's decision shall be communicated to the Applicant in writing. In the event that the Application is rejected, FIH shall provide the Applicant with the reasons for the decision. Any appeal of an FIH decision relating primarily to the application of Ethical Criteria or Technical and Sporting Criteria or for any other justifiable reasons as set out above (in particular to decisions concerning the FIH's anti-doping, health and safety or integrity rules) shall be brought before the Judicial Commission and may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne.

The decision of CAS shall be final and binding to the exclusion of jurisdiction of any civil court. This is without prejudice to the right of appeal before the Swiss Federal Tribunal in accordance with Swiss law and the right to challenge the enforcement or recognition of an award on grounds of public policy in accordance with any applicable national procedural laws.

D. CONDITIONS FOLLOWING AUTHORISATION

Upon FIH authorization, the Event Announcement may be posted by the Organisers on the Internet and FIH will include the Event in its Event Calendar on FIH website.

The successful Applicant has permission to use the following statement “Approved by the International Hockey Federation” or “FIH Approved Event” in any correspondence or advertising associated with the Event.

FIH reserves the right to conduct an inspection before the authorized event and to maintain an inspection team on site at all times during the event. The Organisers shall be responsible for the travel, accommodation and subsistence costs of up to 2 FIH member of staff to undertake an inspection visit to ensure that the requisite conditions will be met.

The Applicant shall submit a protocol including all competition results immediately after completion of the Event to FIH.

E. INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The provisions from FIH Statutes from FIH website www.fih.hockey. Please note that any update to the rules (e.g. Anti-Doping or Integrity Code) are automatically applicable unless otherwise specified in the revised rules. The Applicant is invited to raise any queries and engage in a dialogue with FIH during the application process.

ANNEX 2 – EVENTS NOT REQUIRING SANCTIONING

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 3.4.6 of the Regulations, FIH has granted advance sanction to the categories of Events listed below.

The categories are not an exhaustive list and, at the discretion of FIH, may be amended from time to time. The categories are as follows:

i. Invitational festival type Events, whether 11 a side and of a shorter format, Outdoor or Indoor, where national teams are not playing or there is no prize money involved;

ii. Touring matches involving university, schools or other educational establishments;

iii. Any matches or Events involving age limit teams of 20 years or under except those that are FIH or Continental formal Events, such as Youth Olympic Games Qualifying events.

APPENDIX - DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

A1. In these *Regulations*, the following words and expressions have the meanings set out opposite them:

Athlete	Any person competing in a *Hockey* event sanctioned by *FIH*, a *CF* and/or a *National Association*.
Director General	The Director General of *FIH*.
Congress	The Congress of *FIH*.
Continental Federation / CF	A continental federation established in accordance with the *Statutes*.
Disciplinary Commissioner	The person with that title appointed under the *Statutes*.
Domestic Event	Any *Event* that does not involve *National Representative Teams*.
Event	Any indoor or outdoor *Hockey* match, tournament, competition or other event, at whatever level played, whether international, continental, national or local, and including age-group events such as "Masters" events.
Effective Date	As defined in Article 1.4.
Executive Board	The Executive Board of *FIH*.
Federation / FIH	The International Hockey Federation.
Hockey	The game of *Hockey*, including both field and indoor *Hockey* and other derivatives of the game as decided from time to time by the *Executive Board*.
Home National Association	The *National Association* in membership of *FIH* for whose *National Representative Team* the *Athlete* in question plays or last played or (if he has not yet played for any *National Representative Team*) is qualified to play. ***Explanatory note:*** *If the Athlete is eligible to play for the National Representative Team of more than one National Association, but has not yet played for any of them, he must designate one of those National Associations for purposes of these Regulations, and that will be the National Association from whom a No-Objection Certificate must be obtained to allow him to play in Events organised by another National Association.*
International Event	An Event in which National Representative Teams compete, including (without limitation) Events staged as part of a multi-sport event such as the Olympic Games, and Events which are not captured in the FIH Tournament Management System and do not attract World Ranking point.
National Association / NA	A national governing body of *Hockey* that has been admitted as a member of *FIH*.
National Representative Team	A team selected to represent a *National Association* at any level, including age-group teams from Under-16s up to "Masters".

No-Objection Certificate	A document issued by an *Athlete's Home National Association*, certifying that it has no objection to his/her participation in an *Event* organised or sanctioned by another *National Association*.
Regulations	These Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events.
Sanctioned Event	Any *International Event* organised or sanctioned by the relevant *Continental Federation*(s) and/or *FIH* in accordance with Article 3.1; and any *Domestic Event* organised or sanctioned by the relevant *Continental Federation*(s) and/or *National Association*(s) and/or *FIH* in accordance with Article 3.2.
Statutes	The Statutes of *FIH.*
Team	A team consist of a maximum of sixteen persons composed of a maximum of eleven players on the field and up to five substitutes. This may be amended by Regulation to a maximum of eighteen players.
Unsanctioned Event	Any *Event* that is not a *Sanctioned Event*.

A2. In the case of conflict between the *Statutes* and these *Regulations*, the *Statutes* shall prevail. In the case of conflict between these *Regulations* and any other document issued by the *FIH* or a *CF* or a *National Association*, these *Regulations* shall prevail.

A3. For convenience and clarity, in these *Regulations* the masculine gender is used and shall be interpreted to include the feminine gender as appropriate. Words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.