



FIH Approved Field Equipment

Construction & Performance Requirements

Indoor Hockey Side-boards

Ver. 1.1



1 Introduction

Side-boards are an integral part of Indoor Hockey; the boards are used to define the side boundaries of the pitch and are intended to ensure the ball remains within the playing area, whilst allowing the ball to rebound in a predictable and consistent way.

As part of the FIH's strategy to develop the game and provide reassurance to those investing in hockey facilities, the FIH Quality Programme has developed this guide that defines the quality requirements for Indoor Hockey side-boards.

2 Approval process

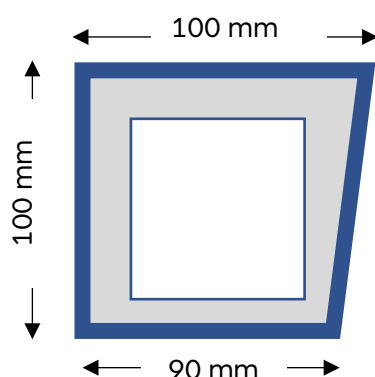
For a side-board to be registered as an FIH Approved product the following process needs to be followed:

1. The board manufacturer (or supplier) shall be a member of the FIH Quality Programme (see Appendix A and contact facilities@FIH.ch for details).
2. The manufacturer should arrange for an example of the boards to be inspected by a suitable inspection agency, agreed in advance with the FIH, that is able to undertake the necessary checks to verify compliance with this document. Ideally the inspection agency will operate an ISO accredited quality management programme.
3. The results obtained should be reported in English and be sent to the FIH by the test institute, for review.
4. If a board is found to meet the quality levels detailed in this guide, they shall be granted the right to be designated a *FIH Approved Indoor Hockey Side-board*.
5. A board shall remain approved providing the manufacturer remains a member of the FIH Quality Programme; no boards are found to be non-compliant with this guide; and the specification and construction of the board does not change.

3 Construction criteria

3.1 Dimensions

Side-boards shall be based on a square 100 mm cross-section, but with the upright surface facing the pitch having an incline of 10 mm towards the pitch.



3.2 Board alignment

The boards should have an interlocking mechanism that keeps the boards aligned during use, so that there are no steeps or gaps between the boards.

3.3 Materials

Boards may be made of aluminium, MDF, timber or materials with similar physical properties. The design of the boards and materials used in their construction should be robust enough to withstand repeat hockey ball impacts.

All materials should be non-toxic and comply with all national environmental and toxicology regulations.

When selecting materials, consideration should be given to the eventual disposal of the boards having regard to future recycling where possible, and to any possible environmental impact through disposal.

4 Safety in use

There should be no structures that may cause a trip hazard to a player or umpire stepping over the board in an uncontrolled manner. The design of the interlocking mechanism shall not form a point of entrapment.

5 Assembly, installation, and maintenance instructions

The manufacturer should provide comprehensive written instructions for assembly, installation, transportation, and safe storage of the boards.

6 Warranty

The side-board should be supplied with a manufacturer's warranty that provides cover against manufacturing defects and the premature failure (excluding misuse or vandalism) of materials. The minimum duration of the warranty shall be two years (noting manufacturers may include a disclaimer against premature failure due to abuse, misuse, and lack of maintenance).

Appendix A – Membership of FIH Quality Programme Manufacturers of Sports Equipment

The **FIH Quality Programme** provides consistent and dependable industry standards for a range of equipment and facilities used by the game of hockey.

As a manufacturer of FIH Approved field equipment a company becomes part of an exclusive group that is working in partnership with the FIH to ensure the quality and performance of Hockey equipment.

In addition to demonstrating their commitment to hockey and showcasing industry best practices, they benefit from:

- The **right to use FIH Approved logos** on their approved boards and packaging



- **Input into industry development** through attendance at FIH technical meetings and the ability to provide feedback on any changes made to the *FIH Hockey Equipment Standards*.
- **Increased worldwide exposure and marketing** through recognition by the FIH of your boards and your presence on the FIH's website. Information will include company name, website, and a list of FIH Approved equipment you manufacture.

Membership criteria

Either manufacturers or brand owners¹ of hockey equipment satisfying the requirements of this Standard may apply to join the FIH Quality Programme, subject to the following conditions:

1. The rebound boards are manufactured under a quality management system (ISO 9001 or similar) at the time of application and for the duration of the board's approval.
2. The manufacturing company complies with all national and local employment laws and the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
3. Payment of the appropriate annual licensing fee, as advised by the FIH.

Suppliers of white label products that have previously been shown to comply with this Standard may also apply for FIH Approval of the product under their own name, subject to them entering a separate licensing contract to the manufacturer and payment of the appropriate licensing fee.

Notes:

1. Brand owners are defined as companies that own the intellectual properties rights to a goal but outsource the manufacturing to a third-party company.

FIH Field Equipment Standards

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this series of publications, any party who makes use of any part of the Standard in the development of a hockey facility shall indemnify the International Hockey Federation (FIH), its servants, consultants or agents against all claims, proceedings, actions, damages, costs, expenses and any other liabilities for loss or damage to any property, or injury or death to any person that may be made against or incurred by the FIH arising out of or in connection with such use.

Compliance with the requirements detailed in the Standard by a User does not of itself confer on that User immunity from their legal obligations.

Compliance with the requirements detailed in the Standards by a User constitutes acceptance of the terms of this disclaimer by that User.

FIH reserve the right to amend, update or delete sections of the Standard at any time, as they deem necessary.

Any questions about this document should be addressed to:

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