FIH
Since 1924
A Century For Hockey

THE HISTORY OF HOCKEY

THE ORIGIN OF HOCKEY

The origins of hockey can be traced back almost 4'000 years, with historical references found in Iran, Egypt and Greece.

The birth of modern hockey and drafting of the first rules of the game was in the United Kingdom in 1876, following the establishment of the first clubs, Blackheath Club (est. 1849) and Teddington Hockey Club (est. 1871).

1908 FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Hockey debuted at the Games of the 4th Olympiad in London, England, in 1908, with England, France, Germany, Ireland, Scotland and Wales competing in the Olympic Men's Hockey competition.

Hockey has been present in all but two (1912 & 1924) Summer Olympic Games since 1908 with 45 nations competing on one or more occasions.

Nine nations have won gold in the history of the Games, dominated by India, who have been Champions on 8 occasions, including a 38 year reign from 1928 until 1960.

1924 FOUNDING OF THE FIH

The Fédération Internationale de Hockey sur Gazon (FIH) was founded on 7 January 1924 by Paul Léautey (FRA). He would later become the first president of the FIH, bringing together seven National Associations (Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Spain and Switzerland) to form the sport's international governing body.

1927 FOUNDING OF THE IFWHA

In 1927, the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations (IFWHA) was formed with 8 founding National Associations (Australia, Denmark, England, Ireland, Scotland, South Africa & USA with Catherine Gaskell (GBR) as its first president.

1971 FIRST MEN'S WORLD CUP

The inaugural event took place at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona, Spain, with ten participating nations (Pakistan, Spain, India, Kenya, France, The Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, Japan and Argentina). Pakistan were crowned champi–ons with Spain and India taking second and third places respectively.

1974 FIRST WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

The inaugural event was held in Mandelieu, France, with the participating nations (India, The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Mexico, West Germany, Argentina, France, Austria and Switzerland). The Netherlands won the title defeating Argentina in the final with West Germany coming third.

Acknowledgements

This publication is produced by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), in cooperation with The Hockey Museum.

Texts: The Hockey Museum (David Knapp, Mike Smith, Roger Webb, John Hurst, Gavin Featherstone, Judy Smith, Mike Barford), Richard Stainthorpe, FIH (Sanket Chaudhury, Alastair Cox, Nicolas Maingot), African Hockey Federation, Asian Hockey Federation, EuroHockey, Panamerican Hockey Federation, Sheila Shab, Oceanian Hockey Federation

Photo research: The Hockey Museum (Marcus Wardle, Rebecca Burton, Zoe Tickner and Shane Smith), Nicolas Maingot

Project coordination: Nicolas Maingot

Photo credits: World Sport Pics, AFP, EPU, Getty, Popperfoto, Ullstein Bild, Bettmann, The Hockey Museum, IOC, Yan Huckendubler, Special Olympics, World Beach Hockey Ltd., African Hockey Federation, Asian Hockey Federation, EuroHockey, Panamerican , Hockey Federation, Oceanian Hockey Federation, Hockey India, KNHB, Spanish Hockey Association, Bodleian Libraries, Kaiapoi Museum

Thanks

Thanks are due to IOC President Thomas Bach, FIH President Tayyab Ikram, The Hockey Museum, all authors, Juan Ángel Calzado, Els van Breda Vriesman, Leandro Negre, Antonio von Ondarza, Santi Deo, Luciana Aymar, Ahmad Shahbaz, Alyson Annan, Dhanraj Pillay, Marsha Cox, Jamie Dwyer, Marelize de Klerk, Shane McLeod, all Continental Federations, Hockey India, KNHB, Spanish Hockey Association, Special Olympics, World Beach Hockey Ltd., Yan Huckendubler and Jon Wyatt, Mike Joyce, Marianela O'Mahony, Naïs del Todesco, Harsimran Singh Virk, Mélanie Baumer, André Oliveira (FIH) for their participation or involvement in the production of this publication.

Copyright: No part of this publication may be copied, republished, stored in a retrieval system or otherwise reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means whatsoever, without the prior written consent of FIH.
This publication and its contents are the property of FIH.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this publication belong solely to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of FIH.

Design and Printing:

MAZOON
Printing, Publishing & Packaging LLC
www.mazoonprinting.com

@FIH, Lausanne 2024

International Hockey Federation (FIH), Rue du Valentin 61, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0) 21 641 06 06
Email: info@fih.hockey
FIH.hockey

Contents

Acknowledgements p 2

Foreword by FIH President Tayyab Ikram p 5

Message from IOC President Thomas Bach p 9

Chapter 1 – The origins of hockey p 13

Chapter 2 – History of FIH p 37

Chapter 3 – Evolution of the hockey rules p 53

Chapter 4 – Hockey equipment evolution p 67

Chapter 5 – Evolution of hockey formats p 105

Chapter 6 – A history of FIH events p 123

Chapter 7 – Hockey and the Olympic Games p 165

Chapter 8 – Growing hockey p 187

Chapter 9 – Hockey for society p 217

Appendices p 235

Appendix 1: A statistical overview of FIH events and Olympic hockey tournaments

Appendix 2: FIH Hockey Stars Awards winners

This book also includes messages from key personalities of the global hockey community.

Foreword
by FIH President

Tayyab Ikram

FIH President

Dear Friends, dear Global Hockey Family, dear Athletes,

As we celebrate the Centennial of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), we're contemplating a 100-year rich history marked by dedication, passion, and growth in the world of hockey.

This is not just a celebration; it is a commemoration of a century of resilience, progress, and the unyielding spirit of the hockey community.

We pay tribute to our athletes, visionary leaders, dedicated volunteers, valued partners, and to all those who have been part of this incredible journey.

From seven member associations to a sport played in more than 140 countries today, our journey is a testament to the enduring power of hockey. It has been more than just a game; it has been a force for unity and positive change marking a century of sporting excellence.

National Associations and Continental Federations have played a very important role in making hockey a success story in diverse corners of the world. In our shared journey, as these associations flourished and strengthened, so did FIH.

Our Empowerment and Engagement Strategy emphasizes the development of National Associations, with a primary focus on those that need our help the most.

Over the years, FIH kept up with the pace of time in our actions and decisions – and we did so proactively. We remained ahead of time. We embraced innovation – our permanent companion – throughout our journey.

Significant features have been Rules amendments like the introduction of rolling substitutions or the self-pass, and the discontinuation of off-side, that have made the game much faster and more attractive to watch. In terms of equipment, the introduction of artificial pitches and composite sticks have been major evolutions too.

We continuously updated technology from traditional telecasting to high-tech broadcasting, and we leverage digital platforms to create strong fan engagement.

Another revolutionary milestone has been the use of performance analysis technology, bringing players, coaches and officials much closer to the story of the Game. These innovation and changes significantly unlocked the players' potential to perform.

Among these changes, we celebrate another milestone: the integration of women umpires and officials. It was not just a step forward; it was a leap towards inclusivity. Women officiating in prominent roles is a testament to our commitment to equality, acknowledging the invaluable contributions of women in shaping the narrative of our sport.

The introduction of new formats, fostering accessibility, created new avenues and more opportunities for National Associations and athletes.

Athletes are the core of our sport. Their safety and wellbeing is always a key concern in our sport, and we have come a very long way from when goalkeepers used to play without helmets towards athletes feeling much more comfortable and safer today, while playing a much more dynamic and faster game.

With their unlimited capacity to change, athletes have led the way for officials, administrators and other stakeholders to also adapt and continuously elevate the game. Their resilience and acceptance speak volumes about the character of our players, highlighting their shared commitment to the evolution of hockey.

Off the pitch too, FIH has taken another dimension over the years. Our Federation enjoys a strong relationship with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and takes great pride in being an integral part of the Olympic Movement.

FIH also joined the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework. Our efforts to develop waterless turfs, as well as my initiative 'Give Back to Forest' align well with our commitment to social engagement, sustainability and environmental protection that has been praised at the highest level, with FIH winning the IOC Climate Action Award in 2024!

FIH has taken a major leap from traditional approach towards exemplary current structures and practices, with the highest regard for integrity, transparency, clean sports and our judicial system.

As we celebrate our rich history, we must also look at our future, to ensure many more years of excellence. This is not our destination; it is a launchpad into the next century of hockey. I believe hockey is not just a sport; it's a vision – inside, outside, and into the future. We envision a future where hockey continues to inspire the next generations.

As the FIH President, I feel immense pride and gratitude. Pride for what we have achieved, and gratitude for our collective efforts for the success of hockey over the last 100 years. Let us embark on this journey into the future with the same spirit that has defined us for a century – a spirit of solidarity, and a shared love for the game.

Let's dedicate all the efforts for our athletes and take a new beginning for another 100 years of excellence.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Tayyab Ikram
FIH President

Message from IOC President

Thomas Bach

IOC President

Dear Olympic friends,

As the International Hockey Federation (FIH) celebrates its centennial, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on this important milestone. It is only fitting that this anniversary should take place in an Olympic year, when the great sport of hockey returned to Paris – the place where it all began for FIH one hundred years ago. With the great success of the Olympic hockey competition the Olympic Games Paris 2024 were the perfect occasion for the hockey community to celebrate a century of progress.

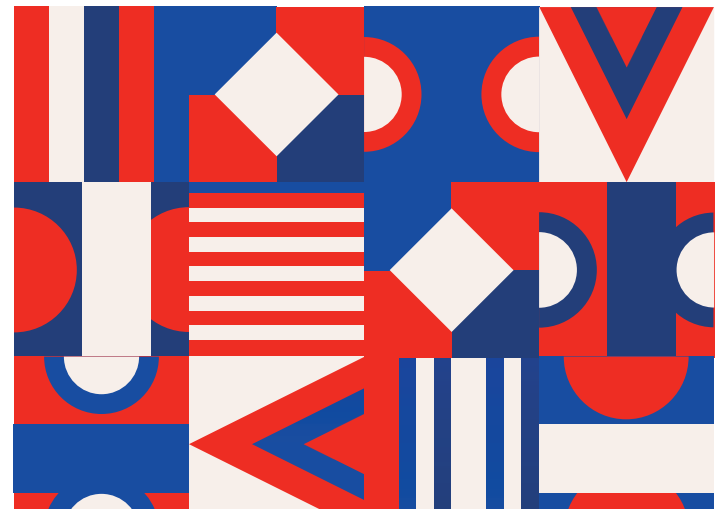
This publication chronicles the remarkable success story of hockey, illustrating how FIH has understood how to embrace change by continuously growing the sport in innovative ways. Being awarded the IOC Climate Action Award 2024 is the most recent testament to how FIH is leading by example, especially when it comes to strengthening sustainable sport. The strong standing of hockey in the Olympic Movement today as a truly global sport with worldwide appeal, is also a reflection of the strength of FIH, under the great leadership of FIH President Tayyab Ikram.

This centennial is therefore not only a milestone for FIH, but for the entire Olympic Movement. Building on a century of progress, FIH has every reason to look to the future with great confidence. As the entire hockey community looks ahead to this bright future, let me reiterate that you can always count on the International Olympic Committee as a partner to promote our shared Olympic values of peace and solidarity. Because it is only by joining hands, that we can live our new Olympic motto: Faster, Higher, Stronger –Together.

In this Olympic spirit, I wish the International Hockey Federation all the best for the next 100 years and beyond.

Thomas Bach
IOC President

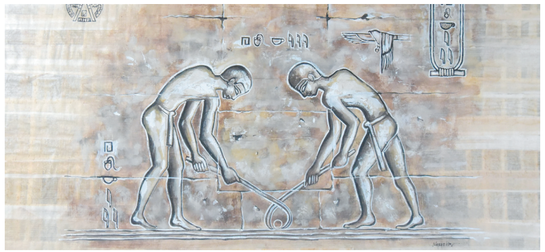
The Origins of Hockey



Stick and ball games

‘Stick and ball’ games have been played across many countries (Egypt, Greece, Iran, Ethiopia..) for centuries. In some of these games, involving two ‘teams’, the purpose of the game was to hit a ‘ball’ through a ‘goal’ using a stick. That is the essence of the game we know today as ‘hockey’.

However, none of these stick and ball games evolved into hockey. It is widely accepted that the modern game of hockey originated in England. This article explores the origins of that English game of hockey.



A papyrus likeness of an ancient painting of a stick and ball game from Prince Kheti’s tomb (circa 2150 B.C.) in Egypt, commemorating the African Hockey Championship of 1983.

A bas relief carving showing an early stick and ball game from Ancient Greece, dated 478 B.C.

An illustration by an unknown artist of the Ethiopian game ‘Genna’, an old traditional stick and ball game played during the Christmas season.

‘The Game of Polo’ print by Li Lin depicting another early stick and ball game played by Chinese horse riders.

Native Paraguayans playing an indigenous stick and ball game.

First known use of the word 'hockey'

The first known contemporary use of the word 'hockey' was in a book by Richard Johnson, published in London in 1773, titled 'Juvenile Sports and Pastimes, to which are prefixed, Memoirs of the Author: Including a new mode of Infant Education.' This work described the game of hockey and included the first known illustration of it being played.

The game described by Johnson was played by two teams of any number of boys in a wide spacious field who fixed their goals as far apart as space would allow. Each goal was made of a long piece of briar, each end being stuck in the ground, thereby forming a kind of arch. The 'ball' was the largest cork-bung which could be obtained, with its edges cut round, and was called 'the hockey'. Each boy had his own 'hockey-stick' which had a crooked end, in the shape of a shepherd's crook, with which to hit the 'ball'.

The two teams met in the middle of the field between the two goals, the hockey was tossed up and everyone tried his best to beat the hockey through the goal of the other team; at which point the game was over. The only rule mentioned was that the hockey must not be touched with the hand. The use of the crook part of the stick was said to disengage the hockey from your antagonists, when it is surrounded by them that you cannot get at it to give it a full stroke toward their goal.

Johnson's description of how the game was played suggests that it was something of a free-for-all, writing that although players are allowed to push others aside, it is considered not only as foul play, but as very 'ungenteel' to throw another to the ground, or trip up his heels because that produces ill-will, quarrelling, and sometimes fighting.

This account supports other sources, published later as first-hand memories, that 'hockey' was played in London during the 1770s. The author also claims he played the game at school

Hockey in 1773, the earliest known contemporary illustration of a game which was called 'hockey', from 'Juvenile Sports and Pastimes, to which are prefixed, Memoirs of the Author'.

during the 1740s. Although it is known that by this time that many 'stick and ball' games were popular in England, none of the popular games is known to have involved two teams scoring goals by hitting a ball or other object through a goal.

Johnson says that the game was undoubtedly first taken from the Irish game of Hurling, which it resembles in almost every respect. It is known that Hurling was regularly played in London by Irish immigrants from the 1730s and onwards, suggesting that the author had witnessed some of those games.

How 'hockey' got its name

Johnson five times refers to the playing object (the cork-bung) as the hockey and four times as the kockey, thought to have been a typographical error by the printers. Therefore, the first contemporary use of the word 'hockey' was as a name for the cork bung used as the 'ball'.

A possible explanation for why a cork bung used in the game was first called a 'hockey' is the association of the word 'hock' and variations of it with drink (wine or beer) which was routinely stored in barrels, from which the cork bungs came.

Large bungs were used to stop up barrels of wine or beer and were in plentiful supply. These were used for barrels of 'Hock', a German Rhenish wine which until the mid-1700s was exported to England in barrels before being bottled. Hock took its name from the village of Hockheim on the Mayne, which was known for its growth of Rhenish wine.

Also, 'Hock ale' or 'Hocking ale' was the name of beer brewed for festivals at Hocktide, a medieval term for the Monday and Tuesday in the week following the second Tuesday after Easter.

Having called the 'ball' a 'hockey', it was then natural to call the stick used to hit the hockey a 'hockey-stick'. In some descriptions, the hockey-stick was shortened to the 'hockey' and the game itself soon became known as 'hockey'.

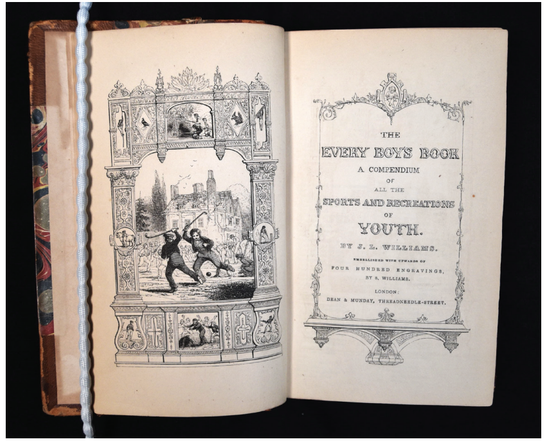
The author offers the first known comparison between a hockey-stick and a shepherd's crook. Some linguists have later suggested that the French words for a shepherd's crook – 'hocquet' or 'hoquet' – are the origin for the term 'hockey'. There is, however, no contemporary evidence for this suggestion.

Early accounts of the game of hockey

There are references to hockey being played in schools in the 18th century, but without descriptions of the game. In 1805, a book called 'The book of games' was published containing an illustration and a description of the game by a man who had played the game thirty years earlier. This description was very similar to that described by Johnson in 1773, saying that the 'ball' (which the man describing the game also called a 'hockey') was made of either wood or cork, with an old bung being very suitable. It was accompanied by an engraving titled 'hockey'.

Hockey in 1805, an engraving from 'The Book of Games; or, A History of the Juvenile Sports' showing four young boys playing an early, gentle version of the game.

An 1812 view of two boys playing hockey in front of Eton College, from 'Elegant extracts from the most eminent British poets'.



An engraving in an 1842 book of boys' sports showing boys playing a form of hockey 'one-handed'.

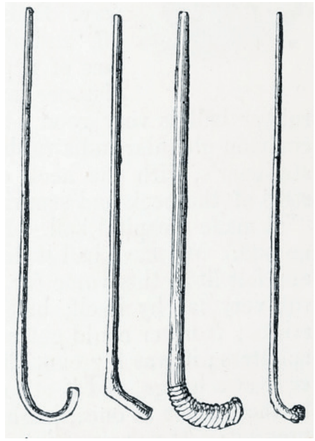
In the early part of the 19th century, there were an increasing number of references to hockey being played in public schools although without detailed descriptions of how the game was played. Several references were made to Eton, including a small engraving in 1812 of two boys evidently playing hockey, holding the stick in one hand, with Eton College in the background.

Accounts of hockey began to appear in books written for boys about hobbies and sports, one early account being published in 1842 in 'The Every Boy's book. A compendium of all the sports and recreations of youth'. This book had an engraving of two boys playing hockey one-handed as its frontispiece and a second engraving with a short article about the game, being between two boys who each try to drive the ball over 'bounds', which are a line rather than a goal.

Other boys' books on hobbies and sports appeared, such as the 'Boy's Own Book: A complete Encyclopedia of all the Diversions, Athletic, Scientific and Recreative of Boyhood and Youth' This was first published in 1828 with new editions published numerous times in London and North America throughout most of the 19th century. An article titled 'hockey' first appeared in 1849, the game seeming to have changed little since the 1773 account.

Hockey was increasingly featured in these boys' books. The articles often included a description of the game, sometimes with a series of numbered rules. There were many variations in the descriptions of the game played, the main matters covered usually being as follows:

An 1859 view showing boys continuing to play a form of hockey one-handed, from 'Games and Sports for young boys'.



Hockey sticks and a cork bung which was used as the 'ball' in 1862.

1. The field in which the game was played was rarely specified. A large field, by-road, meadow or open common were mentioned.
2. The game could be played by as few as two boys or by any number on each team.
3. The goals could be boundaries at either end which the ball had to cross (sometimes known as 'bounds') or they could be defined by posts, sometimes with a tape across the top, through which the 'ball' had to be driven.
4. The 'ball' was usually either a cork bung or was made of rubber, often being cut from a rubber bottle with the neck cut off.
5. Sticks were often made of oak or crab and always had a curved or crooked head.
6. Players had to hit the 'ball' from left to right, 'back-handed play' not being allowed.
7. The 'ball' could be stopped with the foot or body but could not be handled and could only be struck with a stick.
8. The stick was held in one hand.
9. The game consisted of many 'scrimmages' or 'melees' in which anything was allowed except for deliberately hitting an opponent or raising the stick above the shoulder because of the danger of doing so at close quarters. There was no concept of the ball being passed to another player on the same team.

An 1860 book illustration for a story about an energetic schoolboy hockey match, from 'Ernest Bracebridge; or, Schoolboy Days'.

A view of a 'scrimmage', which was a feature of how some people played hockey in 1867, from 'Cassell's Popular Educator'.

The following illustrations which appeared in the 1860s to accompany a description of the game of hockey give an idea of how the game was played by teams with many players.

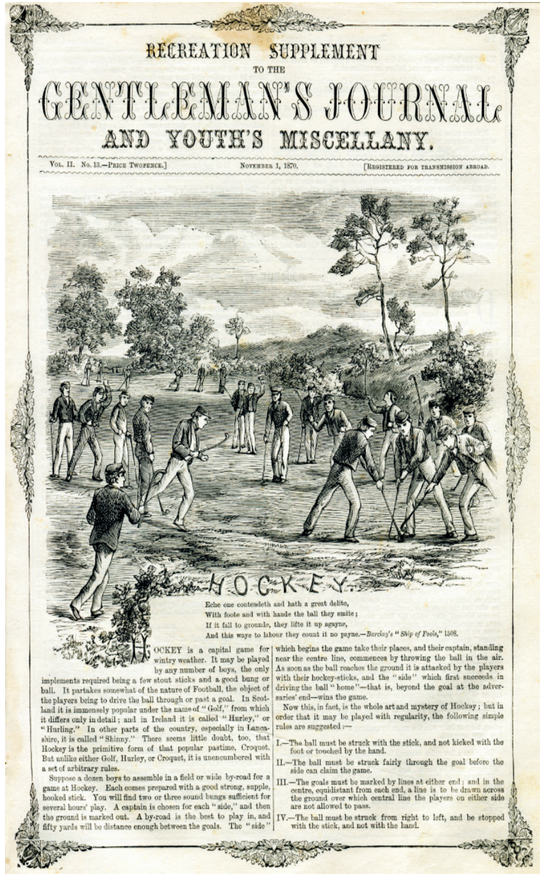
A lengthy description of how the game was played, published in c1868, was consistent with the two images above. It included the passage In the midst of a grand scrimmage, where a score or so of players are plying their hockeys vigorously in the confined space of a few square yards, it cannot but be that some blows more or less awkward must be inflicted upon the heads and faces of those engaged. However, the illustration chosen to accompany the description painted a different, peaceful scene.

A rather more peaceful view of hockey being played in 1868, from 'The Modern Playmate'.

An illustration published in 1870 shows another peaceful version of the game, which was accompanied by a short article describing the way the game was played.

There were many different forms of the game, each known as 'hockey'. Some accounts of the game said that hockey in England was the same game as Shinty (or 'Shinney') in Scotland, Hurling in Ireland or Bandy in Wales. This was presumably due to each game involving a 'ball' being hit by a stick whilst trying to score a goal, and it seems that any such game in England was known as hockey.

Most of the early descriptions above were an attempt to describe how the game was played as observed by the writer, rather than an attempt to proscribe how the game should be played. The games described did not generally evolve into a unified game with established rules, there not being consistency between the way it was played by different groups and in different parts of the country. There were, however, three notable exceptions to this.



RECREATION SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
GENTLEMAN'S JOURNAL
AND YOUTH'S MISCELLANY.

Vol. II. No. 13.—Price Twopence.] November 1, 1870. [Registered for transmission abroad.

HOCKEY.

Eche one contenteth and hath a great delite,
With foote and with hande the ball they smite;
If it fall to grounde, they lifte it up agayne,
And this waye to labour they count it no payne.—*Barclay's "Ship of Fools,"* 1508.

HOCKEY is a capital game for wintry weather. It may be played by any number of boys, the only implements required being a few stout sticks and a good bung or ball. It partakes somewhat of the nature of Football, the object of the players being to drive the ball through or past a goal. In Scotland it is immensely popular under the name of "Golf," from which it differs only in detail; and in Ireland it is called "Hurley," or "Hurling." In other parts of the country, especially in Lancashire, it is called "Shinny." There seems little doubt, too, that Hockey is the primitive form of that popular pastime, Croquet. But unlike either Golf, Hurley, or Croquet, it is unencumbered with a set of arbitrary rules.

Suppose a dozen boys to assemble in a field or wide by-road for a game at Hockey. Each comes prepared with a good strong, supple, hooked stick. You will find two or three sound bungs sufficient for several hours' play. A captain is chosen for each "side," and then the ground is marked out. A by-road is the best to play in, and fifty yards will be distance enough between the goals. The "sides" which begins the game take their places, and their captain, standing near the centre line, commences by throwing the ball in the air. As soon as the ball reaches the ground it is attacked by the players with their hockey-sticks, and the "side" which first succeeds in driving the ball "home"—that is, beyond the goal at the adversaries' end—wins the game.

Now this, in fact, is the whole art and mystery of Hockey; but in order that it may be played with regularity, the following simple rules are suggested:—

I.—The ball must be struck with the stick, and not kicked with the foot or touched by the hand.

II.—The ball must be struck fairly through the goal before the side can claim the game.

III.—The goals must be marked by lines at either end; and in the centre, equidistant from each end, a line is to be drawn across the ground over which central line the players on either side are not allowed to pass.

IV.—The ball must be struck from right to left, and be stopped with the stick, and not with the hand.

How games of hockey were started in 1870.

The Blackheath Game

One exception to the game not evolving was in Blackheath, London, where Blackheath Hockey Club is said to have been formed by 1840 and was reconstituted in 1861. It produced a set of rules to regulate games for its members, to which many changes were made over the years. The 'Blackheath Game' was played on a field at least 200 yards long and at least 80 yards wide. A stick originally made of maple gave way to the stronger oak and the 'ball' was a solid rubber cube. Notable rules were that there were 15 players per side and a player was allowed to catch the 'ball', retire no more than 4 paces and hit the ball from the hand.

Indian rubber bung cubed 'ball' used by the members of Blackheath Hockey Club for their version of the game.

The Rossall School Game

A second exception was at Rossall school, situated on the coast of Lancashire, where 'Rossall Hockey' was played on the beach next to the school in the months of January to March when the grass fields were too wet to play rugby. The game is known to have been played since at least 1867, a set of rules being first produced in 1873. Light sticks and a solid, india-rubber ball were used on a pitch marked out by dragging sticks in the sand. Special features of the game included rules that the ball was not allowed to be passed forward, which resulted in a game dominated by dribbling, and a goal only being scored if hit from inside a 'striking line', a similar concept to a 'circle'. This was drawn with a straight line 3 yards in front of the goal and joined to the goal-line by two quarter-circles centred about the goal-posts. The game is still played today, known as 'Roshockey'.

The Teddington Game

In 1871, a new form of hockey was created, by members of Teddington Cricket Club who played in Bushy Park, a Royal Park in the suburbs of south London. After a very wet summer in 1871, the cricketers decided to try a new game using the cricket field, a cricket ball and curved sticks with which to hit the ball, applying some of the principles of the game of football which had been codified in 1863 and which was played in Bushy Park.

The use of a cricket ball on a relatively smooth grass surface, thanks to the sheep and deer who grazed there, enabled the development of skills such as dribbling and passing, which allowed the pattern of play akin to football. These skills had not been possible with the bungs, cut down rubber bottles or the rubber cube used in other forms of hockey which had as its hallmarks

Teddington's Minute Book, 1874 – 1889. They are accepted as the hockey club, founded in 1871, which was the inspiration for the modern game of hockey.

one-handed hitting and constant scrimmages. The new game created, sometimes referred to as the 'Teddington Game', was notably different from all previous forms of hockey, including the Blackheath Game, despite it retaining the name 'hockey'.

The first Hockey Association formed in 1875

For the first three years, the new form of hockey was played only by members of the newly formed Teddington Hockey Club. Differences of opinion amongst the players were decided by the captains and recorded as rules, so that a set of rules born of experience was developed. In 1874, hockey clubs were established in the nearby London suburbs of Richmond and Surbiton and the first recorded match was played between Teddington and Richmond in 1874. The rapid formation of other clubs nearby, notably East Surrey, the Strollers, Upper Tooting and Sutton in 1875, led to more matches between clubs being played, at which variations of the rules used by each club needed to be addressed. Richmond recognised the need for rules to be standardised and a meeting was called on 10 April 1875, at which representatives of the seven London clubs mentioned were present and they formed a Hockey Association.

It was reported that a representative from Blackheath was also present, but he stated that as their game was so totally different to the game played by the other clubs he felt it would be perfectly useless for him to remain and give an opinion. This reinforced the view that the Blackheath Game and the Teddington Game were, in practice, different games despite each being called 'hockey'.

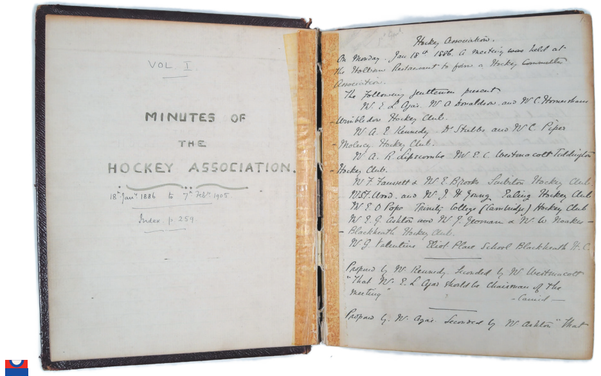
The rules determined by the first Hockey Association in 1875 were based on the Teddington Game and included the bully to start the game, the use of a cricket ball, the game being 11 a side, measurements of the pitch and the goals being specified, the roll-in, an off-side rule and no goal being scored if hit from more than 15 yards from the nearest goal post. It also included a rule governing conduct during the game: The ball may be stopped, but not carried or knocked on by any part of the body. No player shall raise his stick above his shoulder. The ball shall be played from right to left, and no left or back-handed play, charging, tripping, collaring, kicking or shinning shall be allowed.

The Hockey Association formed in 1875 comprised clubs which were all in the same area and did not develop, with some of the clubs ceasing to play, and survived only until 1882.

The revival of hockey and the second Hockey Association formed in 1886

The game was revived in 1883 by a club formed in Wimbledon. Surbiton restarted, new hockey clubs were created and a second Hockey Association was formed in 1886 by a wider base of clubs. This Hockey Association prospered and remained the governing body in England until 1996, when it was replaced by the English Hockey Association, which combined the functions of the men's and women's governing bodies.

The rules approved in 1886 were broadly similar to the 1875 rules, in many cases expanding upon them, so the 1875 Hockey Association can fairly be said to have been the founding body of the modern game, with Teddington the inspiration.



The first volume of the Hockey Association (of England) minute book which records meetings from 1886 to 1905.

How the game was played

When the game was revived in 1883 by Wimbledon, teams generally comprised a goalkeeper, two half-backs and eight forwards, being four centre-forwards and two on each wing. There was little passing (known as 'combination') but plenty of individual runs and scrimmaging.

Over the next few years, teams began to develop a passing game, in response to which teams gradually reduced the number of forwards in favour of more defenders. One account of these changes said that, initially, one of the centre forwards was changed to a third half-back and, in the season 1886-87, one of the three half-backs became a 'three-quarter back'.

In 1887-88, a third half-back was restored at the expense of another forward and, in 1889-90, teams generally added another back so that the normal formation became five forwards, three half-backs, two backs and a goalkeeper.

There were, however, many reported variations from the practice described. In particular, some club teams which played without a goal-keeper in the 1890s and into the early part of the 20th century, preferring to play an extra back or half-back instead. This was often due to the difficulties of finding someone willing to stand in goal to be shot at, although some clubs preferred the extra outfield player as a tactic.

The Blackheath Game, Rossall School Game and recreational hockey after 1875

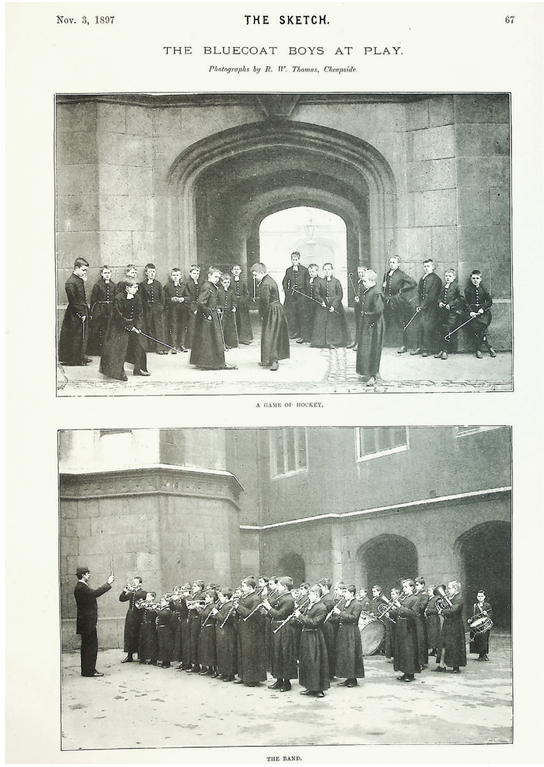
The Blackheath Game had continued to be played by a group of clubs after 1886, including Blackheath Hockey Club which had not joined either of the two Hockey Associations. These clubs formed a 'National Hockey Union' in 1887, based around Bristol.

The Union was short lived, being dissolved in 1895, after which the Union clubs joined the second Hockey Association.

The rules of the second Hockey Association ('HA') applied from 1886 to games of hockey between teams which chose to play under those rules. These might be described as formal hockey matches. The word 'hockey' also continued to be applied informally to recreational games which involved two teams hitting a ball with a stick with a view to scoring goals, irrespective of the rules which the teams playing had chosen to apply to their game. Many of these games took place in an environment which did not comply with the HA rules and 'local rules' had been created to suit the conditions in which the game was played, as is still the case at Rossall School.

Another example of informal hockey is the game played by the boys of the school 'Christ's Hospital' when it was located in the City of London. Christ's Hospital moved to Sussex in 1902, where the boys continue to this day to wear their distinctive 'Bluecoat' uniform. It is recorded that hockey was played for recreation amongst the asphalt surfaces and cloisters of the school site from at least the 1790s, but never as an organised sport. It continued to be played using local rules until 1902, as shown by an 1883 engraving and an 1897 photograph:

Christ's Hospital schoolboys playing old style hockey in their playground in 1883, from 'The Boy's Own Paper'. The same school uniform is still worn today.


Nov. 3, 1897 THE SKETCH. 67

THE BLUECOAT BOYS AT PLAY.

Photographs by R. W. Thomas, Cheapside.

A GAME OF HOCKEY.

THE BAND.

Christ's Hospital boys were still playing old style hockey in 1897 as shown in this posed photograph (top photo).

Women's hockey

It is known that by 1887 a form of hockey, with plain ash sticks and a string-covered ball, was played at Lady Margaret Hall, an Oxford women's college. Somerville College soon followed. The first Cambridge women's college to play the game was Newnham College, in 1890.

Molesey Ladies' Hockey Club was formed in 1887 and, by the season 1888–89, clubs had been formed at Ealing and Wimbledon.

The first ladies' Hockey Association was the Irish Ladies' Hockey Union, formed in 1894. At the invitation of Alexandra College, Dublin, a team of past and present students from Newnham College, Cambridge, visited Dublin in 1894–95. During this visit, the idea of forming an English Women's Hockey Association was conceived.

'The Ladies' Hockey Association' was formed in November, 1895. The Men's HA had declined a proposal of affiliation by the Ladies' HA on the grounds the Men's HA had been formed entirely in the interests of men's clubs, so that it could not officially recognise the existence of the new organisation.

During 1896, its name changed to All England Ladies Hockey Association and again to All England Women's Hockey Association (AEWHA). It initially adopted the rules of the men's Hockey Association, the first rule change particular to the women's game being in 1898 to add the words 'no player shall wear hat pins'. The AEWHA was the governing body for women's hockey in England until 1996 when the English Hockey Association (EHA) was established to govern men's and women's hockey.

Early recognised international hockey matches

88 THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS. March 16, 1901.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' HOCKEY.

ENGLAND BEATS WALES BY THIRTEEN GOALS TO NIL AT RICHMOND.

A SCRIMMAGE BEFORE THE WELSH GOAL.

STOPPING A RUSH BY WALES.

ENGLAND BEATS IRELAND BY THREE GOALS TO ONE AT RICHMOND.

BEFORE THE IRISH GOAL.

ENGLAND TRIUMPHS.

■ Action photographs from an international match in 1901 showing the style of hockey clothing and goalkeeping kit worn by women.

■ A photograph of the women's match between England and France in 1923.

Both the men's and women's games spread rapidly in the UK in schools, universities and clubs. The first men's international hockey match was Ireland vs Wales in 1895 and the first women's international hockey match was Ireland vs England in 1896.

The spread of the game to other countries in the period before the formation of the FIH in 1924 is shown by the years in which countries first played a recognised international match:

Men

1895	Wales, England, Ireland
1902	Scotland
1906	France
1908	Germany
1910	Belgium
1912	Austria
1920	Denmark
1922	Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Australia, New Zealand
1923	Spain

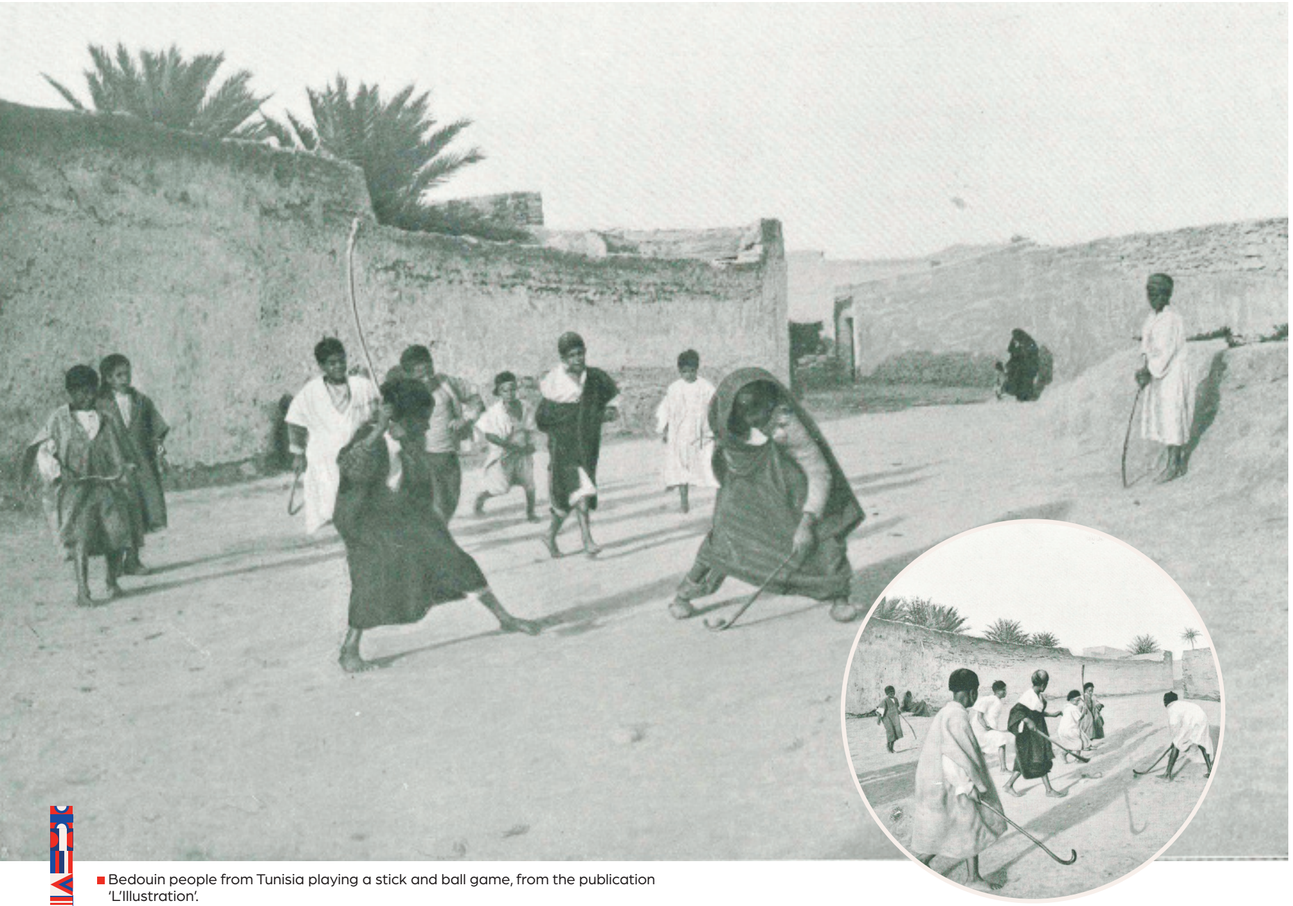
Women

1896	England, Ireland
1900	Wales
1901	Scotland
1914	Australia, New Zealand
1922	Denmark
1923	Belgium, France

An engraving of 'deck hockey' played for social recreation by junior officers aboard a Man-of-War ship, published 29 June 1889.

A postcard cartoon illustrating the First World War through a hockey match, with Britain, France, and Russia vs Germany.

The founding members of Hinemoa Hockey Club, New Zealand in 1896.



Bedouin people from Tunisia playing a stick and ball game, from the publication 'L'Illustration'.

'A Hockey Match in Somaliland'. An illustration from the 'Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News' of British Military Captain Gordon Salmon teaching Somali people how to play hockey in 1902.

A 1920s postcard photograph of the Ranchi Hockey Team from the diocese of Chota Nagpur, India.

Luciana Aymar
(Argentina)

"Hockey for me was a place where I could express myself freely. I always felt happiness on the field. I felt that it was my place in the world and that through hockey I could express my emotions and be really me. Although at times it was very hard for me to continue with this sport because I was totally amateur and had to travel hours from Rosario to Buenos Aires to train with the national team, I continued to choose it despite everything because of what I felt when I was playing.

I also thank my coaches for bringing out the best version of myself and demanding of me technically, physically and mentally, trying to make Luciana a better athlete every day and not just a good hockey player.

I am grateful to have been with players who always gave their best leaving everything aside (their friends, family and partners) so that hockey is today one of the most practiced sports in Argentina.

I am also grateful to have had a family that gave me emotional support to sustain so much effort.

My dream was to wear the Argentine jersey and play in big tournaments. I never imagined achieving so much and today, being retired after a few years, I realize and value much more everything I did to follow my passion and never give up. I always demanded myself to be able to be a better player every day.

Competing internationally was something unique. Playing in different countries, meeting great hockey players from whom I learned a lot by watching them.

Every athlete aspires to play major tournaments, especially the Olympic Games. I was lucky enough to be in 4 and achieve a medal for my country in each one, a goal that is not easy for athletes.

My first Olympic Games (Sydney 2000) was special not only because it was the first, my mother was there watching me and for me that was something beautiful. With the team we reached the final, something we would never have imagined and from that moment we began to be LAS LEONAS. From then on, Argentina always fought for the first places in each tournament.

The Olympic Games are also special for sharing with the best athletes in the world whom one admires.

Playing the Champions Trophy were tournaments that I liked the most because the top 6 teams in the world played, a very competitive tournament, and one enjoyed seeing the best players in the world all together. It was a magical tournament that I loved to play.

I was lucky enough to be in 5 World Cups. Since I was a little girl I dreamed of lifting a World Cup. As I said before, LAS LEONAS began to be, after Sydney, a team that was highly respected by the opponents and it was in Perth where we confirmed that we were going to be a team that was going to last over time, making history. That World Cup was incredibly good for Argentina. We had the best players in the world, a group of friends and our chemistry was unique. We took first place, and in my case the best player of the tournament. I received a beautiful award that I keep with great affection.

I never imagined that 8 years later I would have to get first place again with the spice of winning it in Rosario with our people, family, friends and blocks from my home. Once again coming out as the best player of the tournament and in this case for being captain, lifting the cup I dreamed of when I was little.

And to finish I can't fail to mention London 2012, my last Olympic Games! If I have to talk about something special apart from being my last game, I have to carry the flag of the delegation, I think it was a beautiful award for hockey after so many years of effort."

Ahmad Shahbaz

(Pakistan)

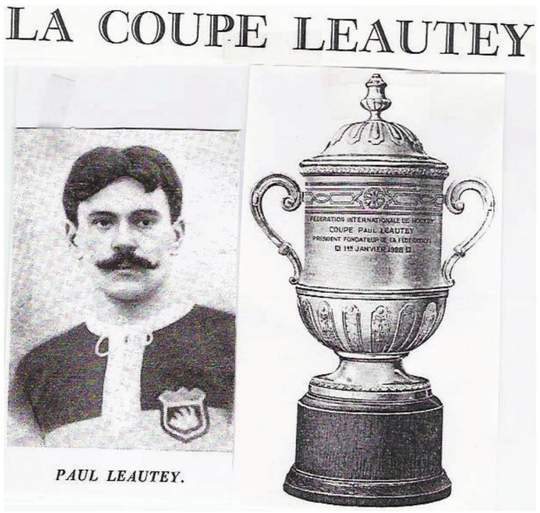
"The journey of the FIH over the past century is a testament to the spirit of sportsmanship and the unifying power of field hockey. It has been an incredible experience to witness and be a part of this journey. The dedication, passion, and commitment of everyone involved have propelled field hockey to new heights, fostering a global community that continues to inspire future generations. Here's to celebrating 100 years of remarkable achievements and looking forward to many more milestones ahead."

History of FIH

Having featured as part of the 1908 and 1920 Olympic Games involving European teams, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Congress nonetheless discussed on 4 June 1921 whether field hockey should be removed from the Games, prompted by those who favoured ice hockey. By 42 votes to 22 field hockey lost participation in the 1924 Games. It missed out as it was without an International Federation, financial sway and popularity as a sport, each "a crucial part of the Olympic Movement".

During the first half of 1922 the French Hockey Federation wanted to form an International Federation for the sport. Some thought this was curious given that its team had forfeited a match at the 1920 Olympic Games but now wanted international recognition. Nevertheless, a global governing body was formed in response to hockey's omission from the Paris 1924 Olympic Games, initially exclusively for the men's game. It came into being in Paris on 7 January 1924 in the guise of the Fédération Internationale de Hockey sur Gazon (FIH).

The very first hockey Olympic Final. England v. Ireland. London 1908.



Paul Léautey (France), the first President of FIH.

The driving force to create a world governing body for hockey was the remarkable Paul Adolphe Stéphane Léautey, then President of the French Hockey Federation, who became the first President of the FIH.

Léautey was born in 1885 and had an array of talents, having been awarded the Military Cross (Croix de Guerre), presumably for his activities in the First World War as a reserve artillery gunner, the French Knight of The Legion of Honour (Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur), in addition to his role as managing director of Glaenzer et Cie and Perkeaud Establishments.

Sadly, Léautey did not live to see the fruits of his vital and far-reaching hockey labours and dreams, as he died on 1 January 1926 at the tender age of 40. However, his name lived on in an appropriate way with the presentation of La Coupe Léautey, a trophy presented to the FIH by Paul's brother, L.A. Léautey, in 1928. The cup was awarded annually until 1973 to the National Association of the member countries of the FIH who had "shown the best international results or by the initiatives, bearing and progress it has made". La Coupe Léautey was replaced by the Pablo Negre Trophy presented by the family and friends of Pablo Negre, another who rendered exceptional services to hockey. The basis of the award is similar, presented to the National Association which by "its activities, initiatives and sportsmanship has best served the sport of hockey and made it popular in the previous two years."

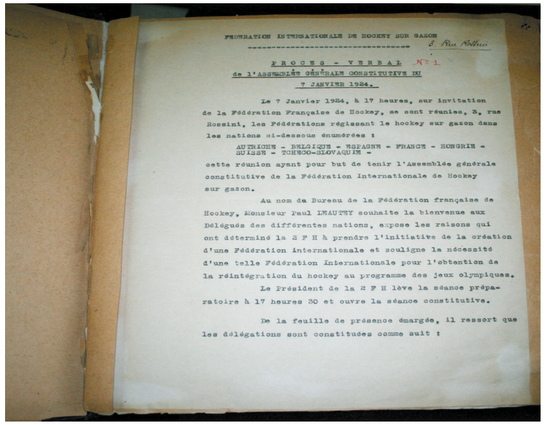
The founding nations of the FIH were Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Spain and Switzerland. The National Associations of all seven initial members controlled men's and women's hockey in their respective countries. England

The FIH office, the "Home of Hockey".

and the other countries forming the United Kingdom opted to have no part in the FIH, in spite of success at 1908 and 1920 Olympiads. Accordingly, the administration of men's Olympic hockey was left to mainland European nations. At this stage, there was no place in Olympic hockey for women.

An International Federation for hockey had been mooted in the early 1900s followed by an agreement between the English Hockey Association and its Belgian counterpart that "mutually recognised each other as the sole associations governing hockey in England and Belgium and as the sole bodies competent to regulate international relations". A few years later a further agreement was made with the French authorities by the English and Belgian Associations. These arrangements, however, went no further.

The minutes of the first meeting of the FIH held on 7 January 1924 record that:



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE HOCKEY SUR GAZON

P R O C E S - V E R B A L N° 1
de l'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE CONSTITUTIVE DU
7 JANVIER 1924.

Le 7 Janvier 1924, à 17 heures, sur invitation de la Fédération Française de Hockey, se sont réunies, 3, rue Rossini, les Fédérations régissant le hockey sur gazon dans les nations ci-dessous énumérées :

AUTRICHE - BELGIQUE - BOHEME - FRANCE - HONGRIE - SUISSE - TCHECO-SLOVAQUIE -

cette réunion ayant pour but de tenir l'Assemblée générale constitutive de la Fédération Internationale de Hockey sur gazon.

Au nom du Bureau de la Fédération française de Hockey, Monsieur Paul LEAUTEY souhaite la bienvenue aux Délégués des différentes nations, expose les raisons qui ont déterminé la F F H à prendre l'initiative de la création d'une Fédération internationale et souligne la nécessité d'une telle Fédération Internationale pour l'obtention de la réintégration du hockey au programme des jeux olympiques.

Le Président de la F F H lève la séance préparatoire à 17 heures 30 et ouvre la séance constitutive.

De la feuille de présence émargée, il ressort que les délégations sont constituées comme suit :

Minutes of the founding meeting of FIH held in Paris, France, on 7 January 1924.

At the end of the constitutive meeting of the International Federation, the Bureau, chaired by Mr. Paul LÉAUTEY, immediately met and took the following decisions:

1. In accordance with Article 8 of the statutes, the headquarters of the F.I.H. is located in Paris, 3, rue Rossini.
2. The affiliated Federations are requested to send to the F.I.H. as soon as possible a draft to establish a definition of "amateur".
3. The said Federations must pay their annual subscription before the first of March of each year, this subscription being fixed at two pounds sterling in accordance with Article 13 of the statutes and the social year of the F.I.H. running from February 1st to January 31st.
4. The rules for matches adopted by the F.I.H. will, in principle, be those of the 1920 Olympic Games, modelled on the regulations of the "England Hockey Association" and to which certain clarifications of the text may be made.

The Bureau expressed the desire to meet at least once a month until the end of the 1924 Olympic Games and, during these sessions, to actively push forward the drafting of the internal rules, the finalization of the rules of the matches and the adjustment of the text of the definition of "amateur".

The bedrock of hockey envisaged by the FIH was based on the sport being amateur, generating friendships and having a high level of sportsmanship. The "hockey family" was born.

By November 1924, the FIH had successfully been admitted to The Union of International Federations, a key step in bringing about reintegration into the Olympic fold.

At the time of the meeting of the Technical Olympic Congress between 29 May and 4 June 1925 in Prague, the FIH had accumulated fourteen affiliated nations and a vote to re-admit hockey to the Games was passed by a vote of 40 to 22.

The number of countries becoming members of the FIH gradually increased with the FIH managing to retain its original ideals in serving the interests of hockey players of all standards. Countries had different reasons for becoming members that included wishing to be eligible to compete in the Olympic Games or because of the fast growth of the sport in their country. Denmark became a member in 1925, Netherlands' men in 1926, Turkey in 1927, Germany, Poland, Portugal and India, the first non-European nation, in 1928.

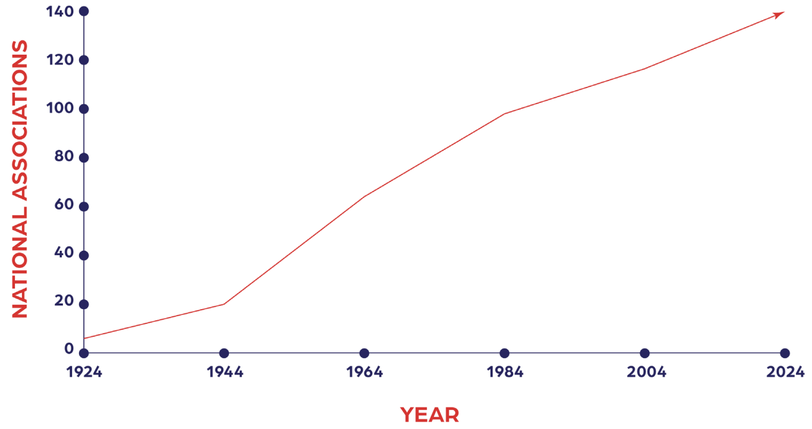
EVOLUTION OF HOCKEY PARTICIPANTS WORLDWIDE

2015	2018	2020	2022
26,8 million	30 million	31,2 million	34,6 million

YEARS OF FOUNDATION OF THE CONTINENTAL FEDERATIONS

African Hockey Federation	1970
Asian Hockey Federation	1958
EuroHockey	1969
Oceania Hockey Federation	1989
Panamerican Hockey Federation	1959

NUMBER OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
MEMBERS OF FIH



Hockey was rapidly opened up to involve non-European nations. England, and necessarily Great Britain, hitherto successful Olympic participants, declined an invitation to participate in the 1928 Amsterdam Games.

The decision of the English Hockey Association not to participate directly led to India stepping into the breach. For many years, India had, unlike many nations, organised competitions and tournaments with trophies for the winners, which, in part, explains their future success.

The Indian Hockey Federation met in Delhi on 5 December 1927 to discuss the proposal that a team should be sent to the Olympic Games. The meeting decided to hold an inter-provincial tournament in Calcutta (now Kolkata) from 24 February 1928 until 29 February 1928 involving five regional teams from which to select an All India team. This would be the first national championship of India. One of the purposes of the tournament was to collect large gate receipts from the expected enthusiastic crowds to meet the expenses of a tour to Europe. En route to the Games in Amsterdam, the Indian team stopped off in England to play a few matches. The highlight was a 4-0 defeat of the English Hockey Association XI at the Folkestone Festival on 10 April 1928. This victory prompted the FIH to rank India as the top ranked side at the 1928 Olympic Games.

The benefits from regular competitive hockey stood India in good stead shown by their unparalleled Olympic record between 1928 and 1980 winning a remarkable eight Olympic gold medals, six of which were in succession between 1928 and 1960. India had become the international hockey powerhouse.

The emergence of India as a world force in men's hockey within four years of the formation of the FIH demonstrated that the aims promoted in 1924 were already being rewarded.

Although women were represented by the FIH, English women went their own way. In 1927 they formed, amongst English speaking countries, their own federation, the International

Indian men have established an unparalleled Olympic gold medals record, including at the Helsinki Games in 1952. (Photo by Popperfoto via Getty Images/ Getty Images).

Conference books from the International Federations of Women's Hockey (IFWHA).

Federation of Women's Hockey (IFWHA). There were therefore two international federations governing women's hockey, which held back women's involvement in the Olympic Games for decades.

The swift and vigorous development of the FIH would not have been possible without the devotion of the original and subsequent board members. As mentioned previously, Léautey was the original driving force, drafting the original set of rules that remained in a similar form for a number of years.

Following his early death, a fellow original board member, Albert Demaurex, became a very important figure in the newly formed Federation. As captain of the Swiss men's national team (and who played club hockey in Paris for Racing Club de France) Demaurex had proved himself as a progressive official in Switzerland. Living and working in Paris in 1924 enabled him to attend the meeting on 7 January 1924 on behalf of Switzerland. His value to the FIH lasted for over 50 years in different capacities. He understood the interests of hockey players. On retiring as a player, he took up umpiring and was awarded his international umpires' badge within two years, the same year he was appointed Honorary General Secretary of the Federation, a position he held for 21 years. On stepping down as Honorary Secretary, he assumed the role of Honorary Treasurer.

Having achieved his objective of launching the governing body and ensuring hockey's return to the Olympic Games, Léautey died in 1926. He was succeeded by Frantz Reichel, a fellow Frenchman, but he also died suddenly in 1932, necessitating another change at the top.

Shortly after its creation the FIH formed a technical committee, with Belgian Robert Liégeois as committee president for 21 years, to deal with all technical matters pertaining to the rules of the game, umpiring, and control of international tournaments including the Olympic Games. This vital role is still performed to this day, with rule changes introduced on a relatively regular basis that are acknowledged by hockey players of all levels to be continually improving the game.

Two years after the formation of the technical committee, the FIH formed a women's committee headed by Mrs M Galvao-Reck, a German, another long-term appointee of sixteen years. Mrs Galvao-Reck was succeeded by former Dutch international Eska de Josselin de Jong who served the FIH for 37 years in various capacities.

The biggest development strides of the FIH came after the end of the Second World War. Dutchman Quarles van Ufford took over as President and fostered good relations with the United Kingdom nations, resulting in Great Britain becoming members in 1947.

Van Ufford made one the most important appointments within the FIH early on in his tenure with the entry of Belgian Rene Frank into the fold, one of the greatest drivers in the history of the FIH. Frank's influence in the FIH saw him voted in as President in 1966 to succeed van Ufford. As a gifted linguist and a fine diplomat, Frank was determined to promote hockey in a multitude of areas. This led to the introduction of World Cups for men in1971 and for women in 1974, continental competitions at national and club levels, the emergence of indoor hockey, modernising the rules of hockey and launching regular literature on the sport that was available to all.

FIH President René Frank and the FIH Board

Indoor hockey began to become popular in the early 1950s in various European countries, regarded as an ideal way for hockey players to continue playing hockey during inclement winters. Rene Frank was at the helm when the FIH decided to manage indoor hockey in 1952. The intervention was timely. It avoided fragmentation of indoor hockey had countries organised their own competitions without standard goal sizes, indoor halls or rules. Frank again introduced the first set of standard rules in 1966 and within six years the first official FIH indoor hockey tournament was played. This led to the first indoor World Cup that took place in 2003.

By the 50th anniversary of the FIH in 1974 more than 70 countries from all continents had joined as members. The FIH had become an all-embracing body covering the playing, growth, officiating, marketing and publicity of the sport of hockey.

Frank's most important legacy is felt by many to have been his acceptance of an invitation by the Dutch Association to take part in a conference with IFWHA in an effort to resolve the differences between the two federations. The FIH, who considered the men's and women's game as one sport, had 49 men's national association members and 22 women's members. IFWHA regarded men's and women's games as inherently different and had 36 women's national association members. The lack of balancing between the FIH and IFWHA had reached a critical point and their differences were impeding the global progression of hockey.

Having two separate governing bodies was considered a problem by the IOC, who indicated that as long as there were two separate federations controlling women's hockey it was unlikely to include women's hockey as an Olympic sport. The general feeling was that the IOC, the General Assembly of International Sports Federations and various organising committees of continental and regional games recognised the FIH as the single international body of hockey.

The invitation to participate was a product of serious disagreement and mistrust between the FIH and the IFWHA. This was recognised by the Netherlands, who facilitated the meeting of three representatives from each federation. A merger eventually took place in 1982 shortly after both organisations had celebrated their golden jubilees.

Ultimately in 1974 a decision was made by the IOC to allow women's hockey to be included in the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games, possibly as the IOC recognised the steps that were being taken to unify the sport.

The appearance of both men and women at the 1980 Olympic Games was a clear sign that divisions of the past were being resolved, the 1982 merger enabling men's and women's hockey to be governed and progressed united and in a uniformed way.

Two FIH buttons of different sizes

Determined not to stand still, the FIH has continually strived to govern hockey in an innovative way such that the sport is unrecognisable from the days of 1924. The most far reaching and financially challenging change was the introduction of the synthetic pitches. In 1974, Canada approached the FIH with a persuasive and convincing presentation that the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games hockey tournament should be played on a synthetic pitch. The request was unanimously accepted by Frank and his board, with Frank summing up the meeting by saying "I believe artificial pitches are the future of hockey, in spite of their huge cost", evidence of a man of great foresight and vision.

The changes between 1974 and 1982 enabled hockey to move forward quickly and progressively. World Cup competitions were given a four year cycle and with the number of members increasing annually, a structured qualification process was introduced that enabled all FIH members to participate in the World Cup. Continental competitions were introduced at club and international level annually and every four years respectively.

A continual review of the rules of hockey has seen regular change and tweaking. They have allowed the sport to become more exciting and appealing to players and spectators alike, with many changes made to maximise the benefit of playing hockey on such a true and fast pitch.

Over the years the presidency of the FIH has been shared around the hockey world, albeit with a greater European influence, as shown below:

■ The first women's Olympics hockey tournament was played in 1980, in Moscow, with Zimbabwe winning Gold!

FIH PRESIDENTS

1	**Paul Léautey**	France	**1924 – 1926**	
2	**Frantz Reichel**	France	**1926 – 1932**	
3	**Marc Bellin du Côteau**	France	**1932 – 1936**	
4	**Georg Evers**	Germany	**1936 – 1945**	
–	**Robert Liégeois**	Belgium	**1945 – 1946**	*Acting*
5	**Jaap Quales van Ufford**	Netherlands	**1946 – 1966**	
6	**Rene Frank**	Belgium	**1966 – 1983**	
7	**Étienne Glichitch**	France	**1983 – 1996**	
8	**Juan Calzado**	Spain	**1996 – 2001**	
9	**Els van Breda Vriesman**	Netherlands	**2001 – 2008**	
10	**Leandro Negre**	Spain	**2008 – 2016**	
11	**Narinder Dhruv Batra**	India	**2016 – 2022**	
–	**Seif El Dine Ahmed**	Egypt	**2022 – 2022**	*Acting*
12	**Mohammad Tayyab Ikram**	Macau	**2022 –**	

■ Conference for the 60th FIH Anniversary with President Etienne Glichitch.

FIH President Tayyab Ikram

The FIH aims continually to benefit all levels of hockey played by the millions of worldwide participants in the sport from the age of six to over 80. 100 years ago, Léautey could not have envisaged the extent to which the amateur values of friendship and sportsmanship has enabled hockey to develop.

Club and representative competitions now exist across the whole age spectrum. 2019 saw the first over 80 men's international played between England and Netherlands. Friendship and sportsmanship continue to sit at the heart of hockey, especially at Masters level, where numerous tournaments are organised worldwide each year, including world and continental indoor and outdoor competitions every two years.

Hockey has continued to change in various ways in the last decade, including the introduction of Hockey5s in 2014, which culminated in the first FIH Hockey5s World Cup in 2024. This new format enabled a greater number and a more diverse pool of nations to participate at the inaugural event in Oman.

The phrase hockey family is often used in the hockey world. Seemingly idealistic to those outside our sport, it nevertheless demonstrates that the most important of the initial pillars of the first FIH meeting of 7 January 1924 has been the cultivation of friendship. This attribute has been and continues to be upheld and promoted to this day by all the current member nations of the FIH.

Juan Ángel Calzado

(Spain – FIH President 1996–2001)

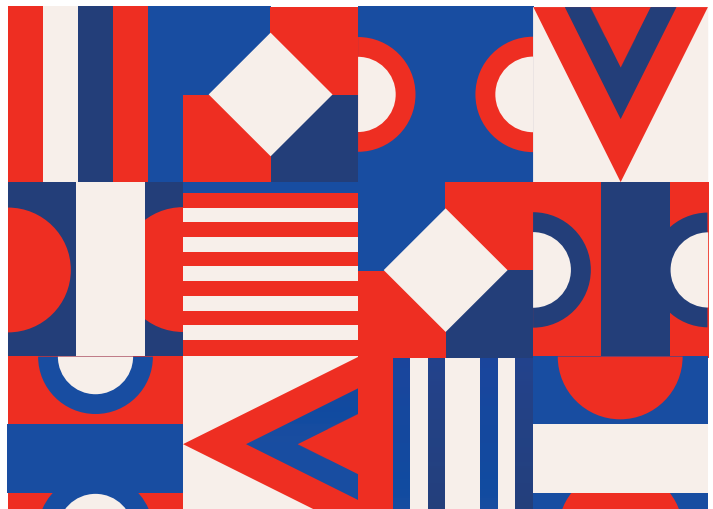
"It is a pleasure for me to send a few congratulatory lines to the International Hockey Federation on its Centenary and to remember the extraordinary work that the Federation has done for the good of our sport during these 100 years, achieving the expansion of hockey throughout the five continents, both in the creation of national and continental federations and in the organization of many international competitions on all continents, such as World Cups at Senior and Junior level.

This remarkable activity marked its definitive participation in the Olympic Games.

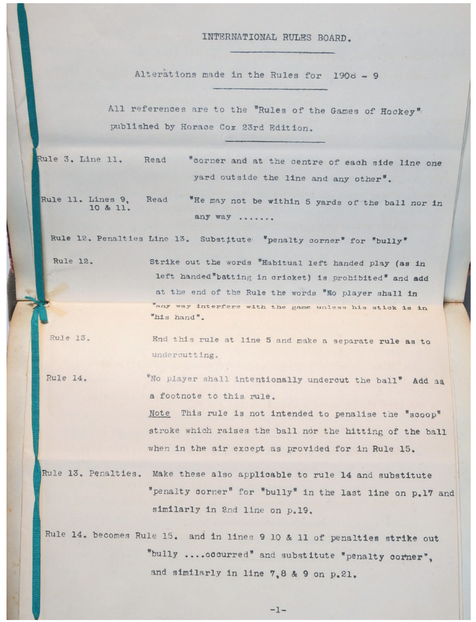
We must also thank the various Continental Federations, National Associations, clubs and players who have made it possible for hockey to become an Olympic sport that is both respected and loved. Hockey has been a creator of human and sporting values, which have greatly contributed to coexistence in the world we live in today.

I wish our beloved International Hockey Federation a very long life for the good of our sport."

Evolution of the Hockey Rules



The Rules for playing the game were maintained by various English hockey clubs and schools in the late 19th century, particularly in and around London. A formal code of Rules was established in 1886 by the newly formed Hockey Association (England), but it was not until 1900 that a specific rules making body – The International Rules Board – was established. Later renamed the Hockey Rules Board, in 2009 this function was taken over by the FIH Rules Committee which adopted the aim of making the game more attractive to participate in and to watch while maintaining its distinctive characteristics.



INTERNATIONAL RULES BOARD.

Alterations made in the Rules for 1906 - 9

All references are to the "Rules of the Games of Hockey" published by Horace Cox 23rd Edition.

Rule 3. Line 11. Read "corner and at the centre of each side line one yard outside the line and any other".

Rule 11. Lines 9, 10 & 11. Read "He may not be within 5 yards of the ball nor in any way ....."

Rule 12. Penalties Line 13. Substitute "penalty corner" for "bully"

Rule 13. Strike out the words "Habitual left handed play (as in left handed batting in cricket) is prohibited" and add at the end of the Rule the words "No player shall in any way interfere with the game unless his stick is in his hand".

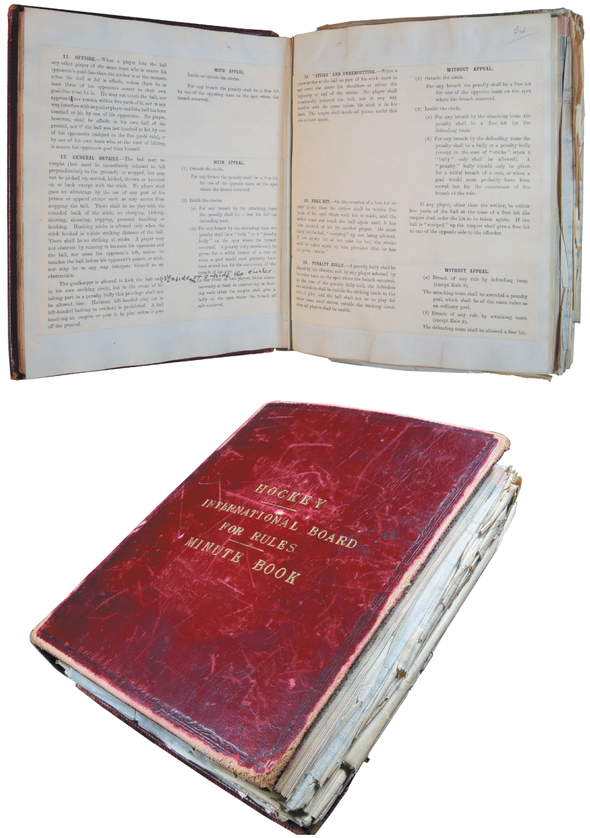
Rule 13. End this rule at line 5 and make a separate rule as to undercutting.

Rule 14. "No player shall intentionally undercut the ball" Add as a footnote to this rule.
Note This rule is not intended to penalise the "scoop" stroke which raises the ball nor the hitting of the ball when in the air except as provided for in Rule 15.

Rule 13. Penalties. Make these also applicable to rule 14 and substitute "penalty corner" for "bully" in the last line on p.17 and similarly in 2nd line on p.19.

Rule 14. becomes Rule 15. and in lines 9 10 & 11 of penalties strike out "bully ....occurred" and substitute "penalty corner", and similarly in line 7,8 & 9 on p.21.

-1-

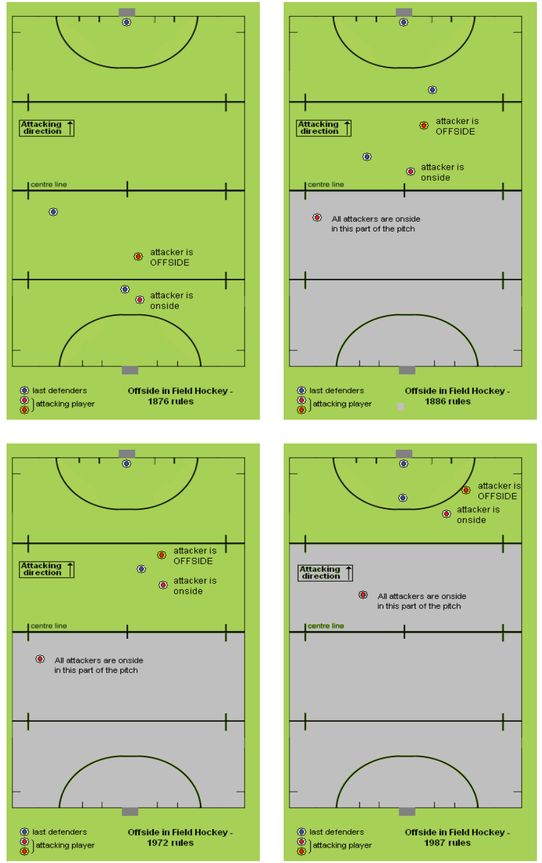


The IHRB – International Hockey Rules Book with examples of hockey rules from as early as 1908.

Historical images of hockey often feature the "bully" (where, originally, two players tapped sticks three times before playing a stationary ball) and it appears in the earliest rules as the means of starting a match and as a penalty. However, other options emerged as the game developed so that today it is only used to re-start a match, for example after a stoppage following an injury, when no penalty has been awarded.

The Gallaher's card from 1912 shows a bully – a recognisable situation found in hockey matches for over a hundred years.

Offside was another longstanding rule, occurring in hockey in much the same way as in some other team sports. In the 1990s hockey trialled various adjustments to the rules which ultimately demonstrated that not having offside greatly benefited the game. Offside was deleted from the rules in 1997. This opened up the game by making better use of the whole field and facilitating more creative opportunities for attacking play. It also enabled development of another skill in the game: a long high scoop of the ball into attacking areas behind an opponent's defence.



These illustrations show the changes and developments of the offside rule through the years of 1876, 1886, 1972, and 1987.

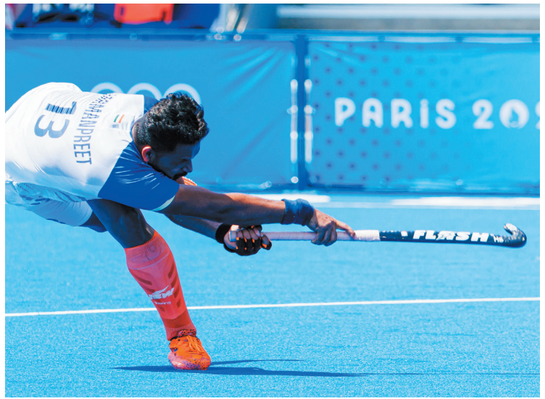
At various times there have been limits on raising the ball legally. The rules sometimes limited how the ball could be raised, where it could land and how it must be received. In 2004, these rules were simplified by essentially requiring players to act responsibly either when raising or receiving an aerial ball.

An action shot of what is known as a 'high ball' during a women's match between Argentina and Mexico (2015).

The penalty corner featured in the 1908 rules for offences by defenders in the circle and has broadly retained this role in the game. How it is executed has, however, changed significantly over the years. Whether, where and how the ball is stopped or controlled has varied. The number of defenders starting behind the goal-line was originally eleven but, since 1987, has been a maximum of five. Other changes concerned how high a shot can be raised and the sort of protective equipment defenders may wear. Many of these changes have been prompted by an aim of maintaining a balance of relative advantages and disadvantages to attackers and defenders together with not making the game overly focused on penalty corners. Nonetheless, the penalty corner remains a unique characteristic of the sport.

Another example of cigarette cards illustrating sporting moments. This Gallaher's Cigarettes card from 1912 features a player taking a corner.

Postcards also featured sporting moments. This Hockey Field postcard from Uplands School, St. Leonards-on-Sea, England, shows a player taking a corner.



India's penalty corner star Harmanpreet Singh in action during the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

A 'Girls at Hockey' illustration from 1890. Different manoeuvres like dribbling, bullying the ball, and a free hit are shown.

When a ball goes out of play, play is re-started in a variety of ways. In the early rules a ball going over the side-line was rolled by hand back into the field. After various rules adjustments including an intermediate step of a 'push in', it was replaced by a free hit.

Returning a ball to play after being unintentionally directed over the back-line has also been the subject of various rules changes. At one time, an action similar to a penalty corner was taken. Later, a "long" corner was taken from near the corner flag. By 2015 this had been replaced by a hit on the 23 metres line.

These developments in the Rules aimed to simplify the game and to avoid players crowding in limited space. They were also intended to increase the amount of time the ball is in active play, a consistent objective in the game.

Other rules developments which support this objective include how a free hit is taken. The earliest rules required all players other than the player taking the free hit to be five yards from the ball which must be hit or pushed and not flicked, scooped or dribbled. This meant that it took time to organise a free hit and the resulting benefit was very limited. By 2013, the rules had developed to permit the player taking a free hit to essentially play the ball in any way they wished; the aim is simply and directly to give possession of the ball and thereby a direct benefit to the team which has been fouled. As a result, play usually re-starts very quickly after a free hit and includes an action known as a "self-pass".

Another rule which has been varied over time is the obstruction rule. It may be surprising in relation to the modern game, but until 1938 it was permitted to obstruct by hooking an opponent's stick! In 2004, the obstruction rule (along with some others) was simplified by referring, to quote the 2004 rules book introduction "to the fundamental principle that players must not obstruct an opponent who is attempting to play the ball". Today, the emphasis is simply to enable the player with the ball every reasonable opportunity to use their skills to play the game.

An action shot of a player obstructing another player, taken during a match between Canada and France in 2018.

A fundamental characteristic of a hockey stick is that it is flat on one side and until the 1990s the ball could only be played very specifically by that side. However, players had begun to show that the ball could be played effectively and innovatively especially when shooting at goal by using the edge of the stick. This is a good example of the rules makers supporting the game by noting how player skills develop and adjusting rules accordingly. It remains, however, that the ball cannot be played with the back of the stick.

The first sets of rules specified that hockey is played by two teams each of eleven players, which remains the case for the 11-a-side format of hockey today. In 1973 two permanent substitutes were permitted. Then in 1992 this was increased to five and, recognising that the modern game was played at a fast pace which could be maintained by fresh players entering and re-entering the field throughout a match 'rolling substitutions' were introduced, with players being able to leave and enter the field an unlimited number of times.

Substitute players from India and Belgium watching from the sidelines in a FIH Hockey Pro League match (London, 2023).

This increased speed has influenced the duration of a match, which had long been played in two 35 minute halves separated by a half time break. In 2019 this was changed to four quarters of 15 minutes each with two-minute breaks between the first two and last two quarters as well as a half-time break. Time and play is stopped after a goal is scored or when a penalty corner is awarded and re-started when taken.

International matches had been played in four quarters for a few years before the rules were changed. This was because FIH tournament regulations may vary some of the rules to enhance the profile of top competitions. Overall though, the formal rules are played throughout the world, at all levels and for both men's and women's matches unless, exceptionally, National Associations apply to FIH to opt out of particular Rules at levels below their top domestic competitions and/or for particular age groups.

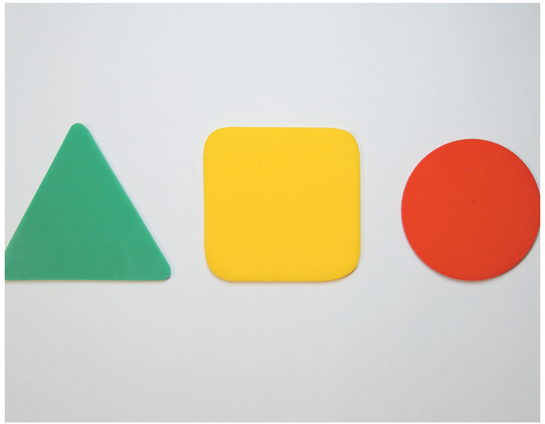
In relation to women's hockey, it is notable that, originally, the rules published by the Hockey Rules Board and recognised by the FIH only specifically applied to men's matches while the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations (IFWHA) legislated for women's matches. However, in 1975 the two codes came together in one rules book. In 1995, the text in the rules was made more inclusive by no longer solely using male pronouns.

Some of the detail about how a goal is scored (such as a trial in 2013 of an "own goal") has been adjusted over the years but it remains that a goal can only be scored by attackers playing the ball within a semicircular area in front of the goal known as "the circle".

In addition to how the game is played, the rules specify the pitch and its markings together with the size, shape and weight of sticks, balls, and protective equipment such as goalkeeper pads. There is also guidance for umpires, setting out their role and providing valuable advice about controlling a match through verbal and non-verbal communication and applying advantage.

Until 1907, the primary role of umpires was to adjudicate when players appealed. Over time their role became more proactive and it is now key to ensuring fair play and allowing the game to flow, for example by sensitive application of the advantage rule. Advantage had been recognised informally for many years but it was not until 1927 that it was formally written into the rules.

In addition to penalties such as free hits and penalty corners, after 1959 umpires were permitted to apply personal sanctions against individual players such as temporary or permanent suspensions. To assist clear communication of suspensions, control cards with distinctive colours (green, yellow, red) and shapes (triangular, square, circular) were introduced into the rules in 1979.



To make cards more easily identifiable, especially for those with colour blindness, cards were changed to include three different shapes.

This discussion of the rules has focussed on outdoor, 11-a-side hockey but there are alternative formats. Mainly in Europe during cold winters when fields were not available, indoor hockey developed in the 1950s using rules maintained by the German hockey associations. In 1966, they agreed to pass this responsibility to the FIH. Hockey and Indoor Hockey rules have since been developed in parallel, ensuring similarities while also recognising the distinctive characteristics of each discipline.

Another recent variant of the game is Hockey5s for which the first set of rules was published in 2012. Featuring simplified rules from the eleven-a-side game and with any playing surface being suitable, national associations were encouraged to adapt the game according to local circumstances in an effort to enhance participation in the sport. Participation and inclusivity have been further supported by the introduction of rules for HockeyID for athletes with an Intellectual Disability in 2016 and for Beach Hockey in 2014.

This discussion of the rules of hockey has inevitably focussed on developments in the game and changes to the rules. In conclusion, it is nonetheless reassuring that the original form of the game has always been played by two teams of eleven players who use one side of a curved stick to strike a hard ball and score from within semi-circular areas in front of the goals.

This following set of images from 1912 show the variety of technical manoeuvres that could be used in women's hockey.

Dr. Dhanraj Pillay

(India)

"I joined hockey because of my deep passion for the game and the thrill it brings. From a young age and family support, I was captivated by the speed, skill, and teamwork that hockey demands. The sport has taught me discipline, resilience, and the importance of camaraderie, which are values I cherish both on and off the field. Playing hockey gave me to push my limits, strive for excellence, and be part of a community that shares my love for the game.

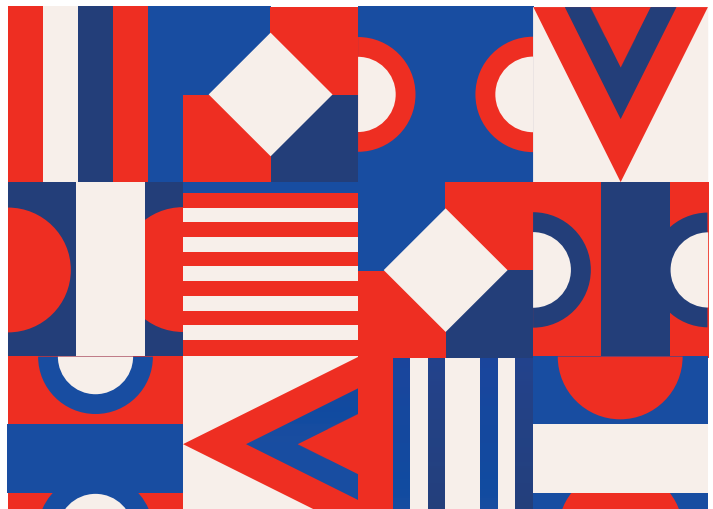
My fondest hockey memory is when our team India won the Asian Games at Bangkok 1998 after 32 years. We won against Korea. The atmosphere was electric, and the support from our fans was overwhelming. The dedication and hard work we put in as a team truly paid off. That victory was not just a personal achievement but a collective triumph that brought immense pride to our Country and everyone who supported us. The joy and camaraderie we shared in that moment are something I will always cherish all my life.

One of my most cherished memories is being awarded the Best Player of the tournament by FIH. This recognition came during the Champions Trophy 2002 Germany where the FIH always honors the player who exhibits the highest level of skill and sportsmanship. Being the only player from India to receive this prestigious award was a truly humbling experience. It stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication I have put into the sport. I am incredibly thankful to the FIH for acknowledging my efforts and providing such a platform to celebrate excellence in hockey.

In the future, I would love to see hockey being played with the same artistry and skill not only in India and Pakistan but all over the world. Traditional, skillful hockey should be showcased globally. Additionally, I believe the rules around penalty corners need to be reconsidered, as they pose significant risks to the first rushers and those standing in the goal post. If the FIH can implement new safety regulations, it would benefit all players. Lastly, it's crucial that players are financially supported even after their playing careers, ensuring they can continue to thrive and contribute to the sport they love.

I would like to congratulate the FIH on their Centennial celebration. Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone! Wishing all the athletes from around the world the best of luck as they strive to make their countries proud."

Hockey Equipment Evolution



Hockey Turf: the surface that transformed our sport

The beginning

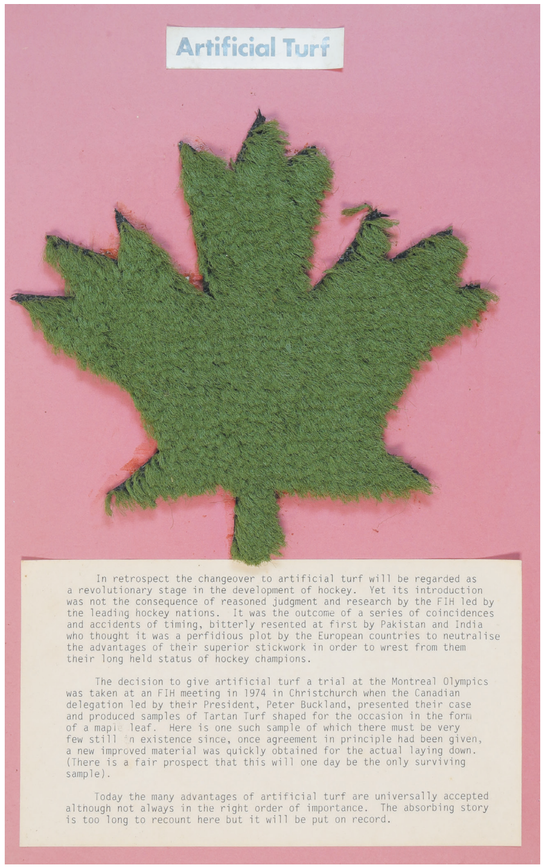
It all started as a rumour from deepest Kuala Lumpur after the FIH World Cup in 1975. As host to the forthcoming Olympic Games a year later, the Canadians were proposing to host the hockey tournament in one stadium, on an artificial grass surface! What was this new type of surface? Was it suitable for hockey? Nobody really knew, as most had never seen or played on an artificial pitch.

Developed in the mid-1960s artificial grass first came to world attention when it was laid in the Houston Astrodome in 1966. Having failed in their attempts to maintain a natural grass baseball field indoors, the Astrodome looked for an alternative and identified ChemGrass, the world's first artificial grass, as the solution they needed.

Manufactured by the Monsanto Corporation, ChemGrass was made from knitted nylon, to form a surface that looked like natural grass, but required much less maintenance and provided consistent playing conditions regardless of the weather. It proved to be an immediate hit and was soon rebranded as AstroTurf.

Recognizing the benefits, many stadiums and arenas across North America soon adopted this new surface for various sports, including American football, baseball and soccer. But what about hockey?

The Canadians, in planning for the 1976 Games, installed an Astroturf surface at the Old Empire Stadium in Vancouver, which was generally positively received by players and officials alike, but they did identify challenges around ball tracking, surface hardness and excessive foot grip that restricted the players' ability to twist and turn at high speeds. Enthused by the potential the AstroTurf surface could offer the sport, Monsanto made



A maple leaf 'Tartan Turf' sample was presented to the FIH to trial artificial turf at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Artificial turf for elite hockey is being watered to speed up the game by reducing the friction.

modifications to the surface and a new, improved hockey version was laid for a pre-Olympic tournament at McGill University, Montreal in the summer of 1975.

This new surface was a hit, but players were reporting that the surface was so hot in the summer sun that the soles of their shoes were melting, clearly a concern to all. The vital breakpoint occurred during a game between Kenya and Mexico. The match was interrupted by an extreme thunderstorm. When the skies cleared, play resumed with the benefit of the wet turf being appreciably cooler, but also the surface was noticeably slicker, meaning the players could rely on the regular and predictable behaviour of the ball, fast and true. Hockey on wet turf was born!

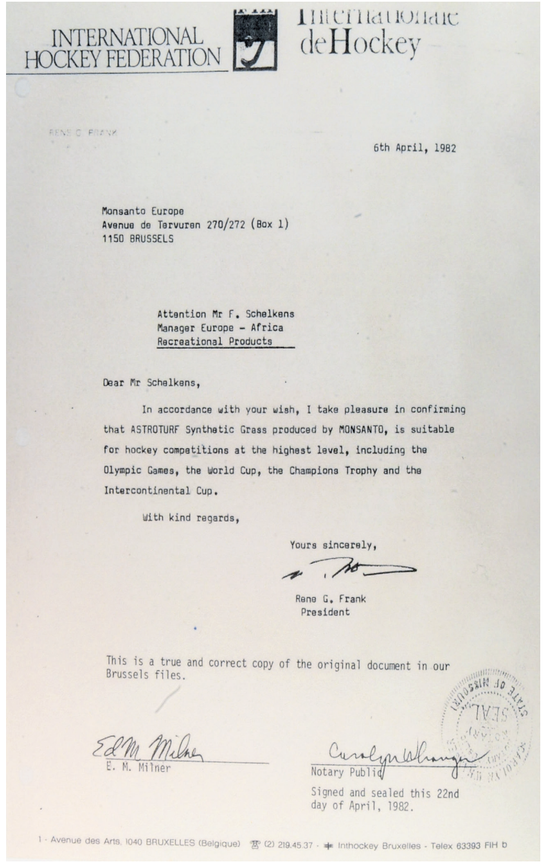
What was it like to play on this new hockey surface?

With no real experience of this new type of surface, players were wondering if its introduction would require new or different skills and styles of play. Early results would seem to have favoured the attacking philosophies of teams like the Netherlands, Australia and Pakistan who were able to pile up high goal-scoring rates. Rapid ball transfers, one touch passes, and deflection skills gave attackers more options, whilst defenders had to make their tackles and interceptions count as the recovery process of turning was a challenge to their mobility. Hockey had immediately become a more mobile game with more emphasis on movement, uninterrupted runs off the ball to receive passes, whilst at the same time enhancing the dextrous hand-eye abilities of dribbling skills. The combination of a non-directional all-weather surface and the manufacture of specialised Adidas and Converse astro-boots meant hockey was off and running as a far more appealing sport for the players, the spectators, and its potential coverage on television.

Into the 1980s

After a century of hockey on grass around the world, the 1970's was the decade of the sport's dynamic revolution. From Montreal onwards, revolution would give way to evolution as the artificial grass industry along with the FIH, would be intent on promoting the sport on artificial surfaces to a modern and demanding worldwide playing population and audience.

Two different examples of artificial turf including Poligras.



INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION — International de Hockey

6th April, 1982

Monsanto Europe
Avenue de Tervuren 270/272 (Box 1)
1150 BRUSSELS

Attention Mr F. Schelkens
Manager Europe - Africa
Recreational Products

Dear Mr Schelkens,

In accordance with your wish, I take pleasure in confirming that ASTROTURF Synthetic Grass produced by MONSANTO, is suitable for hockey competitions at the highest level, including the Olympic Games, the World Cup, the Champions Trophy and the Intercontinental Cup.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Rene G. Frank
President

This is a true and correct copy of the original document in our Brussels files.

E. M. Milner

Notary Public

Signed and sealed this 22nd day of April, 1982.

1 - Avenue des Arts, 1040 BRUXELLES (Belgique) ☎ (2) 219.45.37 - Inthockey Bruxelles - Telex 63393 FIH b

The International Hockey Federation's letter confirming the use of AstroTurf Synthetic Grass for the Olympic Games and other international competitions.

If the dawn of Astroturf's birth had been American, the hockey core of European nations had not been standing still. The carpet industry running from the Netherlands through Belgium into Northern France and the United Kingdom was to be abruptly awakened, when in 1982 the FIH formally recognized the AstroTurf brand as their preferred hockey surface. Now the real battle for competition in synthetic turf would begin!

It was all a matter of technology and cost. The nylon turfs made by AstroTurf were expensive. Could different, cheaper turf designs be used? Recognizing the potential a lower cost surface would offer clubs, schools and colleges, European manufactures, developed the second generation of artificial grass, the sand filled turf. Initially made from polypropylene yarns these new surfaces were less dense and relied on sand to support the carpet pile and stop it flattening. This created a much cheaper surface, that could also sustain high levels of multi-sports use.

It soon became apparent that playing hockey on synthetic turf surfaces brought all levels of the sport numerous advantages, transforming the way the game was played; the surface offered a flat, even surface, which allowed the ball to roll much faster compared to natural grass, leading to quicker, more dynamic gameplay that made the sport more exciting for both players and spectators.

The FIH's innovative approach to ensuring quality

Recognising the potential benefits turf surfaces offered the sport, the FIH also saw the threats an uncontrolled market could have on the game; it was important that surfaces were developed to meet the needs of hockey, and that hockey was not forced to use surfaces developed for other sports.

Working with an international group of experts and laboratories, the FIH became the first international federation to define how the surfaces it used should perform. Focusing on how the ball and player should interact with the surface, as opposed to describing how a surface should be made, this innovative approach became the model subsequently adopted by all major sports bodies, from football to athletics, tennis and netball.

Ensuring player comfort

A key component of the early work was ensuring the surfaces provided sufficient comfort to the players; a common problem with the early sand-filled turfs was that, over time, the sand would compact and become firm, resulting in surfaces that were uncomfortable to run or fall on, and that would become excessively bouncy, making ball control unpredictable and harder, not ideal when many of the fields were intended for grassroots hockey.

Again, turning to the USA for inspiration, the European turf industry developed cushioned underlayers, or shockpads, that were laid between the turf and the rigid platform forming the base of the field. These pads were designed to enhance player safety and improve the overall performance of the turf system. By the 1990s they had become an accepted component of a synthetic turf hockey surface.

Into the 21st Century

The use of synthetic turf surfaces for an ever increasing number of international tournaments through the 1990s and 2000s had a profound impact on the sport, with hockey transforming in several key ways. The surfaces allowed the ball to move faster and more predictably, leading to a faster-paced game, that required players to develop advanced skills and tactics and have quicker reflexes and better hand-eye coordination.

At the club and community level, it was soon noted that synthetic turf surfaces reduced the risk of injuries that regularly occurred on uneven, compacted or muddy natural grass fields.

Linking these benefits to being able to play in most weather conditions, extended the playing season and the time available for training, making hockey a faster, safer and more skills-oriented sport.

The benefits synthetic turf surfaces offered hockey, also stimulated the turf industry to develop new surfaces for other sports that were traditionally played on natural grass. The early 2000s saw the introduction of the long-pile third generation forms of synthetic turf that were readily embraced by football and rugby.

An action shot of players playing on a sand-filled pitch used by the England Schoolboy Hockey Association.

The introduction of these new types of turf saw football move away from the surfaces hockey preferred. This created further opportunities for hockey, but also some threats. On the plus side, the ability to focus on hockey-specific surfaces allowed manufacturers to develop surfaces that provided even better hockey performance, especially the sand-dressed turfs that more closely replicated the qualities of a wet turf, and significantly reduced the risk of the abrasive injuries sand-filled turfs could cause and that many older players still carry the scars of.

On the negative side, the divergence in surface types and the differing preferences of football and hockey, created challenges for hockey as the inability to share fields meant the opportunities for many to play on good quality synthetic turf surfaces diminished.

Nevertheless, the overall global growth of the synthetic turf industry stimulated innovations in yarn and turf technology that has also enhanced the quality of the surfaces used by hockey. The increasing global demand for synthetic turf surfaces has seen the turf industry invest in high quality materials; today most hockey turfs are made from polyethylene yarns. Polyethylene is highly durable, making it particularly suitable for sports field applications, and especially those laid in parts of the world where degradation from exposure to sunlight is a major consideration. Polyethylene is also soft to the touch, providing a more comfortable surface when players fall or slide on the turf. Gone are the days of playing on a surface many compared to a pan scourer.

A warm-down on an AstroTurf green at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The technicolour revolution of London 2012

If, during the 1980s to the 2000s the development of the turfs used by hockey was evolutionary, the London Olympics in 2012, saw the next revolution. Suddenly hockey was being played on a blue field! But why?

The blue surface provided greater contrast against the ball and the players' uniforms, making it easier for viewers to follow the game on television. Players also reported that the blue pitch offered better visibility, improving their ability to see the ball and make quicker decisions during play.

Fortuitously, the vibrant blue field with its pink surrounds fitted perfectly into the London 2012 branding strategy, meaning the venue which looked stunning, modern and distinct was also in line with the London 2012 brand. Hockey for the 2010s had arrived with a bang.

Rio 2016 saw the next transformative step. Using yarn technology initially developed for football, the introduction of texturised mono-filament yarns provided a totally non-directional surfaces that enabled players to control the ball with greater precision, allowing skills like dribbling, hitting, and trapping to become even more refined, pushing players to enhance their technical abilities further.

This saw advanced stick skills, such as reverse stick techniques and close control becoming ever more critical if players were to compete at high levels due to the ever faster playing surface.

■ Hockey was played on a blue field at the London 2012 Olympics.

Into the 2020s

Today, these enhanced skills have become a key element of gameplay. Teams now rely on quick, accurate passing to move the ball swiftly around the pitch, as opposed to the slower, more deliberate style used on natural grass.

With the game being faster, teams have adopted more aggressive, high-pressure defensive strategies. Quick turnovers and fast counter-attacks are now central to modern hockey tactics.

These new surfaces have also encouraged the development of new techniques like drag flicking, particularly in penalty corners, and aerial balls, which are much easier to execute on these modern turf surfaces.

This faster game requires players to be fitter, with greater endurance and speed. Players now cover more ground in a shorter time, and high-intensity sprints are more frequent. Modern hockey on these new forms of turf has seen more specialisation, with forwards,

■ Rio 2016 saw the next transformative step of the pitch, with the introduction of texturised mono-filament yarns.

midfielders, and defenders adopting specific roles tailored to the fast pace and technical demands of the surface and the game.

As turf technology has advanced, so has the cost of fields. Ensuring the fields meet the expectations of players, tournament officials and those funding them has never been more important.

From the groundbreaking publication of its first standard in 1986, the FIH has regularly updated its guidance on surface quality and field construction to ensure hockey is still played on the best performing, most durable surfaces the industry can produce.

2016 saw the launch of the FIH Quality Programme which has strengthened the relationship between the FIH and the turf industry. Now with over 50 members based around the world, the Quality Programme is ensuring the FIH is abreast of the latest developments and is setting turf standards for all level of hockey, from grassroots to the Olympic Games.

Today, there are now over 500 FIH Approved Hockey Turfs, produced in every continental region of the hockey world, and over 200 fields are certified by the FIH every year. Quality and consumer confidence is assured!

■ Artificial turf has become a key element of elite hockey.

What does the future hold?

Although some may still hark back to the days when all hockey was played on natural grass, the transformation of the sport and the investment in fields that so many have made, makes this inconceivable to most now involved with the sport.

Today, whilst hockey is still played on many different surfaces including natural grass, synthetic turf is the standard for all top-level hockey matches, including the Olympics, FIH World Cups, and professional leagues around the world. Modern synthetic turfs are designed to balance performance with player safety. Advanced technology has led to pitches that are not only fast

■ 2016 saw the launch of the FIH Quality Programme which has strengthened the relationship between the FIH and the turf industry.

■ The Poligras Paris GT Zero turf used at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 is the world's first carbon-zero turf.

and durable but also offer levels of comfort that those early pioneers in the 1970s could only dream about.

However, the increased use of synthetic turf generally has also sparked discussions about sustainability. Reducing the environmental impact is becoming as important as the sporting considerations. Using sustainably sourced materials, environmentally friendly production methods and aiding recycling of end of life turf surfaces have all become important considerations.

Again hockey is leading the way, with the Poligras Paris GT Zero turfs used at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games being the world's first carbon-zero turf.

In many ways, the environmental agenda is now taking hockey back full circle to 1975. Water-based pitches require large amounts of water to maintain optimal playing conditions, which can be a challenge in regions facing water scarcity. Recognising these concerns, the FIH is, again, working with the synthetic turf industry to develop surfaces that can, as far as possible, replicate the qualities of a wet turf, without the use of water.

In 2023 the FIH Innovation Standard for Non-irrigated (Dry) Turfs was published and this has resulted in an increasing number of new Dry Turf products entering the market. For field owners in regions where water is scarce, or for those that are wishing to embrace a more sustainable approach, these new surfaces are providing a welcome and viable alternative.

A key step in the use of these Dry Turfs was the 2024 FIH Hockey5s World Cup held in the desert climate of Oman. Allowing many elite players to play on this new type of synthetic turf for the first time, the tournament identified many points that will allow the turf technology to evolve and improve further.

■ The inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup hosted by Oman in 2024 was played on dry turf.

The significance of hockey's environmental strategy has gained international recognition, with FIH being named 2024 winner of the prestigious IOC Climate Action Awards. Established to celebrate and encourage innovative projects from National Olympic Committees, International Federations, and athletes aiming to reduce the environmental impact of sports, the success speaks volumes about the sport's drive to increase sustainability.

But sustainability is not just about the environment. Health, social inclusion, gender equality and financial viability are all equally important. In many ways, again looking back to its roots, the FIH is now working with FIFA and the synthetic turf industry to develop surfaces that can be successfully used by grassroots football and hockey, allowing the construction of community focused fields that will benefit both sports.

Time will tell whether these changes will be revolutionary or evolutionary, but one thing is for certain, hockey is continuing on its journey of turf innovation, with the objectives of enhancing the sport, whilst contributing to the humanities obligations to live and play in more sustainable ways.

■ FIH won the prestigious IOC Climate Action Award in 2024.

Evolution of hockey sticks

"Early Man", and this could go back thousands of years, would regularly create amusement and recreation by taking up an implement, often a stick, and propelling an object with it. This simple practice has been developed and adapted to create many sports and pastimes such as cricket, golf, tennis and polo, but they all originate from the very simple action of striking an object with an implement. In the case of hockey, it is using a stick to hit a ball. There are depictions of stick and ball activity going back millennia, certainly to the Ancient Greeks, Romans and the Egyptians. These activities may not have been hockey as we know it today, but striking an object with an implement was the essence of the game when it was first created, and it remains so today.

A selection of 18th century hockey sticks displayed and mounted.

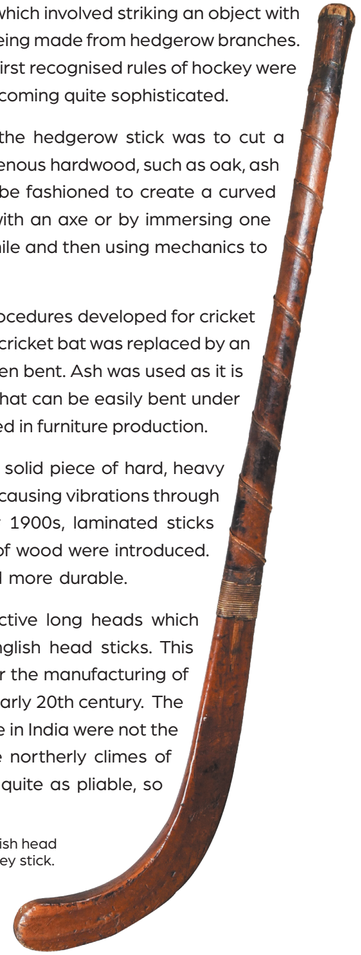
During the late 18th century, when the term "hockey" was first coined to describe a game which involved striking an object with a "hockey stick", the sticks being made from hedgerow branches. But by the 1870s, when the first recognised rules of hockey were developed, the stick was becoming quite sophisticated.

A natural development of the hedgerow stick was to cut a plank of wood from an indigenous hardwood, such as oak, ash or maple. The plank would be fashioned to create a curved head, either by shaping it with an axe or by immersing one end in boiling water for a while and then using mechanics to create a bend.

Based on manufacturing procedures developed for cricket bats, the willow blade of the cricket bat was replaced by an ash wood head that had been bent. Ash was used as it is a hard and durable timber that can be easily bent under pressure and was widely used in furniture production.

Striking a ball with a single, solid piece of hard, heavy wood could be a painful act causing vibrations through the hands, so by the early 1900s, laminated sticks made from multiple layers of wood were introduced. This made them lighter and more durable.

The early sticks had distinctive long heads which later became known as English head sticks. This distinction came about after the manufacturing of sticks began in India in the early 20th century. The indigenous timbers available in India were not the same as those in the more northerly climes of Europe, and they were not quite as pliable, so



An early English head wooden hockey stick.

An early hockey stick with rubber stick ring intact.

there was a higher failure rate in the bending process, meaning the stick makers of India produced slightly shorter headed sticks that were sold on the local market.

Initially, European players were not interested in these shorter headed sticks, but the more dexterous Asian players with their fast hands. took to these sticks very quickly. Subsequently, the Indian head stick was born and very soon the Indian dribble was revealed to the wonderment of the hockey world at the 1928, 1932 and 1936 Olympic Games.

It was not until the 1960s, that modern materials and technology began to affect hockey stick production. "Bendy" cane handles became less popular due to their "power loss" and handles were stiffened with fiberglass reinforcement. Animal-based glues were replaced by stronger synthetic adhesives. These changes progressed to carbon-fibre and Kevlar being incorporated into the makeup of the stick. However, it still remained a wooden stick that was reinforced to make it stiffer and more resilient.

During this period of the 1970s and '80s the "Indian head" became smaller with a tighter bend, thus enabling even faster stickwork and greater ball control.

'The Hockey Maker' by Aubrey Sykes, a painting of two artisans from the Indian Subcontinent carving hockey sticks by hand.

The head of a carbon fibre composite hockey stick.

The progression of the head shape from the English head: steam bent English Ash wood from the 1880s, through to the early Indian short head: steam bent Indian Mulberry wood from the 1920s and 30s, to the short Indian head: again, steam bent Mulberry wood from the 1980s onwards.

The most recent development of the hockey stick is again technological, but relates to how the stick is manufactured, rather than the shape. It occurred following the FIH's decision in 1998 to change the Rules of Hockey to allow sticks to be made entirely of composite materials. These new, lighter but stiffer sticks, when used on synthetic turf fields and playing with composite plastic balls, has created the fast and skillful game we know today.

■ A series of photographs showing the process of making a hockey stick.

Evolution of hockey balls

As hockey grow in popularity during the mid-19th century, balls made from old barrel bungs wrapped with twine were commonly used. But as the game become more organized in the 1870s, cricket balls were adopted and became the norm for the following 100 years. Made with a cork and wool core and a stitched leather cover this type of ball was used by from the first Olympic hockey tournament in 1908 up to the Moscow Games in 1980.

■ An example of a string-bound cork ball used in early hockey.

It was the introduction of synthetic grass surfaces that finally saw hockey adopt a ball developed specifically for the sport. Unlike cricket, the seam on leather cover served no useful function, indeed it only reduce the trueness of a ball's trajectory as it rolled across the surface, a deficiency that was magnified when playing on a fast, true synthetic grass field. Linked to hockey's increasing preference to play on wet surfaces, the limitations of using a leather covered ball made it increasingly clear that an alternative was required.

The 1980s saw the introduction of moulded, plastic balls. Initially brands such as Chingford, Tugite and Reader developed balls based on cricket technology, replacing the leather cover with moulded plastic shells, some of which bizarrely even had moulded 'stitched seams'.

As plastics technology advanced it was another cricket ball manufacturer, Kookaburra, who entered the market with a ball that was to be transformational. They incorporated dimples, very much in the style and appearance of golf balls. Although they did not aid the aerodynamics of the ball, they did enhance the trueness and speed on a wet hockey turf.

The adoption of moulded plastic balls also allows the production of cost-effective balls for the mass market, smooth for Indoor Hockey and mini-hockey, larger and lighter for junior play. White, yellow, orange, there are now multiple options available, but there is a certain indefinable quality about a hockey ball which players best describe as "feel".

■ A later Kookaburra ball made of hard dimpled plastic featuring an 'FIH approved' mark.

All balls have to comply with the size and weight criteria of Rules of Hockey but when struck by a hockey stick, the "feel" must be right. To achieve the perfect feel demanded by elite players, the most favoured types of ball still incorporate a multi-layer core of cork rubbers and plastics. These cores are complex products to manufacture and therefore expensive, resulting in a hierarchy of ball qualities and prices, catering for all levels of play and budget.

Today, as sustainability becomes an ever more important consideration, and the FIH steers the sport away from using wet turf surfaces, innovative thinking by a group of researchers at a University in Belgium has even seen the development of a self-wetting ball. Designed to allow water to slowly wick out as the ball rolls across the turf, it provides lubrication that enhance the playing qualities, to those normally found on a wet turf. Used for the first time at the 2024 Hockey5s World Cup in Oman, the ball received positive feedback from players, coaches and officials.

Who would have thought that an item many give little consideration to, in just over 150 years, has advanced from a homemade item to a piece of advanced engineering.

A ball ring and stick ring used in the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.

Evolution of hockey balls from the later hard plastic balls to an earlier string-bound cork ball.

Evolution of men's hockey clothing

History shows that the original playing kit in men's hockey in the 1870s comprised shirts, shorts, socks and boots not dissimilar to football (soccer) and rugby, sports that pre-dated hockey becoming popular.

Hockey clothing has evolved to reflect changes in the sport and advancements in both technology and safety. Fashion has also had an influence relatively recently, reflecting similar changes in football clothing.

A form of hockey was played in boys' public schools in the

An undated England team photographer for an England vs. Ireland match, umpired by G.H. Morton.

United Kingdom during the 19th century in everyday school clothing, long flannel trousers and shirts. Hockey was first codified by cricketers and so the clothing for both sports was similar. In the later 1800s and as hockey clubs were formed, the sport was played in what became a more universal form of clothing of shirts, shorts, socks and boots that remained relatively unchanged for a century.

Sport was beginning to be played by in large numbers without any existing form of mass manufacturing of sports footwear. Footwear was adapted from the normal day-to-day footwear and good leather walking shoes were often modified for running on grass. Correspondence between the UK and Cape Town dating back to 1886 provides instructions on how to convert a stout pair of working boots by tacking bars of leather across the soles to provide traction when running on grass.

A men's hockey team photograph, potentially a Wiltshire team or Marlborough Hockey Club from the 1920s

As the number of clubs increased caps and even sashes were initially worn to distinguish teams. These were phased out in the 1900s because the material used for shirts changed making it easier to produce them in different colours.

The development of materials used in the manufacture of shirts followed the increased numbers of those taking part in sport. New materials were designed to be more comfortable. One was Viyella, claimed to be "the first branded fabric in the world". Viyella was a blend of 55% Merino wool and 45% cotton twill weave. The Merino wool, a very fine soft wool and cotton combination, produced a light and soft fabric that claimed to be unshrinkable when washed.

As shirts developed, knickers (or shorts) followed suit. Knickers were an evolution of knickerbockers, a form of baggy-kneed breeches. Over a short time knickerbockers transformed into "plus fours" for golf, while a shortened version became knickers (shorts). In baseball the wearing by players of knickerbockers is still seen today.

The manufacture of shorts changed to cotton, socks were made with wool and boots of leather. The manufacture of specialist heavy and studded boots was introduced because hockey was being played on grass pitches that in most winters became heavy, wet and of questionable quality, again reflecting conditions in football and rugby.

By the turn of the century mass produced clothing and technological advancements in garment manufacture saw greater availability of cheap sporting kit. A Gamage's catalogue of about 1907 displays the availability of numerous coloured versions of a playing shirt. Standardisation of playing garments became the vogue. The same catalogue shows a similar style of top being available for rugby, football (soccer) and hockey. All three major European winter sports used the same type of shirt as well as boots.

A sleeveless International Hockey Federation jacket with 'International Umpire' patch.

The early 20th century saw the introduction of the first protective equipment for players in the form of shin guards. Adverts for women's shin guards in 1901 were followed by adverts for shin pads for men in 1907.

White England playing shorts owned by player Richard Leman.

Gloves followed shin pads as a form of protection. Although hockey sticks could have a rubber ring which would protect hands from collisions during tackles, the hand could still be hurt. Cricket gloves gave protection but specific advertisements for right-handed gloves with padding on the top were introduced in sales literature.

Clothing manufacturers standardised the use of cotton drill to make shirts. It came in rolls of fabric that were easy to cut into shapes, which enabled shirts to be easily made up in different coloured quarters or halves, sleeves and collars, along with the same colours mirrored in club socks. Clubs adopted specific colours and designs to create a consistent visual identity to distinguish them from other teams. Clubs and national teams became recognisable and famous due to the colour and design of their shirts and socks. Countless thousands of drill shirts were made each year worldwide by hockey clothing manufacturers and sold by sports outlets well into the 1980s.

During the years between the First and Second World Wars little changed. A cotton twill garment was offered by manufacturers who could provide different styles of shirt, hoops or harlequin design. This style of the shirt again mirrored that of rugby and football while a hint of 'sartorial elegance' was added in colder climates with a jumper to provide warmth before and after the game. In large parts of the hockey playing world this would normally be one worn by cricketers.

The 1960s saw the introduction of modern synthetic, man-made fibres. At the time these were seen as more durable and longer lasting even though manufacturers appeared not to give much thought towards the comfort of the players.

The 1970s and 1980s introduced some major changes to the playing of hockey that influenced modifications to playing kit.

Indoor hockey became very popular in the 1970s. Cotton drill shirts were unsuitable to indoor hockey because of their weight when they collected moisture, highlighted by the hotter air temperature of the indoor hockey arenas and the increased speed of the game. Polo shirts were introduced but they were not universally used with clubs reluctant to move away from their traditional uniform. For many clubs a change in style was an expensive cost to many of their members.

The second major change that dramatically influenced clothing design (and the sport as a whole) was the advent of synthetic surfaces that revolutionised hockey when introduced in the mid 1970s. The change rapidly gained momentum over the next ten to fifteen years.

Specially designed shoes were required for these surfaces. The leather-topped studded boot could not handle the stopping and turning forces on an artificial surface. A soft-top running shoe was devised with multiple dimples on the sole located in the areas where the greater forces would be exerted. These shoes were designed to maximise stopping and turning while still giving support to the foot. Cotton drill shirts were phased out with technical advances and, as with other sports, hockey followed the influence of fashion in the general manufacture of sports clothing. Wool socks were replaced by those made of man-made fibres. Goalkeeping kit changed beyond recognition.

As the sport has become faster and the players stronger the use of safety equipment worn on the pitch in the form of mouth guards, gloves, masks, knee and ankle protectors has become essential.

As the surfaces evolved, hockey was played at a greater speed, and players' clothing had to deal with the generation of greater moisture and the need to maintain optimal playing ability. Body temperatures

Early Pentagon boots with wooden soles and a 'Z' shape studbracket.

Gola studded playing trainers from the mid 1980s.

needed to be kept as near to normal as possible. The development of high-tech synthetic material, lightweight, breathable and moisture wicking improved players comfort and consequently enhanced performance. The wicking cloth allowed moisture from the body to be drawn away and to accelerate the evaporation process, allowing the body to regulate temperature better.

Intriguingly, the design of shorts has been less radical and has gone full circle having originally been long in the leg, changing to very short, before reverting to longer.

In our continually developing sport clothing will invariably change in appearance and form as players seek that extra advantage and as fashion will dictate.

■ Every evolution led to the current players' equipment.

Evolution of women's hockey clothing

In the last decades of the 19th century hockey for women was described as, "being recognized as a very valuable team game. It is a very satisfactory form of self-expression of all that is in need of outlet in the healthy, active woman of today".

How it was possible to be very active in the playing uniform of the late 1800s is quite remarkable, consisting as it did of a long, thick, heavy skirt, often fastened at the waist with a tight belt and worn with a stiff-collared, high-necked blouse with large long sleeves. Petticoats and corsets were worn under the skirt and blouse and a hat was worn on the head, all to comply with the accepted standards of dress for young ladies at the time. Playing on a wet day increased the weight of the skirts and petticoats and it doesn't take much imagination to realise the difficulties the early pioneers of our game had to endure.

Change was to come in the form of the invention of the "gym-slip" at the instigation of the founder of the UK's first Physical Training College for women, Martina Bergman-Österberg. It was she who introduced the games mistress and physical activities for schoolgirls based on the principles of Swedish gymnastics. One of her students designed a simple loose-fitting, pleated tunic which reached the ground when the wearer knelt and which did away with the wearing of corsets and petticoats. For some time there was a variation in length and material and the choice of blouse worn underneath but by the late 1890s the "gym-slip" had become the everyday uniform for schoolgirls, worn with stockings and the ubiquitous canvas and rubber hockey boot.

A postcard illustrating an example of the gymslip kit that women would have worn in early hockey.

This innovative attire began to permeate club hockey but, despite its clear benefit to bodily movement, there was noticeable resistance to change within women's representative and national team hockey during the first decades of the 20th century. Where long skirts persisted during this period, hockey clothing moved towards looser fitting blouses and belts, and away from more restrictive outer and under garments. Eventually, inspired by the "gym-slip" and changing fashions, skirt lengths shortened. The "gym-slip" was superseded in the 1970s and '80s by the shorter, pleated, kilt-style hockey skirt, worn with knee length socks and short sleeved blouses.

Then followed the lycra revolution in the 21st century, resulting in the invention of specialist sports bras, very short skirts with attached shorts (skorts), worn with vest tops.

For the 2023/2024 hockey season, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) rules were changed to allow women to wear their individual choice of skirt, skort or shorts during matches if they are the same colour and design as their teammates, a decision taken to promote comfort and inclusivity of participation.

What would the pioneers of our game have made of its evolution and the clothing worn? Hopefully they would approve.

A red skort once worn by player Biddy Burgum.

Wimbledon Ladies' Hockey Club maroon playing tunic.

The player's equipment has massively evolved over the years.

GB player Tess Howard has played a significant role in FIH's decision to allow women to wear a skirt, skort or shorts during matches.

A selection of photographs of women's hockey teams and their kit from 1905, 1912, 1930, 1933, and 1950.

The Evolution of Goalkeepers' Equipment 1870–2024

In the early years of codified, "competitive" hockey, between 1870 and 1900, it was not considered necessary to have a designated goalkeeper and until 1890, most teams did not. Any player could be nominated to propel the ball with his or her feet in the circle, so specific equipment did not develop until towards the end of the century. Early equipment consisted of slightly larger shin-guards with attached foot protection. Women had the added advantage of long skirts, which were considered legitimate to stop the ball until, in 1907, the rules changed to make it necessary for skirts to be at least eight inches above the ground and this advantage ceased!

As the 20th century dawned most teams began to play with a designated goalkeeper and the need for specific equipment became more important. For many the equipment, notably leg-guards, mirrored those used in cricket, with the gradual addition of attached foot protection over substantial "miners" boots. In non-cricket playing regions, generally, although not exclusively, leg-guards evolved from "skeleton" leg-guards and flat-toed cane kickers, canvas leg-guards were worn in the Netherlands and Belgium until as late as 1978. In cricket playing nations the two sports used similar equipment until the mid to late 1970s, but with hockey's leg-guards gradually becoming larger and with more padding than their cricketing counterparts.

Photograph of an England men's team goalkeeper.

India and Pakistan had, by the 1970s, become the main manufacturers of cricket and hockey protective equipment, although companies like Erhard in Germany produced high quality leather leg-guards, kickers and gloves.

As the game sped up, with players becoming more athletic and a quicker ball pace, there was an increasing need for more mobile goalkeepers. So, by the end of the 1970s most of the world's goalkeepers had moved away from cricket-style leg-guards and adopted the skeleton version long favoured in Europe. Cane protection in the skeleton leg-guard was replaced by nylon tubing to make leg-guards lighter and the wearer more mobile.

It seems that goalkeeping gloves were not worn in hockey's early years and when they were developed, they were adapted from those worn in the British game of "fives." More adaptations followed through the first half of the 20th century and the design of gloves evolved to include wrist protection and provided padded left palms (for hand saves) and unpadded right palms to hold the stick.

In Europe the cane over-boot developed, strapped to the lower part of the skeleton leg-guard, with a half sole for the foot to slide in. This often had studs attached to provide grip on grass pitches. In countries where canvas leg-guards were worn there was a gradual progression away from the integral, attached, foot protection to slimmer, less padded over-boots. As the speed of the ball increased more padding was needed. Initially goalkeepers developed their own hybrid over boots with considerable "stuffing" added to give protection and to aid kicking power. Harry Cahill, Great Britain's goalkeeper in the 1960s used miners' boots with leather over kickers containing significant stuffing. He could kick a ball, from his own circle, well into his opponent's half, in the air, to set up attacking play. No mean feat!

German manufactured Erhard leg guards and "continental-style" half-soled kickers.

Goalkeeper gloves with padded left palm and unpadded right, circa late 1960s.

The revolutionary S.C. Mason leather covered high density foam kickers, circa late 1970s.

Facemask devised for baseball and worn mostly by goalkeepers in Europe in 1970s.

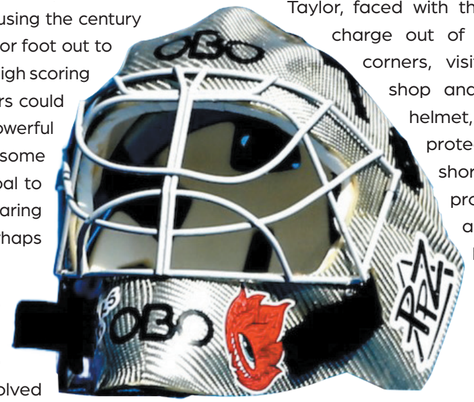
Both European cane kickers and other over-boots were heavy and cumbersome and during the mid to late 1970s S C Mason, in England, developed a leather kicker which revolutionised protection and kicking power. The kicker was light and incorporated newly developed high-density foam sewn into a leather exterior.

Slazenger version of the leather covered high-density foam kicker from early 1980s.

By the early 1980s goalkeeping equipment was still limited to leg-guards, kickers, gloves and a cricket-style "box" for men. Hockey was now moving quickly to being played on artificial grass surfaces: the ball was no longer made of leather and sticks were stiffer. The speed of the ball was increasing, such that goalkeepers could no longer defend penalty corners adequately using the century old technique of standing and stretching a leg or foot out to save. For a brief period at the end of the 1970s high scoring international matches were common, as strikers could accurately aim to the corners of the goal with powerful hits. As early as the mid-1970s, goalkeepers in some countries had begun lying down across the goal to defend penalty corners, absorbing the shot wearing merely leg-guards, kickers and gloves with perhaps a facemask as the only addition.

Soviet Union goalkeeper Vladimir Pleshakov and Germany goalkeeper Klaus Ludwiczac were excellent exponents of this technique which became known as "logging". This evolved into goalkeepers adopting tactics employed in indoor hockey: rushing out from goal to narrow the opponent's options armed only with perhaps a thin chest pad as added protection.

Helmets were the next addition and then, at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, the Great Britain goalkeeper, Ian Taylor, faced with the prospect of having to charge out of goal to defend penalty corners, visited a local ice hockey shop and bought an ice hockey helmet, shoulder, arm and chest protection, gloves and padded shorts. The age of the totally protected goalkeeper had arrived and the world of hockey followed suit. By



A contemporary hockey goalkeeper helmet.

the early 1990s it was unusual to see a goalkeeper without this full protection.

In the mid-1980s, Slazenger, in association with S P Industries in the United Kingdom, developed the first, uncovered, high-density foam kicker, which was larger and more protective than anything before. It also had the additional benefit of high rebound. Soon after, OBO in New Zealand developed foam leg-guards and hand protectors to supersede leather.

Manufacturers the world over quickly followed suit and developed, and enhanced, body armour and padded shorts better to suit field hockey rather than ice hockey. Today, goalkeeping equipment continues to improve, to maximise protection without sacrificing manoeuvrability.

The equipment of a goalkeeper today.

Els van Breda Vriesman

(The Netherlands – FIH President 2001–2008)

"Dear Friends,

Hockey has always been an important part of my life. I was lucky that my parents were very sports minded and as young children we were encouraged to join hockey, tennis, speed skating, golf.

In a team sport it was important to learn that in life one was depending on other people, so I chose hockey.

My sister, my brother and myself were lucky that all three of us represented our country at a young age in the different sports we chose.

Never in my life I imagined that I would ever be elected as President of the sport I loved so much nor that I ever had the ambition to be involved in sport administration.

The KNHB and Etienne Glichitch, one of my predecessors, were instrumental in this development and I owe a lot to Etienne's skills and wisdom!

The fact that I was elected as IOC member was of course a great honour for the Federation and myself.

There are a few special achievements I would like to mention that were made during my period as President.

The FIH office was moved from Brussels to Lausanne in order to be nearer to our colleagues of other Olympic Federations and the IOC.

We got 12 Women teams at the Olympic Games instead of 8.

And the Executive Board approved the proposal to support the Indian Hockey Federation to restore its hockey to its formal status.

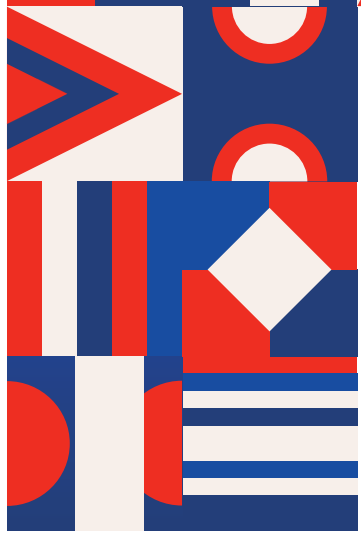
A global representation is important to remain an Olympic sport and therefore the Continental Federations are a key part in the development of our sport.

A World Federation is as strong as its weakest link. It's my strong wish that the stronger Continental Federations reach out as much as possible to their colleagues.

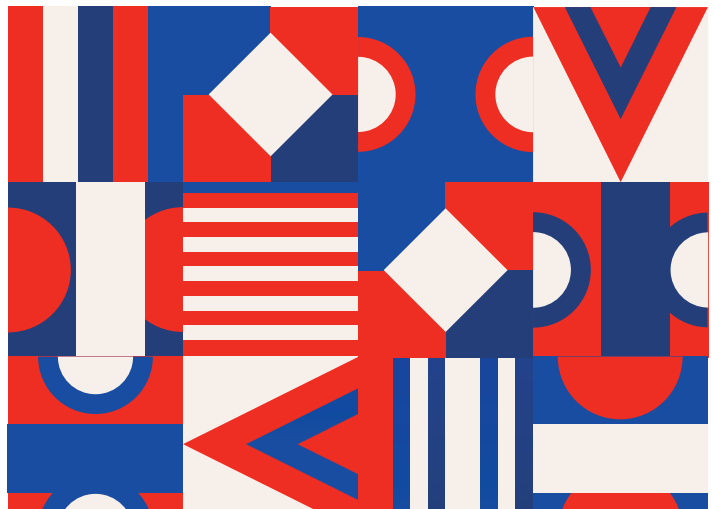
The FIH has been a respected Federation during its existence of 100 years, which is quite an achievement in itself!

I sincerely hope that we stay as an Olympic sport, that the wellbeing of our athletes will always be the centre of attention and that we all are proud to have been part of this Federation during a number of years.

Good luck in the future."



Evolution of Hockey Formats



The story of hockey is one of continuous transformation. Over the past century, the sport has evolved from its traditional 11-a-side outdoor game into a multifaceted global phenomenon, with formats including Indoor Hockey, Hockey5s, Beach Hockey, and HockeyID. Each of these formats presents its own unique challenges and opportunities, reflecting hockey's remarkable ability to adapt to changing global dynamics, technological advancements, and evolving social values. This chapter traces the chronological development of these formats, exploring how each has impacted hockey at local, domestic, and international levels, while also highlighting the sport's role in promoting inclusivity, gender equality, and global outreach.

Hockey was included into the Olympic sports programme for the first time at the 1908 London Games.

11-a-Side: The Foundation of a Global Sport

The traditional 11-a-side format, often referred to simply as "hockey" or "field hockey," has been the cornerstone of the sport since its formal codification in the late 19th century. Historical references suggest that hockey has been around for thousands of years, with mentions made in Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt and ancient Greece, but it wasn't until 1876 that formal rules were drawn up and 1924 that the sport was formalised with the formation of the Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) sur Gazon on 7 January of that year, in Paris, France. The formation of FIH marked the beginning of a new era for the sport, as the organisation sought to standardise rules and expand hockey's reach, setting the stage for its evolution into a global sport.

Olympic and World Cup Legacy

The inclusion of men's hockey in the 1908 London Olympic Games was a significant milestone, signalling hockey's entry into the world of international sport. However, it wasn't until the establishment of the FIH that hockey truly began to internationalise and the sport has been a part of every summer Olympic Games since 1928. The first Hockey World Cup, held in Barcelona in 1971, was a watershed moment, establishing a regular, high-profile competition that drew global attention. This event not only set a new standard for international competition but also played a crucial role in the development of the sport, encouraging countries to invest in their national teams and infrastructure.

Following the men's World Cup, the Women's Hockey World Cup was inaugurated in 1974, further solidifying women's hockey on the world stage. This was a pivotal development in the sport's history, as it underscored the growing recognition of women's contributions to hockey and their right to compete at the highest levels. The inclusion of women's hockey in the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games marked another turning point, affirming the sport's commitment to gender equality and providing a global platform for female athletes.

The first FIH Hockey Women's World Cup was played in 1974. Since then, 14 more editions have followed.

These events have played a crucial role in the evolution of hockey, helping to elevate the sport to new heights. The World Cup and the Olympic Games have become the pinnacle of achievement for hockey players, with each edition bringing new stories of triumph, rivalry, and the pursuit of excellence. These tournaments have not only showcased the best of the sport but have also inspired generations of players and fans around the world.

■ The World Cups have not only showcased the best of the sport but have also inspired generations of players and fans around the world.

Champions Trophy and Professional Leagues

The introduction of the Champions Trophy in 1978 was another landmark event, bringing together the world's top teams in an annual competition that pushed the boundaries of the sport's popularity and competitiveness. The Champions Trophy quickly became one of the most prestigious events in international hockey, offering a platform for the best teams to compete against each other in a round-robin format. This event played a crucial role in raising the standard of the sport and enhancing its popularity, as it encouraged innovation, strategic depth, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. The FIH Hockey Pro League, which replaced the Champions Trophy and the Hockey World League in 2019, continues to uphold the same values and standards set by its predecessor, with the added advantage of more matches, in more countries, featuring the top 9 international teams in each gender, an extension on the 6 that participated in the Champions Trophies.

On the domestic front, countries like India, Pakistan, the Netherlands, and Australia emerged as powerhouses of hockey, with vibrant local leagues feeding into their national teams. These leagues not only provided a breeding ground for talent but also helped to cultivate a strong hockey culture in these nations. The establishment of the Hockey India League (HIL) in 2013 exemplified the growing professionalism within the sport, providing a platform for domestic and international players to compete at the highest level. The HIL brought the excitement of 11-a-side hockey to a broader audience, combining high-stakes competition with entertainment, and helping further popularise the sport in a hockey-loving country.

The Champions Trophy and FIH Hockey Pro League, along with other professional leagues, has contributed to the sport's evolution by fostering a culture of competitiveness and professionalism. These tournaments have become crucial in developing the

■ A total of 60 editions of the Hockey Champions Trophy were played (37 men's, 23 women's).

skills and tactical acumen of players, as they provide regular opportunities for high-level competition. The rise of professional leagues has also increased the visibility of the sport, attracting new fans and generating far greater media coverage.

■ The FIH Hockey Pro League – the "League of the Best" – was introduced in 2019.

Technical and Tactical Evolution

Over the decades, the 11-a-side format has witnessed numerous technical and tactical evolutions, each contributing to the sport's dynamic nature. One of the most significant changes came with the introduction of artificial turf in the 1970s. This innovation revolutionised the way the game was played, increasing the speed of play and altering the skill sets required for success. The shift to artificial surfaces had profound implications for training, strategy, and international competition.

The introduction of artificial turf necessitated changes in playing styles, with a greater emphasis on speed, agility, and precise ball control. Traditional grass surfaces, which often slowed down the game, were replaced by faster, more consistent playing conditions, allowing for more dynamic and high-paced hockey. This transition also led to the development of new tactical approaches, such as the use of aerial passes and the implementation of press tactics, which have since become integral to modern hockey.

One of the most significant changes in the game came with the introduction of artificial turf in the 1970s.

The 11-a-side format has continued to evolve, with innovations such as the removal of the offside rule; four quarters of 15 minutes with time stopped for penalty corners and after goals, compared to the older format of two halves of 35 minutes; the self-pass rule; rolling substitutions; and video referrals being introduced to enhance the flow of the game and ensure fair play. These changes have enhanced the relevance and excitement of the sport, attracting new audiences while preserving the essence of traditional hockey.

The transition to artificial turf also led to the development of new tactical approaches, such as the use of aerial passes.

With the introduction of video referrals, hockey has been a pioneering sport in using technology to support umpiring.

Indoor Hockey: The Birth of a New Discipline

Indoor hockey emerged as a distinct format in the mid-20th century, initially as a means to keep players engaged during the winter months. The format was first formalised in Germany, a country with a strong hockey tradition, and quickly spread throughout Europe, gaining popularity for its fast-paced, technically demanding nature.

The Growth of Indoor Hockey in Europe

Germany and the Netherlands were early adopters of indoor hockey, and the format quickly became an integral part of their domestic hockey culture. By the 1960s, indoor hockey had spread across Europe, with national leagues and championships emerging in several countries. The smaller field size, the use of boards, and the emphasis on quick passes and close control made indoor hockey a test of technical skill and tactical acumen, appealing to players and fans alike.

The format's popularity in Europe can be attributed to its ability to maintain the essence of hockey while adapting to the constraints of indoor environments. Indoor hockey offers a different set of challenges compared to the traditional outdoor game, requiring players to develop exceptional ball-handling skills, quick reflexes, and a deep understanding of versatility in their positioning. The smaller teams and faster pace of the game also encourage creativity and innovation, making indoor hockey an exciting spectacle for fans.

Starting in Europe, indoor hockey has increased its popularity in many countries around the world.

International Competitions and Recognition

The establishment of the Indoor Hockey World Cup in 2003 was a significant milestone, raising the profile of the format on the global stage. The inaugural tournament in Leipzig, Germany, was a resounding success, showcasing the sport's global appeal and technical brilliance. The tournament quickly became a key event in the international hockey calendar, with teams from Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Americas competing for the coveted title.

The success of the Indoor Hockey World Cup has encouraged more countries to develop their indoor hockey programs. The tournament has also provided a platform for emerging hockey nations to compete at an international level, contributing to the global growth of the sport. Indoor hockey's inclusion in multi-sport events, such as the European Indoor Championships, has further solidified its status as a vital component of the hockey ecosystem.

The creation of an FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup was a significant milestone for the growth of this format of hockey.

Impact on Player Development

Indoor hockey has played a crucial role in the development of players. The fast-paced nature of the game, combined with the emphasis on technical skills, has helped many players improve their overall game, translating into better performances in the traditional 11-a-side format. Countries like Germany and the Netherlands, which have strong indoor hockey traditions, have seen this format contribute to their success in the sport's traditional format as well.

The skills developed in indoor hockey, such as close ball control, quick decision-making, and spatial awareness, are directly transferable to the outdoor game. Many top players attribute their success in the 11-a-side format to their experience in indoor hockey, which has helped them refine their technique and develop a deeper understanding of the game. This cross-pollination of skills has been instrumental in maintaining the high standards of European hockey and has inspired other regions to invest in their indoor hockey programs.

Hockey5s: Revolutionising the Game for a New Era

Hockey5s is one of the most recent and exciting innovations in the sport, introduced by the FIH in 2013. This format was designed to make hockey more accessible and appealing, particularly in regions where resources for the traditional 11-a-side game are limited. Hockey5s represents a bold step forward in the sport's evolution, offering a dynamic, fast-paced version of hockey that is tailored to the needs of a modern, global audience.

The Concept and Appeal of Hockey5s

Hockey5s is characterised by its smaller teams (five players per side, including the goalkeeper), shorter match duration, and smaller field. The format encourages high-scoring games, with quick transitions and plenty of goal-scoring opportunities, making it a particularly appealing entry point for new fans of the sport. The simplicity of the rules and the reduced number of players make it easier to organise and play, especially in urban areas or regions with limited space.

Hockey5s has been praised for its ability to engage new audiences, particularly in areas where the traditional 11-a-side format is less accessible. The format's compact nature allows for the game to be played in a variety of settings, from school playgrounds to urban sports complexes, without the need for extensive infrastructure. This accessibility has made Hockey5s a powerful tool for promoting the sport in emerging markets, where space and resources are often limited. Moreover, the fast pace and frequent goal-scoring opportunities make it an attractive spectacle, drawing in younger audiences and providing a fresh, modern twist on the traditional game.

■ In 2024, FIH organised its first ever Hockey5s World Cup, in Oman.

International Debut and Success

Hockey5s made its international debut at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Nanjing, China. The format's introduction at such a prestigious event was a strategic move by the FIH, aimed at showcasing the new format to a global audience. This was followed by the 2018 YOG in Buenos Aires, where the tournament was an overwhelming success, capturing the imagination of players and spectators alike, and becoming the most popular sport in that edition of the Youth Olympic Games with its high-energy matches and the constant action.

The success of Hockey5s at the Youth Olympics led to its rapid adoption in various regional tournaments and its inclusion in the development programs of several national federations. Its fast rise in popularity was marked by the establishment of the FIH Hockey5s World Cup, with the first edition played in Muscat, Oman, in January 2024. This event underscored the format's growing importance in the international hockey landscape, attracting teams from across the globe, many appearing in their first ever FIH World Cup, and further solidifying Hockey5s as a key component of the sport's future.

■ Hockey5s is a fantastic tool to increase the accessibility of hockey in many parts of the world.

Impact on Global Outreach and Development

Hockey5s has been particularly successful in expanding the sport's reach in regions where traditional hockey has struggled to gain a foothold. In Africa, western Asia, South America, and the islands of Oceania, Hockey5s has provided a more accessible entry point for new players and fans, helping to democratise the sport. By lowering the barriers to participation—fewer players, less equipment, and smaller fields—Hockey5s has made it possible for more communities to engage with hockey, thereby expanding the sport's global footprint.

This format is also instrumental in introducing hockey to schools and community programs, where the ease of organisation and the minimal requirement for equipment makes it an ideal choice. Hockey5s is one of the cornerstones of development initiatives in these regions, helping to nurture a new generation of players who could either specialise in Hockey5s, as well as potentially transitioning to the traditional 11-a-side game in the future. The format's emphasis on fun, skill development, and inclusivity has resonated with young players, making it a key element in the global growth strategy of the FIH.

■ With its non-stop action and fast pace, Hockey5s delights fans.

Beach Hockey: The Fusion of Sport and Recreation

Beach hockey, while less formalised than other formats in terms of international events, represents an important aspect of the sport's evolution. Played on sand with smaller teams and simplified rules, beach hockey emphasises fun, accessibility, and the social aspects of the game. This format reflects the sport's ability to adapt to different environments and cultural contexts, offering a more relaxed and recreational alternative to traditional hockey.

The Origins and Growth of Beach Hockey

Beach hockey has its roots in the informal games played on beaches in countries like Australia, Spain, and the United States. Over time, it has evolved into a more organised format, with dedicated tournaments and leagues emerging in various coastal regions. The Cal Cup in California is one of the most prominent hockey events in North America, which attracts teams from around the world, across various age categories. The tournament has become a celebration of hockey, bringing players and fans together in a unique setting that highlights the versatility of the sport. The 2025 edition of the Cal Cup will include beach hockey for the first time, creating a perfect blend of competitive play with the relaxed atmosphere of beach life.

The format's growth has been driven by its appeal to both serious athletes and casual players, offering a platform where anyone can participate, at varying skill levels. Beach hockey's informal, fun-focused nature makes it an ideal way to introduce new players to hockey, particularly in a recreational setting. This format has been particularly popular in tourist destinations, where it serves as both a sport and an entertainment activity, drawing in participants and spectators who might not have engaged with hockey in the past.

■ Beach hockey's informal, fun-focused nature makes it an ideal way to introduce new players to the sport.

The Role of Beach Hockey in Promoting the Sport

While beach hockey events may not yet be part of the official FIH calendar, in 2024, the FIH signed an MoU with World Beach Hockey (WBH), granting the organisation the ability, under the FIH umbrella, to organise international beach hockey events. Beach hockey can play a significant role in promoting the sport, particularly in regions where traditional hockey is less popular. The social and community-oriented aspects of beach hockey also contribute to its growing popularity. Many beach hockey events are organised as part of larger festivals or community gatherings, creating a festive atmosphere that encourages participation and enjoyment. This approach aligns with the FIH's broader goals of making hockey a sport for all, regardless of background or ability. Beach hockey's emphasis on inclusivity and fun has made it an important tool for engaging new audiences and expanding the reach of the sport.

In 2024, FIH signed a Memorandum of Understanding with World Beach Hockey.

A Century of Innovation and Inclusivity

The evolution of hockey formats over the past century reflects the sport's remarkable ability to adapt and grow in response to changing global dynamics, societal values, and technological advancements. From the establishment of the traditional 11-a-side format as the foundation of international hockey to the introduction of innovative formats like Indoor Hockey, Hockey5s, Beach Hockey, and HockeyID, each development has contributed to making hockey a more dynamic, inclusive, and globally accessible sport.

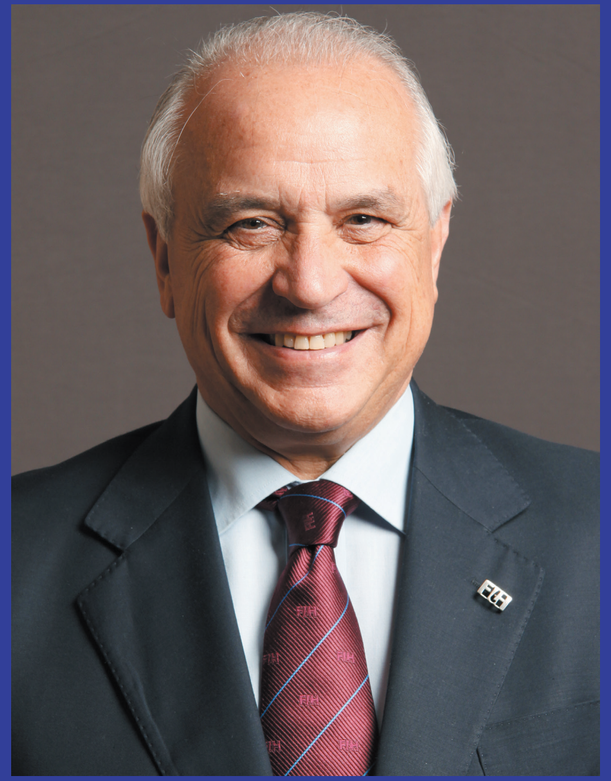
The chronological journey of these formats highlights not only the technical and tactical evolution of hockey but also the deeper narrative of inclusivity and gender equality that has driven the sport's growth. The integration of women's hockey into major international competitions, the global outreach facilitated by formats like Hockey5s, and the commitment to inclusivity through initiatives like HockeyID demonstrate hockey's progressive approach to sports development.

As the FIH celebrates its 100th anniversary, the sport stands as a testament to the power of innovation and inclusivity. The different formats of hockey have allowed the sport to reach new audiences, break down barriers, and create opportunities for all individuals to participate and excel. Looking ahead, the future of hockey promises to be just as dynamic and inclusive as its past, with continued growth and evolution that will shape the next century of the sport.

As new formats continue to emerge and the sport expands into new regions, the core values of inclusivity and accessibility will remain at the heart of its growth. The journey from a traditional 11-a-side game played on grass fields to a multifaceted global sport with diverse formats underscores hockey's resilience and adaptability.

The development of HockeyID (intellectual disability) testifies to the commitment of hockey's global community to inclusivity.

The evolution of hockey formats reflects not just a response to changing conditions but a proactive effort to make the sport more accessible, engaging, and inclusive. Whether it's the traditional challenge of speed and stamina in the 11-a-side format, high-octane action of Hockey5s, the technical challenge of indoor hockey, the recreational appeal of beach hockey, or the groundbreaking inclusivity of HockeyID, each format represents a chapter in the sport's ongoing story of innovation. As the next century unfolds, hockey's continued evolution will undoubtedly inspire and engage even more players, fans, and communities around the world.



Leandro Negre

(Spain – FIH President 2008–2016)

"For the occasion of the FIH Centenary I have been asked to say what the FIH means to me. Without hesitation, I stated that it is my family. That was my initial feeling and is what immediately came to my mind.

I know that my real family cannot be compared, in importance, with my emotions and relationship regarding the FIH. But I have shared my feelings because I grew up and was educated within the hockey family, specifically with the FIH members.

Let me explain this.

Like many of you, at the age of 5 years old, I started playing hockey. My father was a player and he took me to my club to start in this sport. In 1957, I was 11 years old, and during the events of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the start of Hockey in Spain, I started to meet my father's hockey friends. It was then that I met an FIH President for the first time: this was the Dutchman Quarles van Ufford. He was invited to my house by my father and it gave me the opportunity to meet him personally. Since then, I can tell you with great satisfaction, I have met all the FIH Presidents until today.

Shortly after that, my father was elected an FIH Council member, and as a result of this, many members of this Council passed through our house in Barcelona and our summer house.

This allowed me, from a very young age, to know and talk with all of them. That enabled me to become informed about the activities of the FIH, as well as their thoughts and the friendships between its members.

I have strong memories of some of the dinners held at my house with hockey friends who came from Eastern Europe: it was very difficult for them to travel or to have good accommodation. I remember how they were sharing their feelings, thoughts and optimism with their friends from the other side. It was real friendship. I remember the toasts with vodka and the appetizers with sausages and smoked fish that they brought with them from the East. My memories are for Henkel (German Democratic Republic), Posik (Czechoslovakia), Schokolich (Poland), Klee (Austria), Leikin (USSR), Szalatar (Yugoslavia).

Also, I recall the great friendship between Colonel Dara, the representative of Pakistan (with whom I had the honour to play tennis, he was a great tennis player) and his Indian friend Ashwani Kumar. Kumar and Dara were FIH Vice-Presidents. Both met and served in the British Indian Army and were national players before the partition and they participated in the Second World War. Dara was captured prisoner in Malaysia. From both, I learned a lot about the division of India and Pakistan and how both served for their respective new countries, face to face in this war.

I am explaining all this to show how close the FIH has been throughout my life. The FIH members were my teachers, the FIH was my school. I firmly believe that this whole great family and its history led me to love this sport of Hockey intensely and passionately and pushed me to dedicate a very important and significant part of my life to hockey. I tried to follow these teachings throughout the time I had responsibilities within hockey. I have consistently aimed to achieve goals based on what I have learned within the FIH family.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the magnificent work, dedication and sacrifice of all the Presidents I have known, my predecessors René Frank, Étienne Glichitch, Juan Ángel Calzado and Els van Breda, and my successors Narinder Batra and Tayyab Ikram.

These are the reasons I can say and feel that the FIH is my family".

A History of FIH Events

The story of hockey's global rise is intricately linked to the major events that have shaped the sport over the past century. These events have not only been the stages for intense competition but also the platforms for innovation, inclusivity, and the spread of hockey to new audiences around the world. This chapter explores the development of key FIH tournaments, focusing on the 11-a-side format and the newer variants like Indoor Hockey and Hockey5s. Through these narratives, we uncover the impact these events have had on the sport, its players, and its global fanbase.

Official programme of the very first Men's World Cup in 1971, in Spain

FIH Hockey Men's World Cup

The FIH Hockey World Cup, a concept first proposed by Pakistan's Air Marshal Nur Khan, was approved on 26 October 1969 and adopted by the FIH Council at a meeting in Brussels in April 1970, with the first edition originally scheduled to be held in October 1971, in Pakistan.

The FIH Hockey Men's World Cup Trophy

However, political issues would prevent that first competition from being played in Pakistan. As the time of the first World Cup approached, hosts Pakistan were entrenched in the Bangladesh Liberation War. Furthermore, Pakistan and India had been at war with each other only six years earlier and when invitations to compete in the tournament were sent, a crisis arose in both countries regarding India's participation in an event to be held in Pakistan.

Given the intense political climate between Pakistan and India, the FIH decided to move the tournament elsewhere. In March 1971, the first FIH Hockey Men's World Cup was moved to the Real Club de Polo grounds in Barcelona, Spain, which was considered a neutral and peaceful site.

The inception of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup in 1971 marked a pivotal moment in the history of hockey. The inaugural tournament set the stage for what would become one of the most prestigious competitions in the sport. The decision to establish a World Cup was driven by a desire to provide a regular, high-profile competition that would complement the Olympic Games, which had long been the pinnacle of international hockey.

The first Men's World Cup saw Pakistan emerge as the champions, defeating Spain 1–0 in a closely contested final. Pakistan's victory was a testament to their dominance in the sport during that era, having already won multiple Olympic medals. This triumph also solidified the World Cup as a tournament of great significance, one that would inspire generations of players and captivate audiences around the world.

Over the years, the Men's World Cup has grown in stature, with teams from across the globe vying for the title. The tournament has seen the emergence of new powerhouses, such as Australia and the Netherlands, who have each claimed multiple titles.

The competition has also expanded to include more teams, reflecting the increasing global reach of hockey. The World Cup's rich history is filled with memorable moments, such as India's victory in 1975, when they defeated arch-rivals Pakistan in an iconic final held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Pakistan are the most successful team in the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup history, winning the title on four occasions. Australia, Netherlands and Germany have claimed the title three times, while India and Belgium have each emerged as champions on one occasion.

Khalid Mahmood holding aloft the World Cup trophy won for the first time by Pakistan at Barcelona 1971

Pakistan v. India at the 2010 Men's World Cup in New Delhi

Belgium won the Men's World Cup for the first time in 2018.

The Kookaburras winning the 2014 World Cup.

The World Cup brings numerous fans in the stadiums. Here in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India in 2018.

Germany won their third Men's World Cup in 2023.

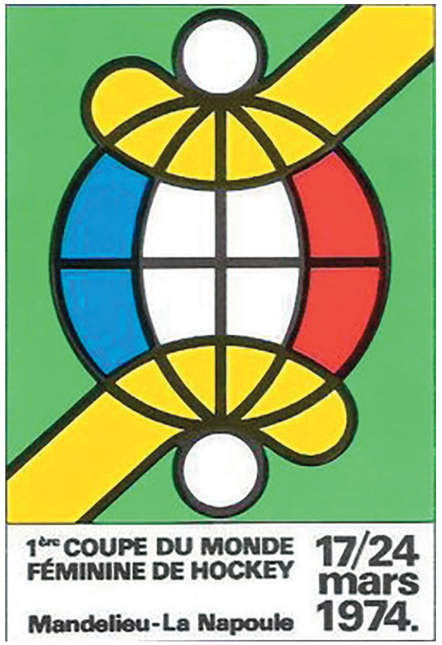
Olly, the 2023 FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar-Rourkela mascot.

FIH Hockey Women's World Cup

Following the success of the Men's World Cup, the FIH introduced the Women's World Cup in 1974, with the first edition held in Mandelieu, France. However, before the first FIH Hockey Women's World Cup in 1974, the stage had been set by the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations (IFWHA) which staged competitions, beginning in 1933, alongside its World Conferences. The IFWHA competitions were organised between 1933 and 1983 with the final 1983 event co-organised with the FIH. In the largest edition (1975), a total of 22 teams took part.

■ Championnat du Monde Hockey féminin F.I.H Amsterdam 1948' badge medals.

By the mid 1970s, the IFWHA and the FIH had begun the process of creating a joint hockey federation and so the first FIH Women's World Cup took place in 1974 in Mandelieu in France. This tournament continued to take women's hockey forward, providing a global stage for female athletes to showcase their talents. The inaugural event saw the Netherlands claim the title, defeating Argentina in the final. The Dutch victory was a harbinger of their future dominance in women's hockey, as they would go on to win numerous World Cups and Olympic medals in the years to come.



■ Official poster of the very first FIH Hockey Women's World Cup in 1974, in France.

The Women's World Cup has played a crucial role in promoting gender equality within the sport. By providing women with the same opportunities to compete at the highest level, the tournament has helped to elevate the profile of women's hockey and inspire young girls around the world to take up the sport. Over the years, the Women's World Cup has seen its fair share of thrilling matches and upsets, such as Australia's dramatic win over Korea in 1998 and Argentina's emotional victory on home soil in 2010.

■ The Dutch team winning the inaugural FIH Hockey Women's World Cup.

■ The Netherlands have lifted the Women's World Cup Trophy a record 9 times! Here in 2022.

1974 Women's World Cup – The Netherlands' Ascendancy Begins

Just three years after the men's event, the FIH organised the first Women's Hockey World Cup in 1974, with Mandelieu, France, serving as the host city. The tournament was a landmark event in the history of women's sports, providing female hockey players with their first opportunity to compete for a world title on the same level as their male counterparts.

The Netherlands entered the tournament as one of the favourites, and they lived up to expectations with a series of dominant performances. The final saw the Dutch team face off against Argentina, a match that would become the beginning of a storied rivalry in women's hockey. The Netherlands emerged victorious, winning the final and claiming the first-ever FIH Women's World Cup title.

This victory was the start of the Netherlands' long-standing dominance in women's hockey. The Dutch team's success at the inaugural World Cup laid the foundation for what would become one of the most successful programs in the sport's history. With numerous World Cup and Olympic titles to their name, the Netherlands has become synonymous with excellence in women's hockey.

Netherlands' dominance in the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup has been unparalleled, with the Dutch women having won gold at nine of the fifteen editions of the event, while Australia, Argentina and Germany have each stood on the top step of the podium on two occasions.

Las Leonas, winning their second Women's World in 2010, at home

The World Cup ... pure emotions!

The Netherlands winning the 2018 edition of the Women's World Cup, in England

Irish fans supporting the Green Army who reached the Women's World Cup final in 2018!

The Hockeyroos have won the Women's World Cup twice (1994, 1998)

FIH Hockey Pro League – 2019–Present

The FIH Hockey Pro League was launched in 2019 as the successor to the World League and Champions Trophy, combining the best elements of both tournaments into a single, global competition in both men's and women's category. The Pro League features the top 9 men's and women's teams, who compete across the globe in multiple venues over several months in a league format, with the title going to the most consistent team that stands at the top of the points table at the end of the season.

The Pro League was designed to provide more regular and consistent international competition for fans to enjoy, as well as giving teams the opportunity to test themselves against the best in the world on a regular basis. The league's global reach and high-profile matches have made it a key component of the FIH's strategy to grow the sport and attract new fans.

The inaugural season of the Pro League saw Australia win the men's title, while the Netherlands claimed the women's crown. The competition has continued to grow in popularity, with more teams and nations expressing interest in joining the league. The Pro League has also served as a platform for the introduction of new technology and innovations, such as video referrals and shoot-outs to provide a bonus point at the end of tied matches, further enhancing the spectator experience.

■ FIH Hockey Pro League winners

FIH Hockey Pro League winners

■ FIH Hockey Pro League winners

FIH Hockey Nations Cups – 2022–Present

The FIH Hockey Nations Cup, introduced in 2022, is the newest addition to the international hockey calendar. The tournament was created to provide a competitive platform for teams outside the Pro League, offering them the chance to compete for promotion to the Pro League. The Nations Cup is part of the FIH's efforts to ensure that all teams, regardless of their ranking, have the opportunity to compete at a high level and develop their skills.

The first edition of the Nations Cup was held in Potchefstroom, South Africa, for the men's competition, and in Valencia, Spain, for the women's. South Africa won the inaugural men's title, while India claimed the women's title. The Nations Cup has been praised for its role in promoting competitive balance in international hockey and providing emerging teams with the opportunity to gain a pathway to compete against the established hockey powerhouses on the global stage and further improve their standards.

FIH Hockey Nations Cup winners

An FIH Hockey Nations Cup II, involving third-tier nations, will come to life in 2025.

FIH Hockey Junior World Cup

The FIH Hockey Junior World Cup is one of the premier events in the hockey calendar, designed to showcase the talent of young athletes under the age of 21. Launched in 1979 for men and in 1989 for women, the tournament has grown to be a vital stepping stone for aspiring players to gain international experience before moving on to senior-level competitions. Over the decades, the Junior World Cup has witnessed the rise of some of the most legendary players in the sport, and it continues to be a breeding ground for the future stars of hockey.

The idea for a junior version of the Hockey World Cup came at a time when international hockey was undergoing significant changes. FIH had already established a senior men's World Cup in 1971 and a women's edition in 1974, but there was a gap in opportunities for young players to showcase their skills on an international platform. Recognizing the need for a global event dedicated to junior athletes, FIH inaugurated the Men's Junior World Cup in 1979.

The first edition took place in Versailles, France, and featured 12 teams. Pakistan, known for their dominance in hockey during this era, emerged as the champions, defeating West Germany in the final. The success of the tournament cemented the Junior World Cup as a fixture in the FIH calendar.

For the women's game, the first Junior World Cup was held a decade later in 1989. The tournament, hosted in Ottawa, Canada, marked a significant development for women's hockey at the junior level. West Germany claimed the inaugural title by defeating South Korea in the final.

The turn of the century marked a golden period for the Junior World Cup, as several players who would later become senior world champions and Olympic medallists first made their mark in the junior ranks. The number of teams participating in the Junior Hockey World Cups were increased from 12 to 16 and it led to increased competition, with teams like South Korea, Argentina, Australia, India and France claiming impressive podium finishes.

Germany has remained a dominant force in the men's game, winning their seventh Junior World Cup title in 2023. India's gold medal finish in the 2016 edition featured future stars like Harmanpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh and Gurjant Singh, who would all play pivotal roles in India winning back-to-back bronze medals at the Olympics in Tokyo and Paris ending the nation's 40-year podium drought, further proving the success national teams could find by investing in the junior level.

Germany won their seventh Men's Junior World Cup title in 2023

For the Juniors as well, Netherlands are the most successful team with five titles

The women's Junior World Cup has continued to be a hotly contested tournament, with Netherlands being the most successful team with five titles. Two Argentinian gold medals and two South Korean ones were remarkable achievements and launched successful periods for the senior teams of the two nations as well.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Junior World Cup is its role in shaping the careers of players who go on to achieve greatness in senior hockey. The likes of Australia's Jamie Dwyer, Netherlands' Xan de Waard and Maria Verschoor, Germany's Christopher Rühr, India's Harmanpreet Singh and Argentina's Luciana Aymar and Delfina Merino, among scores of others, all tasted success at the Junior World Cups before becoming legends in the sport.

Hockey star player Christopher Rühr (Germany) was already the Best player of the 2013 Men's Junior World Cup

The FIH Junior Hockey World Cup has played a pivotal role in the development of hockey across the globe. It not only provides young players with an invaluable platform to gain experience but also showcases the future of the sport. Over the years, it has evolved into a tournament that captures the imagination of hockey fans worldwide, offering a glimpse into the next generation of hockey stars. As the tournament continues to grow in both stature and reach, it remains a crucial event for the sport, contributing to the global expansion and popularity of hockey.

The 2025 edition of the FIH Junior Hockey World Cups, will further expand the competition, with 24 teams qualifying to play in the event, up from 16 teams in the previous editions. The expansion will allow more teams from across the globe to get early exposure to international competition and aid in the growth of the senior teams in the future.

Santiago, Chile, hosted 3 editions of the Women's Junior World Cup. Including the 2016 one.

Team captains posing with the Women's Junior World Cup trophy in Santiago, Chile, in 2023

South Africa celebrating in front of their home crowd in Potchefstroom in 2022

Beautiful sunset in Potchefstroom, South Africa, host of the 2022 Women's Junior World Cup

FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup – 2003–Present

The introduction of the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup in 2003 marked the formal recognition of indoor hockey as a distinct and important variant of the sport. Indoor hockey, with its smaller teams and faster-paced action, had long been popular in countries like Germany and the Netherlands. The inaugural Indoor World Cup was held in Leipzig, Germany, and featured teams from around the world.

Germany emerged as the champions of the first men's and women's Indoor World Cup, defeating Poland and Netherlands in the final, respectively. The success of the tournament helped to raise the profile of indoor hockey and establish it as a key component of the international hockey calendar. The Indoor World Cup has since grown in popularity, with subsequent editions held in various countries, including Austria, Poland, and South Africa. The FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup 2025 will be played in Croatia, which will host its first global hockey event.

Germany has been the dominant force in the men's competition, winning the first three titles, while Austria have emerged as a new powerhouse, having won the title in back-to-back editions in 2018 and 2023. The format has also seen an emergence of Iran, who have become a major force in the event, winning back-to-back bronze medals and the 2018 and 2023 editions.

Netherlands and Germany have shared the honours in the women's tournament winning the title three times each. Much like Iran in the men's competition, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Belarus are teams that have stood at the podium in an FIH Women's Indoor Hockey World Cup, despite not being recognised powerhouses in the traditional 11-a-side format of the sport.

The Indoor World Cup has also played a crucial role in the development of players. The skills honed in the indoor format, such as close control, quick passing, and tactical awareness, have translated into improved performances in the traditional 11-a-side game. As a result, countries with strong indoor hockey traditions have consistently been among the top performers in both indoor and outdoor hockey.

■ The third edition of the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup was played in Poznan, Poland, in 2011.

■ Fans in Berlin, Germany, have filled in the venue of the 2018 edition of the Indoor World Cup

Iran is the only non-European team having been on the podium of the Indoor World Cup, with two consecutive bronze medals (2018, 2023).

In 2023, the Indoor World Cup was played for the first time outside of Europe, namely in Pretoria, South Africa

Germany and the Netherlands women have won all Indoor World Cups (3 titles each)!

Austria have won the last two editions of the Men's Indoor World Cup (2018, 2023).

Nkosi the Lion, the mascot of the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup South Africa 2023

FIH Hockey5s World Cup – 2024–Present

The FIH Hockey5s World Cup, debuted in January 2024, representing the latest innovation in the sport's evolution. Hockey5s, a format designed for smaller teams and shorter matches, was introduced by the FIH in 2013 as part of its efforts to make hockey more accessible and appealing, particularly in regions where resources for the traditional 11-a-side game are limited.

The first FIH Hockey5s World Cup was held during January 2024 in Muscat, Oman, a choice that underscores FIH's commitment to expanding the sport's reach beyond its traditional heartlands. The tournament featured both men's and women's competitions, with teams from across the globe competing for the inaugural titles, as the emphasis on speed, skill, and goal-scoring in Hockey5s provided plenty of excitement for fans and players alike.

Multiple teams made their first ever appearance at an FIH Hockey World Cup, in any format, during the FIH Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024. From Oceania, the men's and women's teams from Fiji made their first ever appearance. From Asia, it was the men's and women's teams of Oman along with the women's team of Thailand. From Africa, it was the women's team from Zambia. From the Americas, the Jamaican men's team and the women's team from Paraguay represented their nations, in their first ever appearance at an FIH Hockey World Cup.

Netherlands won the title in both men's and women's events, with Malaysia and Oman putting together stellar campaigns to claim the silver and bronze medals in the men's competition, while India and Poland wrote themselves into history as well, winning the silver and bronze medal respectively, at the inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup.

Hockey5s has already proven to be a popular and effective tool for promoting the sport in regions where traditional hockey has struggled to gain a foothold due to a lack of existing infrastructure. The format's simplicity, combined with its fast-paced nature, has made it particularly appealing to younger audiences and new fans of the sport. The Hockey5s World Cup further elevated the profile of this innovative format and provided a global platform for its continued growth.

The introduction of the Hockey5s World Cup is also a reflection of the FIH's broader goals of inclusivity and global outreach. By lowering the barriers to participation—fewer players, less equipment, and smaller fields—Hockey5s has made it possible for more communities to engage with hockey, thereby expanding the sport's global footprint. The tournament is expected to play a key role in the development of hockey in emerging regions, providing new opportunities for players, coaches, and fans to be part of the global hockey community.

The inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup played in 2024 in a state-of-the-art venue surrounded by the gorgeous scenery of Oman was a tribute to diversity.

■ The inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup played in 2024 in a state-of-the-art venue surrounded by the gorgeous scenery of Oman was a tribute to diversity.

FIH HOCKEY5s
WORLD CUP
OMAN 2024
CHAMPIONS
FIH HOCKEY5s
WORLD CUP

grays

Men's Hockey Champions Trophy – 1978–2018 (37 editions)

The introduction of the Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in 1978 was another watershed moment in the evolution of hockey events. Conceived by the Pakistan Hockey Federation, the Champions Trophy was designed to bring together the world's top teams in an annual competition, ensuring a high level of competition outside the Olympic cycle. The first edition was held in Lahore, Pakistan, and featured five teams: Pakistan, Australia, the Netherlands, Spain, and Great Britain.

Pakistan, the host nation, won the inaugural Champions Trophy, delivering on their status as the dominant force in world hockey at that time. The format of the tournament, which was played in a league format in the earlier editions, and in later editions featured a round-robin group stage followed by a final, provided plenty of opportunities for thrilling encounters and set the tone for future editions. Over its 37-year history, the Champions Trophy became known for its competitiveness and the consistently high level of hockey on display.

The tournament also served as a testing ground for new rules and innovations, such as the introduction of the shootout to decide tied matches. The Champions Trophy's significance extended beyond just the competition; it was a prestigious event that offered teams the chance to measure themselves against the best in the world on a regular basis.

Women's Hockey Champions Trophy – 1987–2018 (23 editions)

Inspired by the success of the Men's Champions Trophy, the FIH launched the Women's Champions Trophy in 1987. The inaugural tournament was held in Amstelveen, Netherlands, and featured five teams: the Netherlands, Australia, West Germany, Canada, and England. The Netherlands emerged as the winners, underscoring their status as a powerhouse in women's hockey.

The Women's Champions Trophy quickly became one of the most important events in the women's hockey calendar, providing a platform for the world's best teams to compete regularly at a high level. Like its male counterpart, the tournament was known for its competitive nature and the quality of the hockey on display. Over the years, Australia, the Netherlands, and Argentina emerged as dominant forces in the competition, with each nation winning multiple titles.

One of the most memorable editions of the Women's Champions Trophy was the 2012 tournament in Rosario, Argentina. The home team, led by the legendary Luciana Aymar, won the title in front of a passionate home crowd, defeating Great Britain in the final. This victory was particularly significant as it marked Aymar's farewell from international hockey, capping off her illustrious career with yet another major title.

■ Argentina and the Netherlands have won 7 FIH Women's Champions Trophy titles each

FIH Hockey World League – 2012–2017 (3 seasons)

The FIH Hockey World League was introduced in 2012 as part of the FIH's efforts to expand the sport's global reach and provide more opportunities for more nations to compete internationally. The World League was a groundbreaking competition that featured multiple rounds, allowing teams from all levels of the sport to participate. The tournament began with a round-robin phase involving lower-ranked teams, with the winners advancing to join the higher-ranked teams in the later rounds.

The World League's format was designed to be inclusive and to give emerging hockey nations the chance to compete against more established teams. The first season of the World League saw the men's competition won by the Netherlands, while the women's title went to the Netherlands as well. Subsequent seasons saw Australia emerge as back-to-back champions in the men's competition, while the women's titles were shared between the Netherlands and Argentina.

The World League was a significant innovation in the world of hockey, providing teams with a regular schedule of international matches and helping to raise the standard of play across the board. Although the tournament was eventually replaced by the FIH Hockey Pro League, it played a crucial role in the development of the sport during its brief existence.

The Kookaburras won 2 of the 3 editions of the FIH Men's Hockey World League

The Netherlands won the first and the final editions of the FIH Women's Hockey World League

The Legacy of Hockey's Major Events

The evolution of hockey's major events has played a crucial role in shaping the sport's global identity and growing its fanbase. From the establishment of the FIH Men's and Women's World Cups to the introduction of innovative formats like the Indoor Hockey World Cup and Hockey5s World Cup, these tournaments have provided the stages on which the sport's greatest moments have been played out.

These events have not only elevated the level of competition but have also served as catalysts for the growth and development of hockey around the world. They have inspired generations of players, coaches, and fans, and have helped to promote the values of inclusivity, sportsmanship, and excellence that are at the heart of hockey.

As the FIH continues to innovate and expand the sport's global reach, the legacy of these major events will undoubtedly endure. The stories of triumph and defeat, of legendary players and unforgettable matches, will continue to be told, inspiring future generations to take up the stick and be part of the ever-evolving story of hockey.

Marsha Cox

(South Africa)

"I guess hockey was always in my DNA. Growing up alongside the field as my mum played and coached at the highest level in Durban, KZN, she used to tell me how she would breastfeed me at halftime haha! I loved playing the game and as I grew older, my passion for hockey grew and many of my dreams came true.

Hockey has offered me soooo many amazing memories. Many of my friendships are built on the base of hockey events of some sorts, and I am forever grateful for that. It's hard for me to call out a specific moment to highlight because there are so many that make me smile or laugh for days, like my very first World Cup in Perth 2002, when I made massive strides in my playing career, to the London Olympics qualifiers in India in 2012, and how could I ever forget being part of the 2010 World Cup in Argentina when Argentina won gold and the crowd going wild– crazy scenes that made me understand how special this game is... and of course I suppose without hockey I probably would not have met my husband and that's special too.

Hockey is a sport that can offer so much to players and spectators, it would be amazing to see more spectators at all international games. I think by making it more accessible to see these players and get to know them, the big events will have fuller stadiums more consistently throughout the event. I love seeing the transformation and growth and some players becoming more famous, this would be incredible if it was even more players worldwide.

Playing international hockey for fifteen years meant sacrifices that offered rewards in so many ways. As a player, it was my job to play and be the best I could be, but only in the end did I truly understand and appreciate the people behind the scenes making not only the test games but major tournaments possible. Being part of the FIH Athletes Committee allowed me to also get to know the names and faces in the FIH and understand that my goals as a player were linked to their goals as an organization, we were all chasing a successful event in different capacities. Without the FIH a lot of our greatest hockey moments would not be possible.

Congratulations and thank you for being the organization that allows many dreams to come true!"

Jamie Dwyer

(Australia)

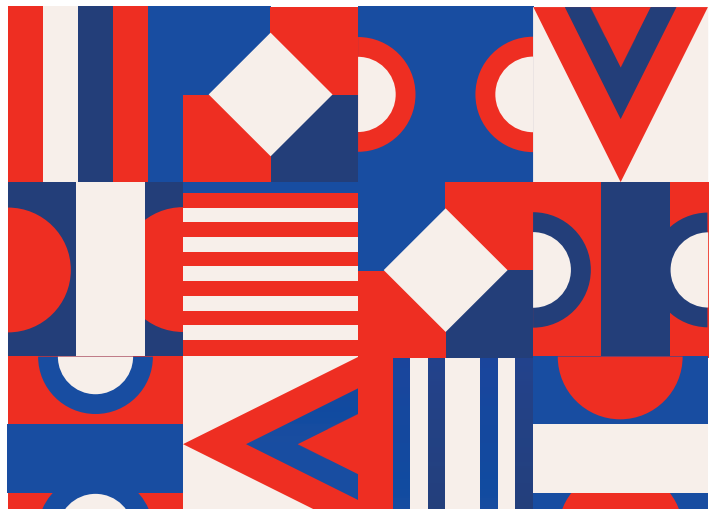
"I joined hockey because my parents played it and so did a lot of my extended family. I fell in love with the game straight away.

My fondest hockey moment was winning the 2004 Olympic Gold medal in Athens.

The best event I went to and participated in was the 2014 Hockey World Cup in Den Haag. The atmosphere and the set up was amazing and winning the World Cup was extra special.

A big congrats to the FIH for its centennial. Keep promoting and exposing our wonderful game around the world!"

Hockey and the Olympic Games



"As a hockey player, the biggest goal you could ever achieve is winning an Olympic gold medal. To do it, the feeling I experienced was relief and happiness, not just for myself but for my team-mates and for all the Australian players that played previously and didn't get to achieve what we achieved. It was for them, it was for my family, it was for my friends. All the commitments that I'd made, and all of my mates' commitments. It's just a really hard thing to explain. But in the end, it was what I had dreamed of when I was a little kid practising in my back yard, and it came true. It was an amazing feeling."

The words of Kookaburras superstar Jamie Dwyer, reflecting on Australia's first ever men's hockey Olympic gold medal at Athens 2004, encapsulate the profound significance that the Olympic Games hold for athletes worldwide. It is a statement that captures the emotion, sacrifice, and dedication required to reach the pinnacle of one's sport.

For players like Dwyer – a double World Cup winner and five times FIH Men's Player of the Year – winning an Olympic gold medal is the realization of a lifelong dream, a moment of triumph that embodies years of dedication and hard work. Hockey, with its rich Olympic history, has provided many such moments of triumph and heartache.

The Olympic Games plays a crucial role in the development and promotion of hockey on the global stage. It provides a platform for the world's best players to showcase their skills, compete at the highest level, and inspire the next generation of hockey players. It is a platform shared with the sport's umpires and officials, who also make immense sacrifices over many years in order to turn their own Olympic ambitions into reality.

■ Hockey has been proudly part of the Olympics programme for over a century.

Having debuted in 1908 and been ever present since 1928, hockey's 116-year association with the Olympic movement is a source of great pride for everyone involved in the sport. Hockey's enduring Olympic appeal is a tribute to its ability to adapt and grow on the greatest of stages, which in turn has safeguarded its status as a major Olympic sport. Being confirmed on the programme for both Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032, hockey's Olympic love affair looks set to continue for many years to come.

From humble beginnings at London 1908 to the 340,000 fans that witnessed 14 action-packed days at Paris 2024, hockey has been on quite the Olympic journey. The path has been marked by significant milestones including the formation of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), a direct result of hockey's omission from Paris 1924, and the belated but crucial introduction of a women's competition at Moscow 1980.

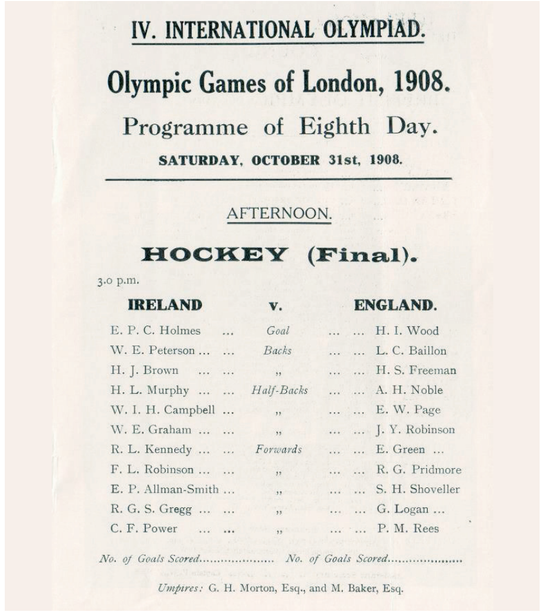
■ Millions of fans have been part of hockey's Olympic journey. Including 340'000 at Paris 2024.

1908–1920: A problematic beginning

When hockey made its bow at the London 1908 Olympic Games, the influence of British players and institutions – which had been at the heart of the sport's early development – was evident. England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales all competed as separate entities, being joined only by Germany and France. A dominant England won the gold medal, with star striker Reggie Pridmore scoring ten goals. However, with four of the six competing nations from the British Isles, the tournament lacked the kind of international representation that would soon be expected at the Olympic Games.

Hockey became an Olympic sport at the London 1908 Games.

Due to organisational challenges hockey was not included at Stockholm 1912 but returned to the programme at Antwerp 1920, the first Olympiad after World War I. Once again hockey's limited international reach proved problematic, with a unified Great Britain dominating a four-nation competition featuring Denmark, Belgium and France.



IV. INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD.

Olympic Games of London, 1908.

Programme of Eighth Day.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 1908.

AFTERNOON.

HOCKEY (Final).

3.0 p.m.

IRELAND		v.		ENGLAND.
E. P. C. Holmes	...	*Goal*	... ...	H. I. Wood
W. E. Peterson ...	...	*Backs*	... ...	L. C. Baillon
H. J. Brown	... ...	,,	... ...	H. S. Freeman
H. L. Murphy	... ...	*Half-Backs*	... ...	A. H. Noble
W. I. H. Campbell	...	,,	... ...	E. W. Page
W. E. Graham	... ...	,,	... ...	J. Y. Robinson
R. L. Kennedy	... ...	*Forwards*	... ...	E. Green ...
F. L. Robinson	... ...	,,	... ...	R. G. Pridmore
E. P. Allman-Smith	...	,,	... ...	S. H. Shoveller
R. G. S. Gregg	... ...	,,	... ...	G. Logan ...
C. F. Power	... ...	,,	... ...	P. M. Rees

No. of Goals Scored..... *No. of Goals Scored*.....

Umpires: G. H. Morton, Esq., and M. Baker, Esq.

London 1908 official programme.

Despite those early Olympic appearances, the lack of a global governing body to standardize rules or oversee international competitions left hockey deeply fragmented, greatly at odds with an Olympic movement that was growing exponentially. The absence of hockey from the Paris 1924 Olympic Games proved to be a pivotal moment for the sport. Struggling for inclusion in the Olympic programme, hockey needed a more organised and cohesive international framework. Without a central governing body, the chances of reinstating hockey in the Olympics looked slim.

India shine on hockey's Olympic return

With the FIH firmly established, hockey made a glorious Olympic return at Amsterdam 1928, where hosts the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, Germany and India would all fight for the title. Inspired by the brilliance of 22-year-old army captain Dhyan Chand, a new chapter in hockey's history was written with debutants India winning Olympic gold, defeating home favourites the Netherlands 3-0 in front of 40,000 spectators at Amsterdam's Olympic Stadium.

It was the first of six consecutive Olympic gold medals for India, a record unsurpassed to this day. Following a 15-goal contribution in Amsterdam 1928, Dhyan Chand – known simply as 'the Wizard' – played a starring role in India's triumphs at the Los Angeles 1932 and Berlin 1936 Olympic Games, becoming a triple Olympic gold medallist and a national hero.

India's success on the Olympic stage was not only a source of national pride but also highlighted the global reach of hockey which, thanks largely to the influence of the British Empire, had spread beyond Europe to Asia. The Indian team set a standard of excellence that inspired generations of hockey players around the world.

Dhyan Chand – known simply as 'the Wizard' – played a starring role in India's triumphs at the Los Angeles 1932 and Berlin 1936 Olympic Games (Photo: Getty/Bettmann)

The Post-War Years

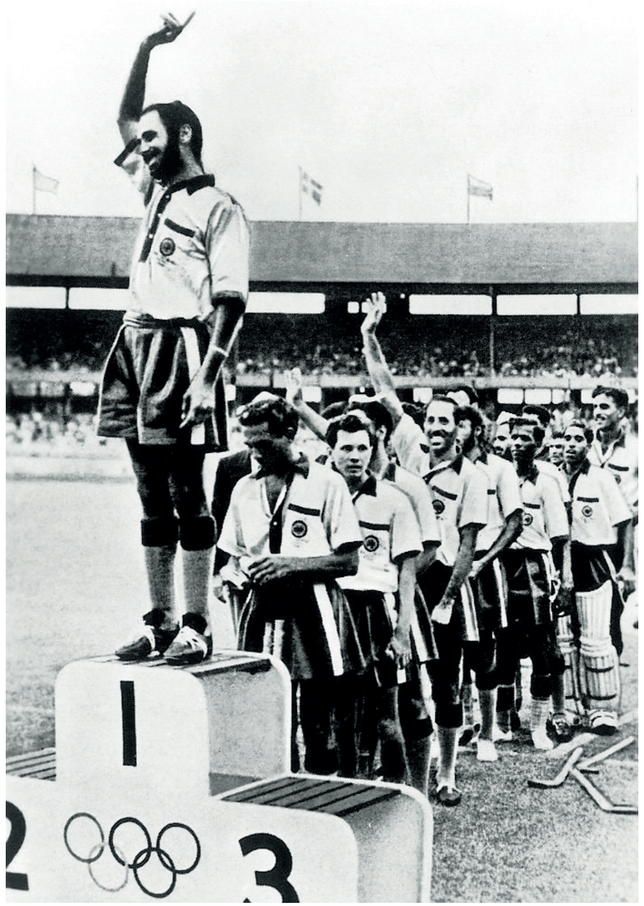
With the world again at war between 1939 and 1945, the follow-up to Berlin 1936 did not take place until 1948, with London hosting the largest and most diverse Olympic hockey competition yet. Thirteen different nations battled for the title including newcomers Pakistan, who would become India's biggest rival in the decades ahead. Despite the increased competition, India maintained their supremacy by winning a fourth consecutive gold medal, defeating Great Britain in the final. With India having gained independence from Britain just one year earlier, the result is still regarded as one of India's most significant and greatest ever sporting moments.

Having scored two goals in the 1948 Olympic final, Balbir Singh Sr, a Policeman from the state of Punjab, made an even bigger impact at Helsinki 1952 as India claimed their fifth gold medal. Balbir, India's flagbearer at the opening ceremony, scored five times in India's 6–1 win against the Netherlands, a record for an Olympic hockey final that stands to this day.

Balbir became a triple Olympic gold medallist at Melbourne 1956, a competition featuring nations representing all five continents, with India overcoming Pakistan 1–0 in front of 10,000 people at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to make it six in a row.

The rivalry between India and Pakistan grew throughout the 1950s and 1960s. India's iron-clad grip on the Olympic gold medal was finally freed at Rome 1960, where a solitary strike from Naseer Bunda gave Pakistan, the "Green Shirts", their first Olympic title. Four years later, at Tokyo 1964, the two giants of Asian hockey came face to face for a third consecutive final. This time it was India who emerged triumphant, with Mohinder Lal scoring the game's only goal to help his nation reclaim their crown.

The fierce rivalry between India and Pakistan fuelled a surge in interest in hockey, particularly in Asia, which became a hotbed for the sport. However, while India and Pakistan remained the teams to beat, other nations were beginning to close the gap. Australia made a huge impression at Mexico 1968, claiming a stunning semi-final victory over India – who had featured in the previous eight Olympic finals – before losing narrowly to Pakistan, with Abdul Rashid and Muhammad Asad Malik on target in a 2–1 win for the Green Shirts.



■ Olympic Games Melbourne 1956. India's captain Balbir Singh on the winner's rostrum waving to the audience (Photo by Ullstein Bild/Ullstein Bild via Getty Images)

■ Pakistan won their second (from three) Olympic Gold medals at the Mexico 1968 Games. (Photo by EPU / AFP)

Asian stranglehold broken

The India–Pakistan monopoly on the Olympic gold medal was finally broken at Munich 1972. Hosts West Germany defeated Pakistan 1–0 in the final, with Michael Krause scoring the title winning goal. It was another important moment for the sport, further evidence of hockey's transformation from a colonial sport to a truly global game.

It was a theme that continued at Montreal 1976, where neither European or Asian teams would contest the final of the first Olympic hockey competition, played for the first time on artificial turf. The gold medal match was an Oceania derby between New Zealand and Australia, with the Black Sticks shocking the Kookaburras as Tony Ineson's penalty stroke sealed a 1–0 win.

At the Olympic Games Montreal 1976, New Zealand defeated their Australian neighbours to win Gold! (Photo by AFP)

While the Moscow 1980 Olympic Games were heavily affected by boycotts, its importance for hockey will never be forgotten. The long-awaited introduction of a women's competition was a significant milestone for the sport, one that reflected the broader changes in gender equality within the Olympic movement. It also saw two moments of history, with Zimbabwe – who had been invited just five weeks before the competition – winning the first ever women's Olympic gold medal and India claiming a record-extending eighth men's crown.

Los Angeles 1984 was a glorious return to form for the Olympic Games, which reached its biggest global broadcast audience to date and bore witness to two sensational hockey competitions. As in 1972, the men's gold medal match was contested between Pakistan and West Germany. This time it was the Green Shirts who emerged triumphant, taking a 2–1 win thanks to goals from tournament top scorer Hassan Sardar and Kaleemullah Khan. The women's competition was dominated by the Netherlands, finishing top of the table in the round-robin competition to claim their first Olympic hockey gold medal.

The first Women's Olympic tournament took place at the Moscow 1980 Games, with Zimbabwe winning Gold!

Netherlands and Australia shine bright

The men's gold medals at Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000 were all taken by nations from Europe. Imran Sherwani scored twice as Great Britain defeated West Germany to gold in Seoul, with a unified Germany taking the title at Barcelona 1992 as a double strike from Michael Hilgers sank Australia. Inspired by the genius of attacker Teun de Nooijer, the Netherlands claimed back-to-back crowns at Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000, cementing their own status as one of hockey's powerhouse nations.

During the same period, Australia's women won three of the four available Olympic gold medals, finishing top of the podium at Seoul 1988, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000. In Seoul, strikes from Deborah Bowman and Lee Capes sealed the Hockeyroos' first Olympic title, defeating hosts Korea in the final. Spain's women shocked the world by winning gold on home soil at Barcelona 1992, but the Aussies soon reasserted their authority. The potent strike partnership of Alyson Annan and Katrina Powell proved unstoppable in both Atlanta and Sydney, with head coach Ric Charlesworth overseeing an astonishing period of dominance that resulted in Olympic gold medals either side of their 1998

■ Spain's Women's team became Olympic champions at home in 1992.

■ The Hockeyroos won Gold at home at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. AFP PHOTO/Jean-Pierre MULLER (Photo by JEAN-PIERRE MULLER / AFP)

World Cup win. Midfielder Rechelle Hawkes played a starring role in all three of Australia's triumphs, becoming hockey's first female triple Olympic gold medallist.

Four years after watching the Hockeyroos win their third gold medal, Australia men finally had their own moment in the sun at Athens 2004. Having lit up the competition with a string of incredible attacking performances, it was only fitting that Jamie Dwyer had the last word in the final against the Netherlands, scoring a golden goal in extra time to end the Kookaburras long wait for gold. Germany women also experienced first time Olympic glory, with early goals from Anke Kühn and Franzi Gude setting up a 2–1 triumph for Die Danas against the Netherlands.

Between Athens 2004 and Paris 2024, the Netherlands women featured in six successive Olympic gold medal matches, bouncing back from the agony of Athens by storming to glory at Beijing 2008 and London 2012. In Beijing Maartje Paumen set a new women's competition scoring record of 11 goals, but it was Naomi Van As and Maartje Goderie who made the telling contributions in the gold medal match, beating inspired hosts China 2–0. The mighty Dutch successfully defended their title four years later in London – where over 600,000 attended the 13 days of competition – with goals from Carlien Dirkse van den Heuvel and Paumen earning a 2–0 victory over world champions Argentina, a team captained by 'the Maradona of Hockey', Luciana Aymar.

The Netherlands women's feat of winning back-to-back titles at Beijing and London was matched by Germany men, who added third and fourth gold medals to their collection. Both finals were all European affairs, with a Christopher Zeller penalty corner earning a 1–0 victory over Spain at Beijing 2008 before two Jan-Philipp Rabente goals defeated the Netherlands 2–1 at London 2012.

It was in 2004 in Athens, Greece, that the Kookaburras were crowned Olympic champions! (Photo by Stuart Franklin/Getty Images) (Photo by Stuart Franklin / GETTY IMAGES EUROPE / Getty Images via AFP)

The Netherlands (Women) have won no less than 5 Gold medals in the Olympic history!

The German male team celebrating after the Beijing 2008 Final.

Shocks, shoot-outs and sensational stories

There were two huge shocks at Rio 2016, with Great Britain women and Argentina men unexpectedly snatching first Olympic golds. The women's final was a stone-cold classic, with Great Britain beating hot favourites the Netherlands in a dramatic shoot-out after an exhilarating match finished in a 3-3 draw. Goalkeeper Maddie Hinch proved to be Great Britain's heroine, keeping a clean sheet in a shoot-out watched by a huge UK television audience of over nine million people. Penalty corner ace Gonzalo Peillat was a critical element in Argentina's golden run, with the competition top scorer netting 11 times including one in the final against up-and-coming Belgium.

Rio 2016 crowned two new Olympic champions: Great Britain (Women) and Argentina (Men).

If Peillat was the undisputed penalty corner king of Rio, Belgium's Alexander Hendrickx proved himself as the rightful heir at Tokyo 2020, which due to Covid-19 had been delayed by one year and eventually took place without spectators. Hendrickx claimed a 14-goal haul as the Red Lions added Olympic gold to their sensational win at the 2018 World Cup, although it was the goalkeeping heroics of Vincent Vanasch that proved decisive, helping his team to a shoot-out win over Australia in the gold medal match. The Netherlands women claimed a record fourth Olympic gold, with Argentina having to settle for silver for a third time. Frederique Matla scored nine times for the Oranje, while captain Eva de Goede and legendary attacker Lidewij Welten both became triple Olympic champions following gold medals at Beijing 2008 and London 2012.

Belgium Men – for the first time – and the Netherlands Women won Gold in Tokyo. The Games were postponed by a year and played without spectators due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Paris 2024 marks centenary celebrations

In what proved to be the most fitting of locations, the 2024 Olympic Games took place in the city where the FIH had been founded 100 years earlier. This time around, hockey was very much on the programme. Remarkably, the Paris 2024 Olympic hockey competition took place at the iconic Stade Yves-du-Manoir, the main stadium for the Paris 1924 Games, completing the circle after hockey's fateful omission a century ago. It proved to be a stunning event, with sell-out crowds witnessing incredible contests that created amazing stories.

The Paris 2024 Olympic hockey tournaments took place at the iconic Stade Yves-du-Manoir, the main stadium for the Paris 1924 Games.

The Netherlands become the first nation to win both the men's and women's gold medals at the same Olympic Games, with men's captain Thierry Brinkman becoming an Olympic hockey champion just as his father, Jacques Brinkman, did at Athens 1996 and Sydney 2000. Also following in family footsteps was women's top scorer Yibbi Jansen, whose father Ronald, a goalkeeper, won two gold medals alongside Jacques Brinkman. The family connections continued with Seve and Paul van Ass; midfielder Seve winning gold with the men while dad Paul coached the women to a record extending fifth Olympic gold medal.

At Paris 2024, the Netherlands have become the first nation in history to secure both the Women's and Men's Olympic gold medals at the same Games.

After Beijing 2008, China Women won their second Olympic Silver medal at Paris 2024.

Away from the Netherlands' glorious golden double, one of the biggest stories in Paris was the astonishing re-birth of China's women. Thanks to the tactical brilliance of legendary Hockeyroo Alyson Annan – who previously coached the Netherlands women to the Olympic title at Tokyo 2020 – she coached the China team to match the silver medal they won on home soil at Beijing 2008. Having held one of the most dominant sporting teams the world has ever seen to a draw before losing a shoot-out, China are unquestionably a global force once more.

Hockey's wonderful Olympic story is not just a chronicle of medals and tournaments; it is a reflection of the sport's ability to transcend borders and bring together nations from across the world. The FIH's efforts to standardize the game, promote inclusivity, and embrace innovation – including the hugely popular Hockey5s format at the Youth Olympic Games – have ensured that hockey remains a vibrant, essential part of the Olympic tradition, continuing to inspire new generations of players and fans alike.

Looking forward to the LA28 Games, hockey has the opportunity to benefit from the popularity of the Olympic Games to build on the well-established and high-profile NCAA college sport system, where "field" hockey is hugely popular for female athletes, to grow the men's game. The US approach to sport and entertainment will no doubt see a further step forwards for the global game, which then moves on to the hockey powerhouse of Australia for the Olympic Games Brisbane 2032.

India Men added a 13th Olympic medal – a Bronze one – to their impressive track record at Paris 2024.

Antonio von Ondarza

(Honorary Member of FIH and PAHF)

Celebrating a Centennial of Hockey: My Journey and the Legacy of FIH

"This year, we celebrate a significant milestone in the history of Hockey: the 100th anniversary of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). This commemoration is not only a moment to reflect on past achievements but also to recognize the evolution of the sport and its impact on our lives.

My journey in hockey began several decades ago, and throughout my career, I have been fortunate to play various roles: from player to administrator, as well as in the governance of FIH and the PAHF.

Since 1979, I have been part of the Executive Board of PAHF, where I served as Director and then President for 26 years. Likewise, since 1987, I have been involved in the Executive Board of FIH, where I held the position of Vice President for 26 years.

I am currently a proud Honorary Member of FIH and PAHF.

A Journey of Passion and Commitment

Hockey has been more than just a sport for me; it has been a passion that has guided my life. From my first steps on the field, I knew this sport would provide not only physical challenges but also the opportunity to be part of a global community. I have witnessed how hockey has grown and transformed, from the early tournaments to the development of world-class competitions that attract thousands of fans.

One of my most special memories is the only ever 5 Continent Cup tournament held in 1990 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, sponsored by then the Ruler of the country, Sultan Azlan Shah, Vice President of the FIH. Five teams were formed with players from their continents, creating a unique atmosphere of camaraderie and competition. The dinner at the royal palace was a perfect closing to that unforgettable experience.

Another curious moment took place during the Pan American Games in Cali, Colombia, in 1971. Continuous rains threatened to postpone the matches. In an ingenious solution, Misha Azriel, Vice President of the FIH and TD of the tournament decided to hire a military helicopter. By flying over the field, the rotor blades quickly dispersed the water, allowing us to continue the games. It was a true success that left a lasting impression on everyone present.

The Legacy of FIH

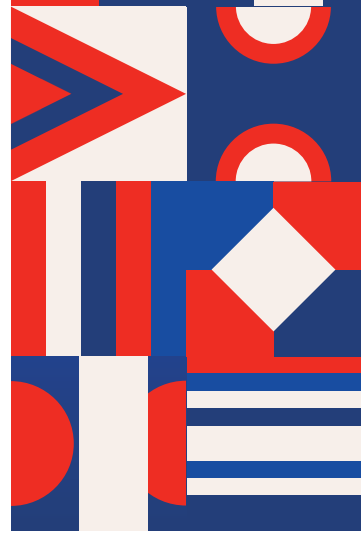
On this Centennial of the FIH, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all who have been part of this exciting history. Every player, coach, referee, and fan has contributed to building the hockey we know today. Let us continue celebrating our passion for hockey and fostering unity and friendship through this beautiful sport. FIH has succeeded in uniting nations, promoting respect and friendship through hockey and most important, family unity.

Looking to the Future

As we celebrate this centenary, we must also look toward the future. Inclusion, innovation, and sustainability will be crucial for the continued growth of hockey. We must keep inspiring young players and leaders, ensuring that hockey remains a pillar in the global sports landscape.

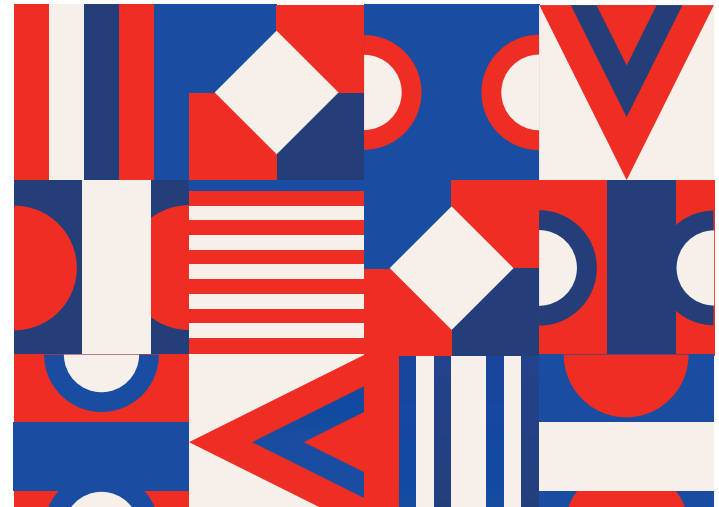
In conclusion, my journey in hockey has been a rewarding experience filled with lessons and unforgettable memories. The celebration of FIH's 100th anniversary is a testament to the power of this sport to unite people from different cultures and backgrounds. I hope to continue being part of this wonderful world of hockey for many more years to come.

Happy centenary to FIH and to all those who make it possible for hockey to keep growing!"



Growing

Hockey



Developing the game is the number one mission of an international sports Federation. The same goes for FIH, of course. Over the last century, FIH has created development and education programmes for athletes, coaches, umpires, officials or administrators – in particular through the FIH Academy – and accompanied a number of Continental Federations and National Associations in their growth.

FIH High Performance Coach Course, FIH Odisha Hockey World Cup, Bhubaneswar 2023

FIH Technical Officials Course, Abuja, Nigeria 2019

FIH World Hockey Camp Cardiff, Wales, hockey development camps for talented young players

Hockey initiation area at Paris 2024

FIH Empowerment and Engagement strategy*

On 6 June 2023 at the Olympic House in Lausanne, FIH and its President, Tayyab Ikram, launched a first-of-a-kind strategy for the global development of hockey – called "Empowerment and Engagement" strategy – in attendance of IOC President Thomas Bach.

The strategy aims in the first place at empowering hockey stakeholders such as Continental Federations (CFs) and National Associations (NAs) for them to lead the development of hockey in their respective continents and countries, and engaging with all FIH members and hockey stakeholders.

The exhaustive and ambitious programme centers around four main pillars:

- More places to play
- A boost to coaching
- More opportunities to compete
- More tools to empower CFs and NAs

Other key elements include:

- Reaching out to youth
- A new Development Bureau managing and overseeing execution
- An enhanced communication, with an intensified digital engagement
- A regular consultation with hockey stakeholders
- A transparent process
- A repurposed Hockey Foundation, driving social development, sustainability efforts and FIH contribution to the UN SDGs through hockey
- Playing a positive role on society
- A firm commitment for sustainability, strengthening hockey values such as gender equality, inclusion and diversity, into an enhanced FIH Sustainability Strategy.

Since the launch of the strategy, numerous concrete activities have been implemented, such as

- National Associations Summits and calls with NAs, that serve as a platform to promote solidarity among CFs and NAs, and development of hockey
- Enhancing the position of hockey within the Olympic Movement, including multiple meetings with IOC President
- Massive engagement opportunity for smaller nations through the very first FIH Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024
- Many dry turf pitches installed around the world, especially in NAs where hockey is still in developing phases, including in Africa and Asia
- Planning for Nations Cup 2 that will provide a unique opportunity for 3rd tier nations to play a global top-flight event
- Empowerment of NAs by providing more exposure to explore the new potential and new avenues for hockey in regions where the sport is less privileged (Hockey5s World Cup and Olympic Qualifier in Oman, Nations Cup in Poland, Indoor World Cup in Croatia)
- Equipment distribution projects successfully conducted in consultation with CFs
- Feasibility for several projects of Hockey5s turf allocation to NAs ready – these projects will also be delivered through CFs
- Many coaching assistance programs successfully conducted in several NAs

**source: FIH Annual Report 2023*

In the following pages, the five Continental Federations of hockey tell some of their most prominent hockey development stories.

The FIH Empowerment and Engagement Strategy was launched by IOC President Thomas Bach and FIH President Tayyab Ikram at the Olympic House

Keeping hockey strong and alive in Zambia

"I feel Zambia hockey is my baby. I am very happy for the progress and growth of hockey in this beautiful country." These words come from the very President of the African Hockey Federation, Seif Ahmed, himself. And here's why ...

Hockey in Zambia was excellent up to the 1960s and early 1970s. The situation was similar in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Men's hockey was at that time played by Asian – mainly Indian – players in those countries.

When those players left back to India however, men's hockey was impacted in East Africa as there weren't good enough national players.

More importantly, the support received from the mining industry ceased, causing men's hockey to collapse in Zambia. This happened when the government sold off all the copper mines to private investors.

African hockey's governing body was obviously concerned that the national participation in continental competition of the men's team was missing. Consequently, it decided to primarily focus on re-introducing hockey in countries where it once had been successfully running, before starting to look for new nations.

One of the target countries was Zambia, precisely. Zambia was carefully selected because, considering the aspect of geography, it is neighbor to 8 countries. Re-igniting hockey there and establishing an Olympic Youth Development Centre in the capital city, Lusaka, would therefore act as a hub to not only re-start hockey in Zambia but also hope for a spill-over effect on the neighboring countries. Indeed, the Centre was planned to be used as a training centre for the whole region.

Zambia was a fortunate recipient of this programme under the then IOC President Dr Jacques Rogge, and with much communication

The creation of the Youth Olympic Centre in Lusaka helped to relaunch hockey in Zambia.

between the then President of the Zambia National Olympic Committee Patrick Chamunda, the Zambia Hockey Association and the then FIH President Els van Breda to ensure a hockey pitch was part of this IOC development programme.

"I recall talking with Dr Rogge who specifically indicated that if Zambia qualified to the 2014 Nanjing Youth Olympic Games, it would be testimony to the success of having hockey included in the programme. We did qualify, made many positive results and left a good mark carrying our heads high and fully participating", FIH EB Member and Zambia Hockey Association President Hazel Kennedy remembers.

Hockey was still practiced on a small scale in the north of the country, namely in the Copperbelt province, located roughly 500 kilometers from Lusaka.

But in the capital city, everything had to start from scratch again ...

"My first visit to Zambia was in 2007 with Ms. Clare Digby, the Chair of the African Development & Coaching Committee (DCC), and a member of the FIH DCC. We selected some capable people – mainly physical education teachers – who had hockey knowledge to re-start hockey. We sent equipment and ran umpiring and coaching courses, with very good support from Hazel Kennedy who was both the President of Zambia Hockey Association and the Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee (NOC). Also, the President of the NOC, Ms. Miriam Moyo, was an ex-hockey player", Seif Ahmed recalls.

The Youth Olympic Centre in Lusaka was eventually inaugurated in 2011 in attendance of the then FIH President Leandro Negre. And there is no doubt that it helped a lot for the development of hockey in Zambia!

Commenting on this particularly challenging time and its happy outcome, Hazel Kennedy says: "It was a harrowing time trying not to lose the Hockey Association in Zambia. But we came through that! The effort of the African Hockey Federation and then Development Officer Clare Digby made all the difference to our presence in the hockey world today!",

"The hockey pitch has been the best development support that could have happened. When it did, this fully paved way for the youth development programmes that we jointly managed with the Youth Olympic Centre. This resulted in our success at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games", she adds. Indeed, Zambia men finished at a remarkable fourth place, losing to host Argentina in the bronze medal match.

Of course, relaunching hockey in Zambia did not stop with the creation of the Youth Olympic Centre in Lusaka. A number of challenges had to be tackled thereafter in order to re-establish the sport in a sustainable manner. This included: the setting up of the Zambia Hockey Association to begin the process once more of handling the logistical and governance aspects of managing sport; getting serious membership support to help in this process as the base is and remains dependent on volunteers; marketing the sport to getting a better volunteer base; strengthening, getting input from and full buy-in by members of the constitution; training of and providing support for coaches and umpires; accessing equipment; and many more ...

"We continue to mitigate these challenges. But with the help of the African Hockey Federation and our National Olympic Committee, we are slowly making progress", Hazel Kennedy says.

"The Centre was the most important development project for us. It reignited hockey in a way we did not foresee and brought back our passion for hockey. This project is testimony to the fact that sport and indeed our wonderful game can change the lives of children and youth in the communities. We remain ever grateful for this initiative", she concludes.

Source: African Hockey Federation

Tapping into emerging talent in West Africa

As they were bidding to host the 2018 FIH Hockey Women's World Cup, England Hockey were looking to include a hockey development project as part of their bid. This is how the first project of the FIH Targeted Assistance Programme ("TAP") was born in 2015 in Ghana.

The initiative, involving FIH, the African Hockey Federation, UK Sport, England Hockey and the Ghana Hockey Association, was launched to help build hockey's profile and development in the West African country, with a focus on grassroots and high-performance level in Ghana primarily, but spreading across West Africa. The programme included courses for coaches and umpires as well as expert high-performance support to the Women's national team.

Leandro Negre, the then President of FIH, lent his support to the project, saying: "The TAP projects are an integral part of our 10-year strategy – FIH Hockey Revolution. By working closely with our partners and the national associations, we are helping to promote sustainable hockey development across the globe, ensuring that everyone has equal access to our great game. Not only does this introduce hockey to new audiences but it means we are contributing to health, welfare and societal development in these countries."

England Hockey CEO at the time, Sally Munday said: "This partnership is much wider than just England and Ghana Hockey as it has included amazing support from UK Sport, FIH and the African Hockey Federation. We feel really privileged to have had the opportunity to work with Ghana on this project."

Ghana was chosen primarily for being the most developed hockey nation in the region, and also due to their geographical location. As neighbours to a number of other countries, Ghana would become a central hub for hockey development activities in this part of the African continent. Indeed, other countries that were targeted with the West Africa TAP project included Cameroon, Mali, Togo, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso.

Ahead of the first mission, Mike Joyce, FIH lead for the TAP project said: "The long-term aim is to support African nations to build participation, coaching, umpiring and performance capacity, for men and women, in the West African region over a four-year programme."

Alongside the coaching and umpiring work, FIH and its partners ran a UK-wide equipment donation scheme, in partnership with Barrington Sports, while the Ghana's women's team had a training camp at England Hockey headquarters, Bisham Abbey, in 2015. England Hockey staff also made a number of reciprocal visits, not just to support the education programmes but also the organisation of the Hockey5s tournament at the end.

It didn't take long to witness the first benefits of the programme. The national women's team competed in their first major international competition – the 2018 Commonwealth Games – while Accra hosted, in the same year, the first ever West Africa Hockey5s tournament, organised thanks to TAP. And the men's team made their first appearance at the Commonwealth Games at the next edition in 2022.

Richard Akpokavie, Ghana Hockey Association President at the time commented: "The TAP program had a positive impact on hockey in Ghana especially in the area of coaching leading to the qualification of the national female team for the Commonwealth Games."

Furthermore, the plan included providing hockey equipment (4,000 sticks, 4,000 balls and 20 goalkeeper kits) and resources in schools and clubs across West Africa to recruit new players and the training of over 70 new coaches.

FIH Hockey Academy and Education Manager André Oliveira says there are three areas in which the Targeted Assistance Programme has delivered outstanding results. The first of these is the development of a workforce which can deliver hockey events, namely, coaches, umpires, umpire managers and educators. Then there is the development of the national team, which has been so emphatically demonstrated by the success of Ghana women in qualifying for the Commonwealth Games. The third area of improvement is the hockey development and growth in the countries that surround Ghana. In Togo, the number of registered players has experienced a huge increase and Burkina Faso entered the West Africa Hockey5s tournament in Ghana's capital city Accra, their first-ever international competition.

This inaugural Hockey5s tournament also included Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. Dame Katherine Grainger, Chair of UK Sport, was on hand to watch the hockey action. Speaking about the programme and the event, she said: "I had heard great things about the TAP project but it wasn't until being privileged enough to have a visit to Ghana myself that I realised its enormous positive impact. We often talk about how sport can transform lives and in Ghana I saw a wonderful tangible example of that. Once again great partnerships in sport created something special and ground-breaking".

Source: African Hockey Federation

■ The first project of the FIH Targeted Assistance Programme ("TAP") was born in 2015 in Ghana.

Transforming Asian Hockey: The Impact of the AHF Pitch Projects

The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) launched the AHF Pitch Projects campaign in 2019, aiming to enhance the accessibility and development of hockey across Asia. This groundbreaking initiative targets countries that either lack proper hockey turfs or have turfs in unplayable conditions, especially where national budgets are insufficient for installing new pitches.

Under the AHF Pitch Projects, the AHF provides turfs to National Associations. This project has been instrumental in promoting hockey, fostering young talent, and increasing participation in the sport across Asia.

Uzbekistan was the first beneficiary in 2019, and since the installation, the country has hosted numerous national, regional, and continental hockey events. Following Uzbekistan, pitches have been installed in Bangladesh, Thailand, and Cambodia. Notably, the pitch in Cambodia was used for the SEA Games field hockey event in 2023.

Looking ahead to 2024, the AHF is collaborating with Sri Lanka to install two pitches by August. These new facilities will be a significant boost for Sri Lankan hockey, providing much-needed infrastructure for the sport's development. The pitches will offer young athletes access to high-quality training environments, encouraging more participation and helping to elevate the standard of hockey in the country.

The AHF Pitch Projects campaign is a testament to the Federation's commitment to developing hockey across Asia. By providing world-class facilities, the AHF is not only improving the standard of play but also fostering a love for the sport among young athletes. This initiative is creating a lasting legacy, ensuring that hockey continues to grow and thrive in the region.

Source: Asian Hockey Federation

Under the AHF Pitch Projects, the Asian Hockey Federation provides turfs to National Associations

Revolutionizing Hockey Education: The AHF's Online Initiative

In 2019, the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) launched the "AHF Online Education" program, a groundbreaking initiative that has revolutionized hockey education across Asia. Originally created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this program has since become a permanent fixture.

The AHF Online Education program has significantly reduced education costs, allowing rapid information dissemination to a broad range of stakeholders. This initiative provides free, high-quality education to coaches, umpires, technical officials, and national associations throughout Asia, cultivating emerging talent and fortifying the future of hockey in the region.

From 2020 to 2024, the program has conducted over 350 online educational sessions, benefiting more than 9,500 participants from 51 countries across Asia, Africa, and the Pan American region. Over 30 FIH and AHF experts have led these courses and workshops, covering 80+ innovative topics. Notably, 20 Asian National Associations have exclusively profited from the program.

The AHF's online activities have created numerous engagement opportunities, including coaching, umpiring, and technical officials courses. Special workshops on goalkeeping, physical and mental strength, and Hockey5s have further enriched the program. Additionally, forums to empower women and national association workshops have been pivotal in optimizing performance and broadening the reach of hockey education.

The success of the AHF Online Education program lies in its adaptability and evolution, ensuring all stakeholders — from youth and women in hockey to indoor and Hockey5 enthusiasts — have access to valuable learning and interaction platforms. By promoting hockey education across Asia, the AHF is shaping a brighter future for the sport and fostering a new generation of skilled and passionate hockey professionals.

Source: Asian Hockey Federation

The AHF Online Education program provides free, high-quality education to coaches, umpires, technical officials, and national associations throughout Asia

The Club – European hockey's way of living

The club... the cornerstone and beating heart of hockey in Europe; the "way of living" for those who love the game, its culture and its competitive spirit.

Since EuroHockey's formation in 1969, nurturing this beating heart has been a core value and goal for the continental federation.

Over the past 55 years, this has seen a constant evolution to serve those clubs with meaningful competition and an ever-growing variety of supports and awards to celebrate the first port-of-call for the vast majority of hockey people.

It has seen over 660 club-hosted events and many thousands of teams taking part. In 2024 alone, 20 different club events are taking place with over 300 matches, featuring close to 150 club teams from 33 different countries.

As EuroHockey President Marcos Hofmann says, it is "a kind of miracle" how volunteers, officials and staff join every year to bring diverse clubs together and feed their passion for the game.

This competition structure reaches its pinnacle with Easter Euro Hockey League (EHL) where the continent's elite club teams meet in front of thousands of fans every year.

Introduced in 2007, the competition has proven a game changer in showcasing hockey, the first tournament to bring in new rules such as the self-pass and controlling the ball over shoulder-height and mixed-gender officials teams.

The focus and commitment to providing the best broadcast experience as debuted many innovations while the competition has evolved significantly.

The EHL now encompasses men's and women's tournaments, both battling for equal prize-money with an equal broadcast profile in a special party atmosphere.

It provides a pinnacle for the club game to aspire to, both on the field and for all the club organisers to be a part of.

Clubs in Europe are so much beyond the high performance realm, creating communities, families and social networks.

EuroHockey pays tribute to the grassroots every year with the "Club of the Year" awards, giving every club the opportunity to tell their story about how they use hockey to connect with their people.

"A way of living" that celebrates our sport in so many ways.

Source: EuroHockey

Europe's elite club teams meet every year at the Easter Euro Hockey League (EHL), in front of thousands of fans

Any nation wishing to host the regular senior Eurohockey Championships has to commit to hosting the Hockey ID Championships simultaneously

Hockey ID's evolution, opening up a more accessible world

At first a dream, Hockey ID has evolved over the past 15 years to be a vital, joyous cog in our sport's accessibility and inclusivity around Europe and, hopefully, the world.

It is an evolution that got its first major showcase in 2011 at the EuroHockey Championships in Mönchengladbach's Hockeypark, giving hockey for people with intellectual disabilities their debut on the international stage.

Global stars like Christopher Zeller and Jan-Marco Montag advocated to help propel it into the public eye as club sides from Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands came together in the main stadium to showcase their skills.

It was a starting point with the vision for this not to simply be a one-off but the start of a legacy.

Norman Hughes, at the time working with EuroHockey in development, dreamed for "this to happen at all future European Championships"

The Englishman led this pursuit stringently with the backing of the EuroHockey board and President Marijke Fleuren.

Together, they built a formal plan agreed for 2014-2017 which ensured future growth.

Crucially, the executive board agreed that any nation wishing to host the regular senior Eurohockey Championships had to commit to hosting the ID Championships simultaneously and make the main stadium available for the final stages.

Through Boom in 2013, London in 2015, Amstelveen in 2017 and Antwerp in 2019, the level rose and rose with heightened organisation and appointed officials availing of the FIH match management system, allowing all to be 'capped' for their country.

It reflected the elevated time and commitment made by the athletes with the competition evolving from club teams to international line-ups.

In 2021, due to Covid-19, the tournament had to be postponed to 2022 where ten teams from Europe were once again guests at the host club, Pinoké, in Amstelveen, held in conjunction with the FIH Women's World Cup.

The event saw a significant step forward with a formal agreement signed with Special Olympics Europe which provided the gateway for Hockey ID's inclusion in the 2023 World Games in Berlin.

A month later, the EuroHockey ID Championships arrived back in Mönchengladbach, a sort of homecoming in August 2023 – the dream becoming reality.

Now, Equally Amazing principles are written in capital letters in Hockey ID. Teams train and play in mixed gender line-ups, side by side with and for each other.

It is now a requirement that at least two women must be registered per team and that at least one player from each gender is always active on the pitch.

As usual in hockey, the Hockey ID family is renowned for its social nature. Friends meet at the EuroHockey ID Championships who have been working for years, mostly on a voluntary basis, putting their heart and soul into it.

While action is intense on the turf, the celebrations are equally memorable when the sticks are downed and the music turns up for the post-event parties.

"Hockey ID across Europe has grown from four nations to now 11 nations and numerous clubs actively delivering programmes for Hockey ID every season," said Hughes of this growth.

"Europe has 43 member nations so although we have had huge success, there is still so much more to do. We sincerely hope that Hockey IDs inclusion in the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin will inspire more nations to start sustainable programmes."

Source: EuroHockey

Pan American hockey embraces inclusion

Sports are undoubtedly a fundamental tool for helping us become better. Better at what? At everything. The most immediate reference relates to physical and mental health, but there are more aspects where hockey quietly works. Soft skills like leadership, teamwork, resilience, tolerance for frustration, and even success management are also at play. Moreover, the stick and ball have become key in social inclusion to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities or those with fewer opportunities in vulnerable contexts. Argentina, Chile, and Guatemala have model schools that the world should replicate in terms of Hockey ID. Meanwhile, El Salvador seeks to level unequal situations through this activity.

Argentina

Córdoba is one of the country's most important provinces, and the essence of solidarity and the contemplative nature of sports are ever-present there. In 2018, a unique initiative began at the Córdoba Athletic Club: an inclusive hockey school. Its origin was much more spontaneous and genuine than anyone could imagine. A group of members thought of the idea for the brother of a player. It started with the campaign to wear different socks on World Down Syndrome Day. That's where it all began, to provide a place for people with intellectual disabilities and mobility issues.

In the first training sessions six years ago, they had more coaches than students, recounted one of its founders, Soledad Núñez, with a laugh. "There were seven players and ten of us, but those kids are still members today, which is beautiful, and now we have almost 60 in total," she detailed.

They train once a week, on Fridays, and plan at least one trip per year. Additionally, they have monthly birthday celebrations as an activity.

Part of the project's growth is directly related to the development of the participants. "It was much easier than we thought, and we have the unconditional support of the institution. The team wears the club's jersey, which also contributes to a sense of belonging, which is important. We always wanted it to function as just another sport. We gave them a space that is not only therapeutic but also social," said Soledad.

One of the most significant stories is Franco, who is 42 years old and wanted to study to become a referee. The organization helped and supported him to get the rulebook in his hands. "He didn't take long to learn it all by heart," Núñez said. Enthusiasm overcame any barrier. "With UNO cards (a board game with red, yellow, and green colors), he went to training to referee," and that's how his journey began. With the help of professional referees, he administered justice during practices.

For him, that is success. It's his achievement, a progress, and the next goal is to referee the children's matches at the club with assistance and supervision. Meanwhile, he enjoys being part of it. Just being part of it already makes him happy.

Chile

The story may have some similarities with the school founded in Córdoba, Argentina. Daniela Caram, a former Diabla, was one of those who created HockeyIN in the capital of Chile and started a legacy that has reached far and has no limits.

They also started with few members, and the training space was a plaza in 2018. Three students with intellectual disabilities and one goal: to create a space for socializing beyond therapies.

In 2023, they reached the World Games of Special Olympics held in Berlin as a team. The experience was unique, but it's also worth noting that they didn't travel alone. The unconditional support of all the families who were there and accompanied them made the experience very special. Containment is a constant, while resources can be variable. However, this team always finds ways to go further.

Hockey has become key in social inclusion to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities or those with fewer opportunities in vulnerable contexts

An event in El Salvador to expand and develop hockey in the region

In April, at the Claudia Schüler Hockey Stadium, inaugurated during the 2023 Pan American Games, the National Games were held. There, athletes with intellectual disabilities had the opportunity to train with members of the national teams, learn, and continue challenging themselves.

The goals are significant because Chile will host the 2027 Special Olympics, the most important competition, and having the chance to compete at home, locally, makes everything more incredible. Preparation continues with a focus on growth and recruiting more members.

Guatemala

In Guatemala, since February 2024, Diana Borrayo and Brenda Cáceres have been working with the country's federation on a project with the following goals: seeking the inclusion of athletes with intellectual disabilities in national hockey events, training technical and administrative staff for the proper development and care of athletes with intellectual disabilities, and having a Unified Hockey Team to compete internationally.

On July 28, the first Hockey ID Festival was held in Guatemala, with 12 institutions and foundations working with children and young people with intellectual disabilities. It is planned to be held annually from this year onwards due to budget constraints.

Diana Borrayo, coach and Planning Manager of the National Hockey Sports Association of Guatemala, explained: "It is well known that exercise and sports change lives. Imagine the importance for our athletes, people with intellectual disabilities. Regular exercise would help reduce the risk of chronic diseases, improve their mental health and mood. Practicing hockey would help them develop cognitive, technical, physical skills, and most importantly, the values of teamwork, camaraderie, excellence, and fair play."

Additionally, the development is in conjunction with Special Olympics, which has specialists who constantly collaborate to achieve goals more quickly. Today, there are less than ten athletes, but they dream of spreading this initiative throughout the country.

El Salvador

In many countries in America, hockey began in particular places where crime, poverty, and/or limited opportunities reigned. However, a handful of people understood that sports save lives.

Gerson Hernández Suárez is the current President of the Salvadoran Federation. His term began in December 2021, and since then, he has been tirelessly working to popularize hockey in the country. But it's not just about that goal. It's about how to get children to join a team before joining a gang.

"In El Salvador, with so much social conflict, sports in general and hockey, in particular, are ways to support society. It's a work towards peace. Many times, people join gangs to belong somewhere, so we aim for the same but with hockey, giving them a sense of belonging," explained the leader.

Since 2022, when they created a student league, they have been growing continuously. "I took over the Federation with 20 people. In 2023, seven or eight schools participated, and in 2024, I conducted a training session that led to having 16 schools and between 400 and 500 kids participating," Gerson said about the project's development.

Giving small and not-so-small children the opportunity to have other options is opening their minds and showing them a better path. The Federation does that, organizing festivals to showcase an option for a better life: hockey.

"I believe everyone should be able to practice sports. The league was created with recreational intentions but later became more competitive," said Gerson Hernández Suárez, who also ensures that beyond the intention to introduce hockey, they work with those who choose it to continue progressing to the national teams.

This is how different contexts and countries come together to use a common tool to generate greater social inclusion: yes, our sport, the one with the stick and the ball.

Source: Panamerican Hockey Federation

Oceania Pacific Cup

History:

On September 13th 2007, at the Oceania Hockey Federation (OHF) AGM held in Buderim, Queensland, Australia, the Pacific Island delegates (Fiji and PNG) expressed the urgency for an annual regional competition for the Island Nations. Fiji, being the only Island country to have an artificial surface was proposed to be the venue. The concept was to invite the senior nations (Australia and New Zealand) to send appropriate level teams that would challenge the Pacific Island but not overwhelm them as had happened at the Oceania Cup held that week in Buderim, where a world record score was registered against the PNG Men's team.

The competition was to be named the Oceania Pacific Cup and was formally put as a motion by Ramesh Patel (NZL) and seconded by Ken Read (AUS). It was passed unanimously.

The first Oceania Pacific Cup (OPC) was held in Suva Fiji November 2008. Australia Country Men and Women and a women's team from Canberra, were the Hockey Australia representatives while New Zealand representatives were New Zealand Indian Men and New Zealand Māori Women.

OPC continued to be run each year moving to the second week in December. From 2009, Fiji was given dispensation to enter 2 men's and 2 women's teams to help build their tournament experience. Samoa also joined this year.

2010 saw Papua New Guinea attend, while Vanuatu joined the competition in 2011. The Solomon Islands and Tonga both started to take part in 2016.

In 2012, FIH developed a World League Event as a global competition to include smaller nations and give them the international experience and world ranking. FIH allowed OHF to run both the OPC and the new FIH event together which still allowed Australian and New Zealand representatives to participate in the OPC event. There were separate medals and cups for each event.

In 2018, FIH created a new competition called World Series which took over from the World League. This event then rotated to Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea as their artificial surfaces were developed. OPC as an event stopped in 2016, but Australia Country continued to take teams to Fiji to support their continued development.

Objectives:

- Provide the Pacific Islands with an annual competition – previously there was only Oceania Cup every 2 years which was either an Olympic Qualifier or World Cup Qualifier. The Pacific Islands were regularly annihilated by full strength Australia and New Zealand teams.
- A planned annual competition helping the Pacific Islands to begin robust financial planning and putting in early Olympic Solidarity Grants.
- To raise the capabilities of the Pacific Islands as developing hockey nations.
  - Athlete performance level.
  - Coach and entourage performance standards
  - Event management with training of volunteers.
  - Acquisition of sponsorship via application for funding.
  - Communication and promotion planning, external and internal.
- To create a pathway for developing umpires and technical officials across Oceania, especially for Australian and New Zealand officials, as a starting point for their international careers.

Notable Progress Towards the Objectives:

- The opportunity to develop officials in the sport on their pathway to international representation. Three Fijians Epeli Tukuca, Harry Heritage, and Ernest Movick were all appointed to FIH international events outside of Oceania. Epeli was the first Pacific Islander be accredited as an FIH umpire. Ernest Movick has been appointed to 2024 Nations Cup in Spain as a TO.
- Fiji Men and Women won qualification to their first ever World Cup in 2024 at the Hockey5s World Cup. Many of these players started their experience at OPC events.

FIH President Leandro Negre visiting Oceania's hockey community

The Oceania Pacific Cup and FIH's Hockey World League were run together

- The Pacific Games held in 2023 had all 6 Pacific Nations playing for the very first time. In previous Pacific Cup Games in 2007 only 4 women's teams competed, no men's competition. However, by 2015 5 men's and 5 women's teams competed.
- The Fiji Hockey Federation (FHF) built capabilities in both governance and event management due to OPC. This has ensured a high profile amongst sporting bodies in Fiji. Catherine Fabiano, National Women's Captain, has been appointed in 2024 to the FIH Athletes Commission, and is currently acting as the secretary of FHF.
- OPC provided opportunities for Hockey Australia and Hockey New Zealand to have another avenue to provide their vital groups, such as Australian Country and NZ Māori to participate in. These teams always ran coaching clinics while attending for both schools and also the competing Pacific Islands teams.
- 2013, 2015, and 2017 saw Fiji, PNG and Samoa feel more confident to re-enter Oceania Cup and take on full strength Australian and New Zealand sides. In 2017 at Oceania Cup (Sydney) OHF introduced a continental Hockey5s competition to run concurrently with Oceania Cup so that the developing Pacific nations had an avenue to play at their own level, but to be able to watch and be involved with full Australian and New Zealand representative 11v11 sides. This helped bring Oceania members together.

Source: Oceania Hockey Federation

Alyson Annan

(Australia)

"My fondest memories of hockey are the many hours I spent playing 1 v 1 with my brother in our home. With the recliner as one goal and the TV stand as another. We managed never to break a TV or window! My brother was my inspiration, and I actually joined hockey to be able to play the same sport as him.

I have a very special memory linked to FIH: many years ago, I was asked by FIH to go to Pakistan and present a coaching course to a full class of women. I thought it was such a fantastic initiative. I would love to see coaching courses for women. A course where women coaches, past and present women players can come together and share ideas on coaching women.

A big congratulation to FIH for its Centennial! Thank you for all you do for hockey worldwide."

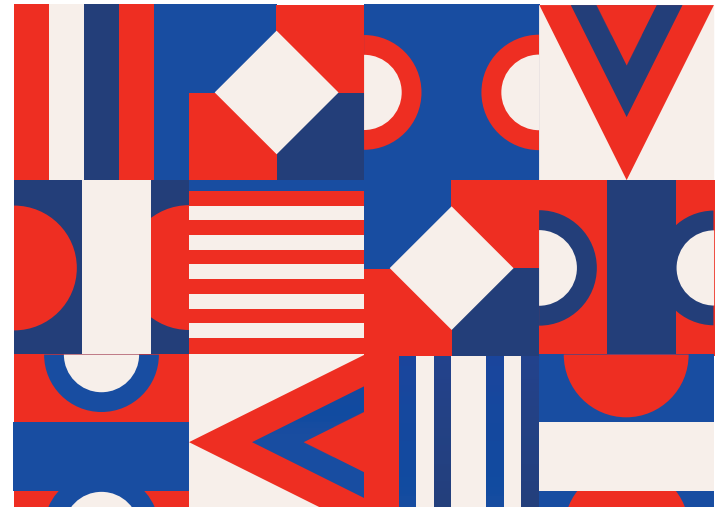
Shane McLeod

(New Zealand)

"Hockey has always been a big part of my life. From playing and watching hockey as a young boy through to coaching a World Cup and Gold Medal Olympic winning team. The winning of trophies is special but the lifelong friendships that you build amongst the hockey family is what sets our sport as one of the greatest games ever invited.

As FIH celebrate their centenary it should recognise the place that it has played in the lives of many. It has inspired generations after generations to challenge themselves to be the best they can be. I look forward to seeing our sport continue to develop and challenge for the next 100 years."

Hockey
for
Society



Over its century of existence, FIH has fully embraced its role as more than just a sports governing body, spearheading various projects which are aimed at advancing social and environmental causes through the global hockey community.

As FIH celebrates its centenary, this chapter highlights key areas such as gender equality, diversity, inclusion, sustainability, and international cooperation, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As an Olympic International Federation, the FIH sets the global framework for all hockey, through Continental Federations, National Associations and ultimately for clubs, schools and domestic leagues towards achieving goals set by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and United Nations (UN).

1. FIH Sustainability Strategy

On 4 November 2022, during its 48th Annual Congress, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) launched its global "Sustainability Strategy for Hockey", which aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and followed the IOC (International Olympic Committee) lead.

The three focus areas of the FIH sustainability strategy

The strategy is based on three core pillars to capture the many projects that together will create a sustainable future for hockey:

- People: having a positive impact on everyone involved in hockey

FIH aims to create inclusive opportunities for everyone in hockey, regardless of age, gender, religion, or ability. It seeks to drive global growth of the sport and positively impact communities where hockey is played. Key efforts include providing education and training for the global hockey community, ensuring robust governance structures, and promoting gender equality. These initiatives foster broader participation as players, officials, fans, or administrators, contributing to the sport's sustainability and inclusivity at all levels.

- Planet: leaving as small a footprint on the planet as possible

FIH is committed to minimising hockey's environmental impact by focusing on water conservation, reducing carbon emissions, and limiting plastic use. Efforts include lowering water consumption on pitches, promoting sustainable travel, and encouraging eco-friendly everyday habits like cycling or using electric transport. Additionally, FIH seeks to reduce plastic in hockey equipment, from sticks to artificial turf, and emphasises recycling and finding solutions for the end-of-life disposal of materials. These initiatives aim to leave a minimal ecological footprint while ensuring sustainable hockey practices.

- Prosperity: enabling hockey to prosper for future generations

To ensure hockey's future prosperity, FIH aims to increase the sport's visibility, attract more fans, and boost media coverage, which will generate additional revenue for reinvestment. It focuses on creating a global event portfolio that balances income generation with expanding hockey's reach. FIH also seeks to elevate

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

its position in the IOC funding groups to secure more resources. Additionally, the organisation prioritises cost management and innovative solutions to deliver economically viable events, further supporting the growth and sustainability of hockey.

The strategy sets specific goals and timelines, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and through it, positions the sport as a leader in sustainability, ensuring that hockey not only reduces its environmental impact but also contributes positively to the global community.

2. FIH measures

2.1. Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

The FIH Gender Equality Policy came into force in 2017 (and reviewed in 2020) to:

- Encourage gender balance within the FIH
- Prevent any unlawful discrimination on the grounds of gender
- At a sport level, commit to increasing the recruitment and development of women coaches, umpires and officials at the highest level of the sport to achieve greater gender balance in the sport

It was followed by the creation of the FIH Women in Sports Committee in 2019, the validation of Gender Neutral FIH Statutes in 2021 Congress and the integration of gender equality, diversity and inclusion within the FIH Sustainability Task Force.

In 2023, the committee changed its name to better reflect its role in Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion matters. Today, the FIH Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (GEDI) Committee assists the Executive Board to raise awareness about gender equality, inclusion and promote diversity in sports practice and governance. It focuses on addressing inequalities in gender, race, ethnicity, disability, and other social identities, making the sport more accessible and fair for all across the globe.

Come and join hockey!

The FIH Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy is focused on the following 4 key pillars:

- Universal Growth of Hockey
- Leadership and Governance
- Visibility and Portrayal
- He for She: Men as Allies

The GEDI Committee engages in policy development, advocacy, and research to fulfil its mission. It creates policies to ensure gender-neutral practices and participation opportunities. The committee also promotes awareness through webinars and campaigns at major hockey events encouraging diverse participation, particularly in regions where access to hockey is limited. Additionally, the GEDI Committee collaborates with external stakeholders and larger projects aiming to advance on gender equality and diversity matters, informing policy and highlighting areas needing improvement. Training programs, such as gender awareness workshops and leadership development courses, stay essential in creating an inclusive culture across the sport.

The committee's work is vital to shaping a more inclusive future for hockey in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee, Continental Federations and National Associations. Through its comprehensive approach, the committee helps ensure that hockey remains a sport where diversity and inclusion are celebrated, and everyone, regardless of gender, background, or identity, has the opportunity to thrive.

Inclusion and diversity are fundamental principles for FIH

2.2. Equal participation across all levels and formats

FIH's commitment to gender equality is exemplified by balanced participation in international events which are completely gender equal across all levels and formats. FIH Hockey Junior World Cup, FIH Hockey World Cup, FIH Hockey Pro League, FIH Hockey Nations Cup, FIH Hockey5s World Cup and FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup are all events that receive exactly equal participation from both genders. While women's hockey has been a regular feature at the Olympics since 1980, the last five editions of the Games have elevated it a step further with exactly equal participation, with both men's and women's tournaments featuring 12 teams.

In Paris 2024, the umpiring team had a 50/50 gender split, part of a similarly equal split across the hockey International Technical Official team participating at the Games.

2.3. FIH Inclusion and Diversity Day

Over the past few years, FIH has celebrated Inclusion and Diversity Day as a key initiative to promote equality and inclusivity within hockey. This day is marked by events and campaigns that highlight the importance of diversity in the sport, from gender equality to the inclusion of underrepresented racial, ethnic, and cultural groups. By bringing attention to these issues, the FIH seeks to raise awareness and inspire action to make hockey a sport that welcomes and supports everyone, regardless of background or identity.

Significantly, during the FIH Inclusion and Diversity Day 2023, FIH and Special Olympics also took to the pitch to pen an inaugural agreement between the two organisations, dedicated to the development of hockey for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), just as hockey made its first-ever appearance at Special Olympics World Games, as a demonstration sport with 12 countries from 4 continents participating.

Each year, Inclusion and Diversity Day serves as a platform to showcase the progress made in advancing these values within the hockey community. The FIH uses the occasion to highlight the achievements of diverse players, coaches, and officials, as well as to reinforce its commitment to policies that promote fair participation for all. The day helps to foster a culture of belonging and encourages further dialogue on how to make hockey more accessible and inclusive across all levels of the sport.

In 2022, FIH created its yearly Inclusion and Diversity Day

3. Reducing environmental impact through responsible practices

FIH is committed to driving sustainability within the sport through a variety of initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impact, fostering innovation, and promoting responsible practices. These efforts align with global sustainability goals, ensuring that hockey contributes positively to environmental stewardship while maintaining its competitive edge.

3.1. Reducing Water Usage with Innovative Turf Technologies

One of FIH's key sustainability goals is to reduce the amount of water needed on elite level turfs, which has become a significant concern due to the traditional reliance on water-based artificial turfs for high level competitions. These turfs require large amounts of water to be regularly applied for optimal performance, particularly in hot climates.

To address this, innovative steps were taken by the turf industry in the design and manufacture of these hockey turfs, leading to a reduction in the amount of water that needed to be applied whilst maintaining optimal sports performance. This steady reduction in water usage over the past decade, when showcased through the Olympic lens, highlights that the turf used at the Olympic Games in Tokyo required 40% less water for optimal performance than the turf used in Rio four years earlier.

At the Olympic Games Paris 2024, the boundaries were pushed further, as hockey was played on the innovative 'Poligras Paris GT zero' hockey turf, which set new standards for sustainability in sports surfaces. Developed by Sport Group and installed in Paris by Polytan, this advanced turf was the world's first carbon-zero hockey turf, aligning with the Paris 2024 Games' commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

Poligras Paris GT Zero, world's first carbon-zero hockey turf

Carbon zero Poligras Paris GT zero was made from 80% sugarcane and manufactured using green electricity. The production process emphasised low emissions and energy efficiency, ensuring that the turf's lifecycle—from creation to disposal—adhered to the highest environmental standards. Moreover, 'Poligras Paris GT zero' was designed to conserve water, requiring significantly less irrigation than traditional synthetic turfs, aligning with global efforts to preserve water resources, and leading to a further 20% reduction in water needed compared to Tokyo 2020.

Additionally, FIH has been actively promoting the development of dry turfs, which perform without the need for any water to be applied while still offering the same high-quality playing conditions as traditional turfs. These innovative turf technologies have been developed in collaboration with turf manufacturers and researchers, focusing on materials that are not only water-efficient but also durable and recyclable. By shifting to water-free turf systems, FIH is helping to reduce water usage across hockey facilities worldwide, significantly lessening the sport's environmental footprint, and the use of dry turf will also be further enhanced by future hockey equipment and kit innovations that will help athletes adapt to these new surfaces.

The inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup in Oman in 2024 was played on dry turf

This eco-friendly shift in hockey infrastructure aligns with FIH's commitment to sustainability, setting an example for sports organisations seeking to reduce their environmental impact. By promoting the use of renewable materials and reducing reliance on water, FIH demonstrates how innovation can be a powerful tool for environmental responsibility in sport. As these technologies continue to evolve, dry turf systems and new equipment technologies will likely play a pivotal role in making hockey more sustainable on a global scale.

These advancements in hockey infrastructure also align with broader global sustainability goals, such as those set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those focused on responsible consumption and climate action. Through these efforts, hockey is becoming a leader in the movement toward greener, more sustainable sports.

3.2. UN Sport for Climate Action (UNS4CA) Signatory – a Broader Sustainability Commitment

Beyond water reduction and equipment innovation, FIH is committed to a holistic approach to sustainability, demonstrated in 2023 by joining the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) 'Sports for Climate Action Framework' including the commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% by 2030. In addition to annual carbon footprint measurement and putting in place strategies to reduce and then mitigate it, this also includes encouraging the use of renewable energy sources in hockey venues, minimising waste through recycling initiatives, and implementing carbon-neutral event practices. By setting and monitoring sustainability standards for its events, federations, and clubs, FIH aims to inspire greener practices in the larger hockey and sporting community.

FIH joined the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) 'Sports for Climate Action Framework' in 2023

FIH won the 2024 IOC Climate Action Award in the International Federation category.

Through these initiatives and external validation and recognition by the UN and IOC, FIH is playing an active role in ensuring that hockey becomes a sport that prioritises environmental care, from the grassroots level to international tournaments.

FIH's efforts were praised at the highest level in 2024 as hockey's world governing body won the 2024 IOC Climate Action Award in the International Federation category. FIH has been awarded this highly prestigious distinction for its outstanding work in substantially reducing water consumption for the practice of hockey at elite level.

4. Give Back to Forest Initiative

Joining the UNS4CA framework also gave birth to one of FIH's flagship sustainability programmes; the "Give Back to Forest" initiative, launched as part of its broader environmental commitment, and with a strong involvement from FIH President Tayyab Ikram. This program involves the global hockey community in efforts to restore and preserve forest ecosystems, acknowledging the vital role forests play in combating climate change, protecting biodiversity, and sustaining human livelihoods.

'Give back to forest' in Poland during the 2024 FIH Hockey Nations Cup

4.1. Tree Planting Campaigns

The "Give Back to Forest" initiative engages players, fans, and national federations in tree-planting campaigns aimed at reforestation. These campaigns are organised around major international tournaments, with a portion of ticket sales or event proceeds directed toward reforestation efforts. In collaboration with environmental organisations, FIH has identified key areas in need of forest restoration, targeting regions that have experienced significant deforestation or environmental degradation.

4.2. Community Engagement and Education

The initiative goes beyond reforestation, emphasising the importance of educating the hockey community about the impact of environmental conservation. Schools, local hockey clubs, and grassroots organisations are encouraged to take part in tree-planting events, fostering a sense of stewardship and environmental responsibility among younger generations.

'Give back to forest' in Oman during the Hockey5s Asia Cup 2023

4.3. Give Back to Forest Projects

The first Give to Forest project was launched in India, with the government of Tamil Nadu state committing to planting over 100,000 trees during the 2023 Men's Asian Champions Trophy, held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

In August 2023 the Uruguay Hockey Federation confirmed its firm commitment for sustainability and started its own project under the Give Back to Forest programme by planting thousands of trees around the first water-based pitch in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Over the first week of September 2023, after the Hockey5s Asia Cup, the captains of all participating men's and women's teams united with FIH President Tayyab Ikram to carry forward FIH's "Give Back to Forest'' global campaign and planted trees across the scenic landscapes of Salalah, Oman. The same was done in Poland during the 2024 FIH Nations Cup.

In Nepal, during a coaching course led by FIH educator, Zahid Ali, the National Olympic Committee of Nepal and the Nepal Hockey Association organised a significant tree plantation drive at the NOC Headquarters in Kathmandu, kickstarting this ambitious afforestation campaign in hockey-playing regions across the nation.

Through this program, FIH not only contributes directly to global reforestation efforts but also raises awareness about the need for long-term environmental sustainability.

5. Support for IOC and UN Programs

As a member of the global sports community, FIH actively supports initiatives led by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United Nations (UN), particularly those aligned with the values of peace, equality, and sustainability. By promoting these international organisations' activities, FIH helps leverage hockey's global reach to contribute to broader societal goals.

5.1. Support for the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020+5

FIH aligns closely with the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020+5, which emphasises sustainability, gender equality, and inclusivity. FIH has committed to advancing these goals through its own initiatives, particularly those related to gender equality and environmental sustainability. By supporting the IOC's vision, FIH ensures that hockey remains a leader in promoting Olympic values on a global scale.

5.2. Gender-equal Olympics

FIH actively contributed to the IOC's goal of hosting a gender-equal Olympics in Paris 2024 by ensuring equal representation in hockey. Hockey at Paris 2024 continued a trend that has been set since 2008, with both men's and women's competitions consisting of the same number of teams and athletes. Men's and women's tournaments featured 12 teams of 16 players each, reflecting FIH's continued commitment to gender parity.

FIH also continues to promote leadership opportunities for women in coaching, officiating, and administration. The umpiring team in Paris had a 50/50 gender split, part of a similarly equal split across the hockey International Technical Official team participating at the Games.

At Paris 2024, FIH introduced mixed gender on-field umpiring teams for the first time in its Olympic history

At Paris 2024, FIH also introduced mixed gender on-field umpiring teams for the first time in its Olympic history. Whilst mixed gender umpiring has become a regular occurrence at FIH events in recent years, this had not been the case at previous Olympic Games. The mixed gender on-field umpiring teams officiated in various matches at the Paris 2024 Olympic hockey tournaments, to positive reviews from the teams and will continue to be a feature at the future Olympic Games.

5.3 WISH Programme

As the Olympic Movement strives to achieve gender equality at all levels in sport, the under-representation of women among high-performance coaches is one of the biggest challenges. The Women in Sport High-performance pathway (WISH) programme is a key part of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) response to this issue. Under the theme "Empowering Women Coaches", 19 women spent a week in total immersion, trying out activities designed to further develop their leadership skills and confidence and to boost their careers. Representing seven sports and 17 countries, the coaches were chosen by their respective International Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) for their individual achievements, potential and ambition.

Sofie Gierts and Joy Jouret, both FIH coaches have been selected for the sport of hockey.

5.4 Portrayal Guidelines

In July 2024, as a further major measure to promote gender equality, diversity and inclusion, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has added portrayal guidelines – inspired by the IOC portrayal guidelines and shared them with the global hockey community.

Portrayal is defined as the language (words and expressions), images and voices used, the quality and quantity of coverage and the prominence given, when depicting individuals or groups in all communications channels and platforms.

The FIH portrayal guidelines are based on the following main principles:

- Favouring gender equal, diverse and inclusive representation of the hockey community;
- Avoiding bias or negative stereotypes on gender and diversity;
- Generating new strong, positive, and diverse role models.

They provide clear advice when it comes to language, images and voices in particular. They also include a fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory portrayal of transgender sportspeople and athletes with sex variations, with FIH advocating for gender equality at all levels of hockey participation across the globe, including opportunities for transgender athletes to compete in the sport.

5.5. Contribution to UN Sustainable Development Goals

In line with the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), FIH has focused its efforts on areas where sport can make a meaningful impact, such as gender equality (SDG 5), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and climate action (SDG 13). Through its programs, FIH has demonstrated how hockey can be a powerful tool for social change, driving progress toward a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

5.6. Celebrating International Milestones

The FIH actively celebrates important international days through targeted campaigns that promote inclusivity, equality, and community development within hockey. On International Women's Day, the FIH has run initiatives such as the "Equally Amazing" and "Inspire Inclusion" campaigns, which highlight the achievements and contributions of female athletes, coaches, and officials to the growth of the sport, while advocating for greater gender equality in hockey governance and participation. These campaigns featured stories of women breaking barriers in the sport, encouraging more women to take on leadership roles and empowering female athletes worldwide.

For World Children's Day, FIH has organised youth engagement activities, including grassroots programs like "Hockey4Life" and "Start Hockey Challenge", aimed at encouraging children's participation in hockey, fostering their physical and social development. On Olympic Day, the FIH has promoted the core Olympic values and campaigns such as the "Let's Move Campaign" through events and social media campaigns, celebrating hockey's role in fostering excellence, respect, and friendship. Additionally, during the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, FIH has collaborated with global organisations to emphasise hockey's impact on social change and its contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting peace, inclusivity, and community building through the sport. While the work for this goes on throughout the year, taken up by various stakeholders in hockey, on 5 April, FIH highlights and celebrates all the work done by the global hockey family in establishing Hockey as a force of good and bringing about positive change throughout the world.

FIH promotes International Women's Day every year

6. HockeyID: Pioneering Inclusivity in Hockey

One of the most significant developments in modern hockey is the introduction of HockeyID, a format designed specifically for athletes with intellectual disabilities. This initiative is part of FIH's broader efforts to promote inclusivity and ensure that hockey is accessible to everyone, regardless of their intellectual abilities.

6.1 The Development of HockeyID

HockeyID was developed in response to the growing recognition of the need for inclusive sports programs that cater to athletes with diverse needs. The format is tailored to the abilities and needs of athletes with intellectual disabilities, providing them with the opportunity to participate in hockey at both recreational and competitive levels. Various national federations around the world have embraced HockeyID, integrating it into their development programs and organising dedicated events for the athletes.

The creation of HockeyID represents a significant step forward in the sport's commitment to inclusivity. By providing a platform for athletes with intellectual disabilities, FIH aims to challenge stereotypes and break down barriers, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment within the hockey community. This initiative has also helped to raise awareness of the importance of inclusivity in sports and encourages other sports organisations to develop similar programs.

6.2 International Recognition and Growth

The international recognition of HockeyID has also helped raise awareness of the importance of inclusivity in sports. The inclusion of HockeyID in the Special Olympics as a demonstration sport during the Berlin 2023 edition of the games, and other international competitions have been crucial steps in integrating athletes with intellectual disabilities into the global hockey community. These platforms have provided invaluable opportunities for HockeyID athletes to demonstrate their abilities and passion for the sport, fostering a sense of belonging and achievement.

The growth of HockeyID has been marked by an increasing number of national and international competitions, providing more opportunities for athletes to compete and showcase their talents. These events have not only helped to promote the format but have also contributed to the broader movement towards greater inclusivity in sports. By offering athletes with intellectual disabilities the chance to participate in high-profile competitions, HockeyID has helped to elevate their status within the sport and society as a whole.

The introduction and growth of HockeyID have had a profound impact on the broader hockey community. By prioritising inclusivity and accessibility, HockeyID will set a precedent for how sports can evolve to accommodate all individuals, regardless of their abilities. This shift has not only expanded the reach of hockey but also enriched the sport by bringing in diverse perspectives and experiences. As a result, the hockey community has become more inclusive, compassionate, and united, embodying the true spirit of sport.

As FIH marks its centenary, it reflects on a legacy of using hockey as a vehicle for societal good. Through its initiatives in gender equality, diversity and inclusion, sustainability, environmental stewardship, and support for international programs, FIH has established itself as a leader not only in the world of sport but also in the broader movement for social progress. By continuing to champion these causes, FIH ensures that hockey will remain a sport that not only entertains but also contributes meaningfully to a better, more inclusive, and sustainable world.

■ For the first time, Hockey ID was included – as a demonstration sport – on the Special Olympics World Games programme, in 2023 in Berlin.

Marelize de Klerk

(South Africa)

"I watched my first hockey game as a university freshman and was immediately captivated by the inclusivity. The way everyone enjoyed playing together and socializing after games made me realize this was the sport I wanted to pursue. I requested to join the club right away, and since there was an opening for a goalkeeper on the 5th team, I laced up my pads for the first time. Within a few games, I was promoted to the second team! The friendships I made during those early days have lasted a lifetime.

My journey as a hockey umpire began under unusual circumstances. In 1994, following the end of isolation, the Netherlands women's team visited South Africa, marking the first international hockey played here in over 30 years. I was a club player at the time and had some umpiring experience at university. Due to a storm that delayed one of the designated umpires, I was unexpectedly asked to officiate the match. That game was my introduction to international umpiring, and 30 years later, I'm still involved in the sport.

Over my three decades in international hockey, I've witnessed significant changes—most notably, the removal of the offside rule, the introduction of aerials, and the transition from grass to astro-turf. The early 2000s brought innovations that made the game faster, more skillful, and more enjoyable for spectators.

One of my most unforgettable moments came on Christmas Day 1999. An umpiring friend from the Netherlands called to tell me she'd received her appointment letter for the Sydney Olympic Games, and my name was also on the list! It felt like a dream—I still get butterflies thinking about it today.

Umpiring the World Cup Final in Perth and the Olympic Final in Athens are among my fondest hockey memories. Seeing Laurine Delforge umpire her third Olympic final brought back memories of my first tournament as an Umpire Manager, which was also her debut as an umpire.

The most remarkable change I've seen is the merging of men's and women's hockey into a more unified sport. Back in the 1990s, men umpired men, women umpired women, and there was little crossover in coaching or staff roles. Today, male and female umpires work together across both men's and women's games. We're also seeing more women in technical roles, though there's still progress to be made in having more female head coaches.

Hockey is in a great place today. The quality of play leading up to the Paris Games excites me for the future.

Cheers to 100 years of making history. You've touched countless lives and created memories that will last for generations. Congratulations—we know our sport is in good hands."

Santi Deo

(Spain)

"I joined hockey because I was a member of RC Polo and I started playing there when I was seven years old. I fell in love with the sport, and I have been attached to hockey since then.

My fondest hockey memory is when I umpired my first Olympic final in Los Angeles in 1984. And here's how I learnt it: I was enjoying a relaxing moment at the hotel swimming pool as an English journalist, Pat Rowley, who was a god friend of mine, came to me and said: 'Santi, congratulations!'. For a moment I was shocked because I didn't know what he was talking about. And then he told me that I was appointed for my first Olympic final!

I also remember very well the Men's World Cup held in Lahore in 1990, where the Netherlands defeated the host team in a stadium of 60'000 spectators!

My wish for the future is that hockey grows and gains more and more universality.

Congratulations to the FIH for their Centennial, and to all those who've contributed to grow hockey since 1924!"

Appendices

Appendix 1 – A statistical overview of FIH events and Olympic hockey tournaments

Olympic hockey tournaments – Standings

2024, Paris (France)

Women

1. Netherlands
2. China
3. Argentina
4. Belgium
5. Australia
6. Germany
7. Spain
8. Great Britain
9. United States
10. Japan
11. South Africa
12. France

Men

1. Netherlands
2. Germany
3. India
4. Spain
5. Belgium
6. Australia
7. Great Britain
8. Argentina
9. South Africa
10. Ireland
11. France
12. New Zealand

2020, Tokyo (Japan)

Women

1. Netherlands
2. Argentina
3. Great Britain
4. India
5. Australia
6. Germany
7. Spain
8. New Zealand
9. China
10. Ireland
11. Japan
12. South Africa

Men

1. Belgium
2. Australia
3. India
4. Germany
5. Great Britain
6. Netherlands
7. Argentina
8. Spain
9. New Zealand
10. South Africa
11. Japan
12. Canada

2016, Rio (Brazil)

Women

1. Great Britain
2. Netherlands
3. Germany
4. New Zealand
5. United States
6. Australia
7. Argentina
8. Spain
9. China
10. Japan
11. Korea
12. India

Men

1. Argentina
2. Belgium
3. Germany
4. Netherlands
5. Spain
6. Australia
7. New Zealand
8. India
9. Great Britain
10. Ireland
11. Canada
12. Brazil

2012, London (Great Britain)

Women

1. Netherlands
2. Argentina
3. Great Britain
4. New Zealand
5. Australia
6. China
7. Germany
8. Korea
9. Japan
10. South Africa
11. Belgium
12. United States

Men

1. Netherlands
2. Australia
3. Great Britain
4. Belgium
5. Spain
6. Pakistan
7. Korea
8. New Zealand
9. Argentina
10. South Africa
11. India

2008, Beijing (China)

Women

1. Netherlands
2. China
3. Argentina
4. Germany
5. Australia
6. Great Britain
7. Spain
8. United States
9. Korea
10. Japan
11. South Africa
12. New Zealand

Men

1. Germany
2. Spain
3. Australia
4. Netherlands
5. Great Britain
6. Korea
7. New Zealand
8. Pakistan
9. Belgium
10. Canada
11. China
12. South Africa

2004, Athens (Greece)

Women

1. Germany
2. Netherlands
3. Argentina
4. China
5. Australia
6. New Zealand
7. Korea
8. Japan
9. South Africa
10. Spain

Men

1. Australia
2. Netherlands
3. Germany
4. Spain
5. Pakistan
6. New Zealand
7. India
8. Korea
9. Great Britain
10. South Africa
11. Argentina
12. Egypt

2000, Sydney (Australia)

Women

1. Australia
2. Argentina
3. Netherlands
4. Spain
5. China
6. New Zealand
7. Germany
8. Great Britain
9. Korea
10. South Africa

Men

1. Netherlands
2. Korea
3. Australia
4. Pakistan
5. Germany
6. Great Britain
7. India
8. Argentina
9. Spain
10. Canada
11. Malaysia
12. Poland

1996, Atlanta (USA)

Women

1. Australia
2. Korea
3. Netherlands
4. Great Britain
5. United States
6. Germany
7. Argentina
8. Spain

Men

1. Netherlands
2. Spain
3. Australia
4. Germany
5. Korea
6. Pakistan
7. Great Britain
8. India
9. Argentina
10. South Africa
11. Malaysia
12. United States

1992, Barcelona (Spain)

Women

1. Spain
2. Germany
3. Great Britain
4. Korea
5. Australia
6. Netherlands
7. Canada
8. New Zealand

Men

1. Germany
2. Australia
3. Pakistan
4. Netherlands
5. Spain
6. Great Britain
7. India
8. New Zealand
9. Malaysia
10. Commonwealth of Independent States
11. Argentina
12. Egypt

1988, Seoul (Korea)

Women

1. Australia
2. Korea
3. Netherlands
4. Great Britain
5. West Germany
6. Canada
7. Argentina
8. United States

Men

1. Great Britain
2. West Germany
3. Netherlands
4. Australia
5. Pakistan
6. India
7. Soviet Union
8. Argentina
9. Spain
10. Korea
11. Canada
12. Kenya

1984, Los Angeles (USA)

Women

1. Netherlands
2. West Germany
3. United States
4. Australia
5. Canada
6. New Zealand

Men

1. Pakistan
2. West Germany
3. Great Britain
4. Australia
5. India
6. Netherlands
7. New Zealand
8. Spain
9. Kenya
10. Malaysia
11. United States

12. Canada

1980, Moscow (USSR)

Women

1. Zimbabwe
2. Czechoslovakia
3. Soviet Union
4. India
5. Austria
6. Poland

Men

1. India
2. Spain
3. Soviet Union
4. Poland
5. Cuba
6. Tanzania

1976, Montreal (Canada) – Men

1. New Zealand
2. Australia
3. Pakistan
4. Netherlands
5. West Germany
6. Spain
7. India
8. Malaysia
9. Belgium
10. Canada
11. Argentina

1972, Munich (Germany) – Men

1. West Germany
2. Pakistan
3. India
4. Netherlands
5. Australia
6. Great Britain
7. Spain
8. Malaysia
9. New Zealand
10. Belgium
11. Poland
12. France
13. Kenya
14. Argentina
15. Uganda
16. Mexico

1968, Mexico City (Mexico) – Men

1. Pakistan
2. Australia
3. India
4. West Germany
5. Netherlands
6. Spain
7. New Zealand
8. Kenya
9. Belgium
10. France
11. East Germany
12. Great Britain
13. Japan
14. Argentina
15. Malaysia
16. Mexico

1964, Tokyo (Japan) – Men

1. India
2. Pakistan
3. Australia
4. Spain
5. Germany
6. Kenya
7. Japan
7. Netherlands
9. Great Britain
9. Malaysia
11. Belgium
11. Zimbabwe
13. Canada
13. New Zealand
15. Hong Kong

1960, Rome (Italy) – Men

1. Pakistan
2. India
3. Spain
4. Great Britain
5. New Zealand
6. Australia
7. Germany
7. Kenya
9.Netherlands
10.France
11.Belgium
12. Poland
13. Italy
14. Japan
15. Switzerland
16. Denmark

1956, Melbourne (Australia) – Men

1. India
2. Pakistan
3. Germany
4. Great Britain
5. Australia
6. New Zealand
7. Belgium
8. Singapore
9. Malaysia
10. Kenya
11. Afghanistan
12. United States

1952, Helsinki (Finland) – Men

1. India
2. Netherlands
3. Great Britain
4. Pakistan
5. West Germany
6. Poland
7. Austria
7.Switzerland
9.Belgium
9.Finland
11.France
11.Italy

1948, London (Great Britain) – Men

1. India
2. Great Britain
3. Netherlands
4. Pakistan
5. Argentina
5.Belgium
5.Switzerland
8.Afghanistan
8.Austria
8.France
11.Denmark
11.Spain
11.United States

1936, Berlin (Germany) – Men

1. India
2. Germany
3. Netherlands
4. France
5. Switzerland
6. Afghanistan
7. Japan
8. Hungary
9. Belgium
10. Denmark
11. United States

1932, Los Angeles (USA) – Men

1. India
2. Japan
3. United States

1928, Amsterdam (Netherlands) – Men

1. India
2. Netherlands
3. Germany
4. Belgium
5. Denmark
5.France
7.Spain
7.Switzerland
9.Austria

1920, Antwerp (Belgium) – Men

1. Great Britain
2. Denmark
3. Belgium
4. France

1908, London (Great Britain) – Men

1. England
2. Ireland
3. Wales
4. Scotland
5. Germany
6. France

FIH Hockey Men's World Cup – Standings

2023, Bhubaneswar – Rourkela, Odisha (India)

1 Germany
2 Belgium
3 Netherlands
4 Australia
5 England
6 Spain
7 New Zealand
8 Korea
9 Argentina
9 India
11 South Africa
11 Wales
13 France
13 Malaysia
15 Chile
15 Japan

2018, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (India)

1 Belgium
2 Netherlands
3 Australia
4 England
5 Germany
6 India
7 Argentina
8 France
9 New Zealand
10 China
11 Canada
12 Pakistan
13 Spain
14 Ireland
15 Malaysia
16 South Africa

2014, The Hague (Netherlands)

1 Australia
2 Netherlands
3 Argentina
4 England
5 Belgium
6 Germany
7 New Zealand
8 Spain
9 India
10 Korea
11 South Africa
12 Malaysia

2010, New Delhi (India)

1 Australia
2 Germany
3 Netherlands
4 England
5 Spain
6 Korea
7 Argentina
8 India
9 New Zealand
10 South Africa
11 Canada
12 Pakistan

2006, Mönchengladbach (Germany)

1 Germany
2 Australia
3 Spain
4 Korea
5 England
6 Pakistan
7 Netherlands
8 New Zealand
9 Japan
10 Argentina
11 India
12 South Africa

2002, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

1 Germany
2 Australia
3 Netherlands
4 Korea
5 Pakistan
6 Argentina
7 England
8 Malaysia
9 New Zealand
10 India
11 Spain
12 Japan
13 South Africa
14 Belgium
15 Poland
16 Cuba

1998, Utrecht (Netherlands)

1 Netherlands
2 Spain
3 Germany
4 Australia
5 Pakistan
6 England
7 Korea
8 Canada
9 India
10 New Zealand
11 Malaysia
12 Poland

1994, Sydney (Australia)

1 Pakistan
2 Netherlands
3 Australia
4 Germany
5 India
6 England
7 Argentina
8 Korea
9 Spain
10 South Africa
11 Belgium
12 Belarus

1990, Lahore (Pakistan)
1 Netherlands
2 Pakistan
3 Australia
4 West Germany
5 England
6 Soviet Union
7 France
8 Spain
9 Argentina
10 India
11 Canada
12 Ireland

1986, London (England)
1 Australia
2 England
3 West Germany
4 Soviet Union
5 Spain
6 Argentina
7 Netherlands
8 Poland
9 New Zealand
10 Canada
11 Pakistan
12 India

1982, Bombay (India)
1 Pakistan
2 West Germany
3 Australia
4 Netherlands
5 India
6 Soviet Union
7 New Zealand
8 Poland
9 England
10 Malaysia
11 Spain
12 Argentina

1978, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
1 Pakistan
2 Netherlands
3 Australia
4 West Germany
5 Spain
6 India
7 England
8 Argentina
9 Poland
10 Malaysia
11 Canada
12 Ireland
13 Italy
14 Belgium

1975, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
1 India
2 Pakistan
3 West Germany
4 Malaysia
5 Australia
6 England
7 New Zealand
8 Spain
9 Netherlands
10 Poland
11 Argentina
12 Ghana

1973, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1 Netherlands
2 India
3 West Germany
4 Pakistan
5 Spain
6 England
7 New Zealand
8 Belgium
9 Argentina
10 Japan
11 Malaysia
12 Kenya

1971, Barcelona (Spain)
1 Pakistan
2 Spain
3 India
4 Kenya
5 West Germany
6 Netherlands
7 France
8 Australia
9 Japan
10 Argentina

FIH Hockey Women's World Cup – Standings

2022, Terrassa (Spain) and Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1 Netherlands
2 Argentina
3 Australia
4 Germany
5 New Zealand
6 Belgium
7 Spain
8 England
9 China
9 India
11 Ireland
11 Japan
13 Chile
13 Korea
15 Canada
15 South Africa

2018, London (England)
1 Netherlands
2 Ireland
3 Spain
4 Australia
5 Germany
6 England
7 Argentina
8 India
9 Italy
10 Belgium
11 New Zealand
12 Korea
13 Japan
14 United States
15 South Africa
16 China

2014, The Hague (Netherlands)
1 Netherlands
2 Australia
3 Argentina
4 United States
5 New Zealand
6 China
7 Korea
8 Germany
9 South Africa
10 Japan
11 England
12 Belgium

2010, Rosario (Argentina)
1 Argentina
2 Netherlands
3 England
4 Germany
5 Australia
6 Korea
7 New Zealand
8 China
9 India
10 South Africa
11 Japan
12 Spain

2006, Madrid (Spain)
1 Netherlands
2 Australia
3 Argentina
4 Spain
5 Japan
6 United States
7 England
8 Germany
9 Korea
10 China
11 India
12 South Africa

2002, Perth (Australia)
1 Argentina
2 Netherlands
3 China
4 Australia
5 England
6 Korea
7 Germany
8 Spain
9 United States
10 Japan
11 New Zealand
12 Scotland
13 South Africa
14 Ukraine
15 Ireland
16 Russia

1998, Utrecht (Netherlands)
1 Australia
2 Netherlands
3 Germany
4 Argentina
5 Korea
6 New Zealand
7 South Africa
8 United States
9 England
10 Scotland
11 China
12 India

1994, Dublin (Ireland)
1 Australia
2 Argentina
3 United States
4 Germany
5 Korea
6 Netherlands
7 China
8 Spain
9 England
10 Canada
11 Ireland
12 Russia

1990, Sydney (Australia)
1 Netherlands
2 Australia
3 Korea
4 England
5 Spain
6 China
7 New Zealand
8 Germany
9 Argentina
10 Canada
11 Japan
12 United States

1986, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1 Netherlands
2 West Germany
3 Canada
4 New Zealand
5 England
6 Australia
7 Argentina
8 Soviet Union
9 United States
10 Scotland
11 Spain
12 Ireland

1983, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
1 Netherlands
2 Canada
3 Australia
4 West Germany
5 England
6 United States
7 New Zealand
8 Scotland
9 Argentina
10 Soviet Union
11 India
12 Wales

1981, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
1 West Germany
2 Netherlands
3 Soviet Union
4 Australia
5 Canada
6 Argentina
7 Japan
8 Belgium
9 France
10 Spain
11 Mexico
12 Austria

1978, Madrid (Spain)
1 Netherlands
2 West Germany
3 Belgium
4 Argentina
5 Canada
6 Japan
7 India
8 Spain
9 Czechoslovakia
10 Nigeria

1976, West Berlin (West Germany)
1 West Germany
2 Argentina
3 Netherlands
4 Belgium
5 Spain
6 France
7 Austria
8 Italy
9 Switzerland
10 Mexico
11 Nigeria

1974, Mandelieu (France)
1 Netherlands
2 Argentina
3 West Germany
4 India
5 Belgium
6 Spain
7 France
8 Austria
9 Switzerland
10 Mexico

FIH Hockey Pro League – Standings

2023/24 Women
1 Netherlands
2 Germany
3 Argentina
4 Belgium
5 China
6 Australia
7 Great Britain
8 India
9 United States

2023/24 Men
1 Australia
2 Netherlands
3 Great Britain
4 Argentina
5 Belgium
6 Germany
7 India
8 Spain
9 Ireland

2022/23 Women
1 Netherlands
2 Argentina
3 Australia
5 Germany
6 Great Britain
7 China
8 Belgium
8 New Zealand
9 United States

2022/23 Men
1 Netherlands
2 Great Britain
3 Belgium
4 India
5 Spain
6 Germany
7 Australia
8 Argentina
9 New Zealand

2021/22 Women
1 Argentina
2 Netherlands
3 India
4 Belgium
5 Spain
6 Germany
7 England
8 China
9 United States

2021/22 Men
1 Netherlands
2 Belgium
3 India
4 Germany
5 Argentina
6 England
7 Spain
8 France
9 South Africa

2020/21 Women
1 Netherlands
2 Argentina
3 Great Britain
4 Germany
5 Australia
6 New Zealand
7 Belgium
8 China
9 United States

2020/21 Men
1 Belgium
2 Australia
3 Germany
4 India
5 Netherlands
6 Great Britain
7 Argentina
8 New Zealand
9 Spain

2019 Women
1 Netherlands
2 Australia
3 Germany
4 Argentina
5 Belgium
6 New Zealand
7 China
8 Great Britain
9 United States

2019 Men
1 Australia
2 Belgium
3 Netherlands
4 Great Britain
5 Argentina
6 Germany
7 Spain
8 New Zealand

FIH Hockey Nations Cup– Standings

Women

2023–24, Terrassa (Spain)
1. Spain
2. Ireland
3. Chile
4. New Zealand
5. Japan
6. Canada
7. Italy
8. Korea

2022, Valencia (Spain)
1. India
2. Spain
3. Japan
4. Ireland
5. Italy
6. Korea
7. Chile
8. South Africa

Men

2023–24, Gniezno (Poland)
1. New Zealand
2. France
3. South Africa
4. Pakistan
5. Canada
6. Korea
7. Malaysia
8. Austria
9. Poland

2022, Potchefstroom (South Africa)
1. South Africa
2. Ireland
3. Korea
4. Malaysia
5. France
6. Japan
7. Pakistan
8. Canada

FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup – Standings

2023, Santiago (Chile)
1 Netherlands
2 Argentina
3 Belgium
4 England
5 Australia
6 Germany
7 Japan
8 Spain
9 India
10 United States
11 Korea
12 Chile
13 South Africa
14 Zimbabwe
15 New Zealand
16 Canada

2021, Potchefstroom (South Africa)
1 Netherlands
2 Germany
3 England
4 India
5 Argentina
6 Korea
7 South Africa
8 United States
9 Ireland
10 Austria
11 Malaysia
12 Zimbabwe
13 Uruguay
14 Wales
15 Canada

2016, Santiago (Chile)
1 Argentina
2 Netherlands
3 Australia
4 Spain
5 Germany
6 Belgium
7 England
8 United States
9 Japan
10 China
11 Chile
12 Korea
13 New Zealand
14 South Africa
15 France
16 Zimbabwe

2013, Mönchengladbach (Germany)
1 Netherlands
2 Argentina
3 India
4. England
5. Spain
6. Australia
7. United States
8. South Africa
9. New Zealand
10. Germany
11. Korea
12. China
13 Belgium
14 Canada
15 Russia
16 Ghana

2009, Boston (USA)
1 Netherlands
2 Argentina
3 Korea
4 England
5 Australia
6 Germany
7 China
8 United States
9 India
10 New Zealand
11 South Africa
12 Chile
13 Spain
14 France
15 Belarus
16 Lithuania

2005, Santiago (Chili)
1 Korea
2 Germany
3 Netherlands
4 Australia
5 Argentina
6 Spain
7 United States
8 South Africa
9 England
10 Chile
11 India
12 Scotland
13 China
14 Belarus
15 Canada
16 Zimbabwe

2001, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
1 Korea
2 Argentina
3 Australia
4 Netherlands
5 New Zealand
6 South Africa
7 Germany
8 England
9 India
10 Spain
11 Wales
12 Chile
13 Canada
14 United States
15 Russia

1997, Seongnam (Korea)
1 Netherlands
2 Australia
3 Argentina
4 Germany
5 Korea
6 South Africa
7 England
8 China
9 Spain
10 Ukraine
11 Canada
12 United States

1993, Terrassa (Spain)
1 Argentina
2 Australia
3 Germany
4 Korea
5 Netherlands
6 China
7 Spain
8 Canada
9 England
10 Kenya
11 Scotland
12 Trinidad & Tobago

1989, Ontario (Canada)
1 Germany
2 Korea
3 Soviet Union
4 Netherlands
5 China
6 Argentina
7 Canada
8 England
9 New Zealand
10 United States
11 Chile
12 Zimbabwe

FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup – Standings

2023, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
1 Germany
2 France
3 Spain
4 India
5 Netherlands
6 Australia
7 Argentina
8 Pakistan
9 Belgium
10 South Africa
11 New Zealand
12 Malaysia
13 Korea
14 Egypt
15 Chile
16 Canada

2021, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (India)
1 Argentina
2 Germany
3 France
4 India
5 Netherlands
6 Belgium
7 Spain
8 Malaysia
9 South Africa
10 Korea
11 Pakistan
12 Poland
13 Canada
14 Chile
15 United States
16 Egypt

2016, Lucknow (India)
1 India
2 Belgium
3 Germany
4 Australia
5 Argentina
6 Spain
7 Netherlands
8 England
9 New Zealand
10 South Africa
11 Malaysia
12 Austria
13 Japan
14 Korea
15 Egypt
16 Canada

2013, New Delhi (India)
1 Germany
2 France
3 Netherlands
4 Malaysia
5 Australia
6 Belgium
7 New Zealand
8 Korea
9 Pakistan
10 India
11 Argentina
12 South Africa
13 Spain
14 England
15 Egypt
16 Canada

2009, Johor Baharu (Malaysia) & Singapore (Singapore)
1 Germany
2 Netherlands
3 Australia
4 New Zealand
5 Pakistan
6 Argentina
7 Korea
8 Spain
9 India
10 Poland
11 Belgium
12 Malaysia
13 Japan
14 Egypt
15 South Africa
16 England
17 Chile
18 Russia
19 Singapore
20 United States

2005, Rotterdam (Netherlands)
1 Argentina
2 Australia
3 Spain
4 India
5 Netherlands
6 Germany
7 Pakistan
8 Korea
9 England
10 Malaysia
11 Belgium
12 Egypt
13 South Africa
14 Poland
15 Chile
16 Mexico

2001, Hobart (Australia)
1 India
2 Argentina
3 Germany
4 England
5 Spain
6 Australia
7 Korea
8 Netherlands
9 New Zealand
10 France
11 South Africa
12 Malaysia
13 Scotland
14 Ireland
15 Chile
16 Canada

1997, Milton Keynes (England)
1 Australia
2 India
3 Germany
4 England
5 Pakistan
6 Argentina
7 Netherlands
8 Spain
9 Egypt
10 Cuba
11 Japan
12 Belgium

1993, Terrassa (Spain)
1 Germany
2 Pakistan
3 Australia
4 Netherlands
5 England
6 Argentina
7 Spain
8 Cuba
9 Korea
10 Scotland
11 Malaysia
12 Egypt

1989, Ipoh (Malaysia)
1 Germany
2 Australia
3 Pakistan
4 Korea
5 Argentina
6 Malaysia
7 England
8 Spain
9 Netherlands
10 Egypt
11 United States
12 Soviet Union

1985, Vancouver (Canada)
1 Germany
2 Netherlands
3 Pakistan
4 Australia
5 India
6 England
7 Argentina
8 France
9 Zimbabwe
10 Malaysia
11 Belgium
12 Egypt
13 Canada
14 Chile

1982, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
1 Germany
2 Australia
3 Pakistan
4 Malaysia
5 India
6 Netherlands
7 Spain
8 Canada
9 Kenya
10 New Zealand
11 Singapore

1979, Versailles (France)
1 Pakistan
2 Germany
3 Netherlands
4 Malaysia
5 India
6 Argentina
7 France
8 Ireland
9 Spain
10 Ghana
11 Singapore
12 Chile

FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup– Standings

2023, Pretoria (South Africa)

Women

1 Netherlands
2 Austria
3 Czech Republic
4 South Africa
5 Belgium
6 Ukraine
7 Australia
8 Canada
9 United States
10 Kazakhstan
11 New Zealand
12 Namibia

Men

1 Austria
2 Netherlands
3 Iran
4 United States
5 Belgium
6 South Africa
7 Argentina
8 Namibia
9 Czech Republic
10 Kazakhstan
11 Australia
12 New Zealand

2018, Berlin (Germany)

Women

1 Germany
2 Netherlands
3 Belarus
4 Ukraine
5 Switzerland
6 Australia
7 Czech Republic
8 Poland
9 Namibia
10 United States
11 Russia
12 Kazakhstan

Men

1 Austria
2 Germany
3 Iran
4 Australia
5 Czech Republic
6 Belgium
7 Poland
8 Switzerland
9 Russia
10 Trinidad & Tobago
11 South Africa
12 Kazakhstan

2015, Leipzig (Germany)

Women

1 Netherlands
2 Germany
3 Czech Republic
4 Austria
5 Poland
6 Ukraine
7 Belarus
8 Australia
9 South Africa
10 Canada
11 Belgium
12 Kazakhstan

Men

1 Netherlands
2 Austria
3 Germany
4 Iran
5 Russia
6 Sweden
7 Poland
8 Switzerland
9 Czech Republic
10 Australia
11 South Africa
12 Canada

2011, Poznan (Poland)

Women

1 Germany
2 Netherlands
3 Ukraine
4 Belarus
5 Poland
6 Czech Republic
7 Austria
8 Australia
9 Argentina
10 Namibia
11 Uruguay
12 Kazakhstan

Men

1 Germany
2 Poland
3 Austria
4 Russia
5 Netherlands
6 England
7 Australia
8 Czech Republic
9 Iran
10 Canada
11 United States
12 Namibia

2007, Vienna (Austria)

Women

1 Netherlands
2 Spain
3 Germany
4 Ukraine
5 Belarus
6 Australia
7 Austria
8 Scotland
9 Canada
10 Italy
11 Czech Republic
12 South Africa

Men

1 Germany
2 Poland
3 Spain
4 Czech Republic
5 Russia
6 Austria
7 Canada
8 Australia
9 Switzerland
10 Italy
11 South Africa
12 Trinidad & Tobago

2003, Leipzig (Germany)

Women

1 Germany
2 Netherlands
3 France
4 Czech Republic
5 Belarus
6 Lithuania
7 Austria
8 Russia
9 Australia
10 South Africa
11 Trinidad & Tobago
12 Mexico

Men

1 Germany
2 Poland
3 France
4 Switzerland
5 Netherlands
6 Canada
7 Australia
8 Czech Republic
9 Russia
10 South Africa
11 United States
12 New Zealand

FIH Hockey5s World Cup– Standings

2024, Muscat (Oman)

Women

1. Netherlands
2. India
3. Poland
4. South Africa
5. Uruguay
6. Malaysia
7. Ukraine
8. New Zealand
9. United States
10. Namibia
11. Australia
12. Fiji
13. Thailand
14. Paraguay
15. Zambia
16. Oman

Men

1. Netherlands
2. Malaysia
3. Oman
4. Poland
5. India
6. Egypt
7. Kenya
8. Trinidad & Tobago
9. Pakistan
10. Switzerland
11. Australia
12. New Zealand
13. United States
14. Nigeria
15. Fiji
16. Jamaica

Hockey Champions Trophy– Standings

Women

2018, Changzhou (China)

1. Netherlands
2. Australia
3. Argentina
4. China
5. Great Britain
6. Japan

2016, London (England)

1. Argentina
2. Netherlands
3. United States
4. Australia
5. Great Britain
6. New Zealand

2014, Mendoza (Argentina)

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Netherlands
4. New Zealand
5. England
6. China
7. Germany
8. Japan

2012, Rosario (Argentina)

1 Argentina
2 Great Britain
3 Netherlands
4 Germany
5 Japan
6 New Zealand
7 Korea
8 China

2011, Amstelveen (Netherlands)

1 Netherlands
2 Argentina
3 New Zealand
4 Korea
5 England
6 Australia
7 China
8 Germany

2010, Nottingham (England)

1 Argentina
2 Netherlands
3 England
4 Germany
5 New Zealand
6 China

2009, Sydney (Australia)

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Netherlands
4. Germany
5. China
6. England

2008, Mönchengladbach (Germany)

1. Argentina
2. Germany
3. Netherlands
4. China
5. Australia
6. Japan

2007, Quilmes (Argentina)

1. Netherlands
2. Argentina
3. Germany
4. Australia
5. Japan
6. Spain

2006, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1. Germany
2. China
3. Netherlands
4. Argentina
5. Australia
6. New Zealand

2005, Canberra (Australia)
1 Netherlands
2 Australia
3 China
4 Argentina
5 Germany
6 Korea

2004, Rosario, Argentina
1. Netherlands
2. Germany
3. Argentina
4. Australia
5. China
6. New Zealand

2003, Sydney (Australia)
1. Australia
2. China
3. Netherlands
4. Argentina
5. England
6. Korea

2002, Macau (China)
1. China
2. Argentina
3. Netherlands
4. Australia
5. New Zealand
6. England

2001, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1. Argentina
2. Netherlands
3. Australia
4. China
5. New Zealand
6. Spain

2000, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1. Netherlands
2. Germany
3. Australia
4. Argentina
5. South Africa
6. New Zealand

1999, Brisbane (Australia)
1. Australia
2. Netherlands
3. Germany
4. Argentina
5. New Zealand
6. Korea

1997, Berlin (Germany)
1. Australia
2. Germany
3. Netherlands
4. Korea
5. Great Britain
6. United States

1995, Mar del Plata (Argentina)
1. Australia
2. Korea
3. United States
4. Germany
5. Spain
6. Argentina

1993, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1. Australia
2. Netherlands
3. Germany
4. Korea
5. Spain
6. Great Britain

1991, Berlin (Germany)
1 Australia
2 Germany
3 Netherlands
4 Spain
5 China
6 Korea

1989, Frankfurt am Main (West Germany)
1 Korea
2 Australia
3 West Germany
4 Great Britain
5 Netherlands
6 Canada

1987, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1 Netherlands
2 Australia
3 Korea
4 Canada
5 Great Britain
6 New Zealand

Men

2018, Breda (Netherlands)
1 Australia
2 India
3 Netherlands
4 Argentina
5 Belgium
6 Pakistan

2016, London, England
1 Australia
2 India
3 Germany
4 Great Britain
5 Belgium
6 Korea

2014, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (India)
1 Germany
2 Pakistan
3 Australia
4 India
5 Netherlands
6 Argentina
7 England
8 Belgium

2012, Melbourne (Australia)
1 Australia
2 Netherlands
3 Pakistan
4 India
5 Belgium
6 Germany
7 New Zealand
8 England

2011, Auckland (New Zealand)
1 Australia
2 Spain
3 Netherlands
4 New Zealand
5 Germany
6 Great Britain
7 Pakistan
8 Korea

2010, Mönchengladbach (Germany)
1 Australia
2 England
3 Netherlands
4 Germany
5 Spain
6 New Zealand

2009, Melbourne (Australia)
1. Australia
2. Germany
3. Korea
4. Netherlands
5. Spain
6. England

2008, Rotterdam (Netherlands)
1. Australia
2. Spain
3. Argentina
4. Netherlands
5. Germany
6. Korea

2007, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
1. Germany
2. Australia
3. Netherlands
4. Korea
5. Spain
6. Great Britain
7. Pakistan
8. Malaysia

2006, Terrassa (Spain)
1 Netherlands
2 Germany
3 Spain
4 Australia
5 Pakistan
6 Argentina

2005, Chennai (India)
1 Australia
2 Netherlands
3 Spain
4 Germany
5 Pakistan
6 India

2004, Lahore (Pakistan)
1 Spain
2 Netherlands
3 Pakistan
4 India
5 Germany
6 New Zealand

2003, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1. Netherlands
2. Australia
3. Pakistan
4. India
5. Argentina
6. Germany

2002, Cologne (Germany)
1. Netherlands
2. Germany
3. Pakistan
4. India
5. Australia
6. Korea

2001, Rotterdam (Netherlands)
1. Germany
2. Australia
3. Netherlands
4. Pakistan
5. England
6. Korea

2000, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1. Netherlands
2. Germany
3. Korea
4. Spain
5. Australia
6. Great Britain

1999, Brisbane (Australia)
1. Australia
2. Korea
3. Netherlands
4. Spain
5. England
6. Pakistan

1998, Lahore (Pakistan)
1. Netherlands
2. Pakistan
3. Australia
4. Korea
5. Spain
6. Germany

1997, Adelaide (Australia)
1. Germany
2. Australia
3. Spain
4. Netherlands
5. Pakistan
6. Korea

1996, Madras (India)
1. Netherlands
2. Pakistan
3. Germany
4. India
5. Spain
6. Australia

1995, Berlin (Germany)
1. Germany
2. Australia
3. Pakistan
4. Netherlands
5. India
6. England

1994, Lahore (Pakistan)
1. Pakistan
2. Germany
3. Netherlands
4. Australia
5. Spain
6. Great Britain

1993, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
1. Australia
2. Germany
3. Netherlands
4. Pakistan
5. Spain
6. Malaysia

1992, Karachi, Pakistan
1. Germany
2. Australia
3. Pakistan
4. Netherlands
5. Great Britain
6. France

1991, Berlin (Germany)
1. Germany
2. Pakistan
3. Netherlands
4. Australia
5. Great Britain
6. Soviet Union

1990, Melbourne (Australia)
1. Australia
2. Netherlands
3. Germany
4. Pakistan
5. Soviet Union
6. Great Britain

1989, West Berlin (West Germany)
1. Australia
2. Netherlands
3. West Germany
4. Pakistan
5. Great Britain
6. India

1988, Lahore (Pakistan)
1. West Germany
2. Pakistan
3. Australia
4. Soviet Union
5. Spain
6. Great Britain

1987, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1. West Germany
2. Netherlands
3. Australia
4. Great Britain
5. Argentina
6. Spain
7. Pakistan
8. Soviet Union

1986, Karachi (Pakistan)
1. West Germany
2. Australia
3. Pakistan
4. Great Britain
5. India
6. Netherlands

1985, Perth (Australia)
1. Australia
2. Great Britain
3. West Germany
4. Pakistan
5. Netherlands
6. India

1984, Karachi (Pakistan)
1. Australia
2. Pakistan
3. Great Britain
4. Netherlands
5. New Zealand
6. Spain

1983, Karachi (Pakistan)
1. Australia
2. Pakistan
3. West Germany
4. India
5. Netherlands
6. New Zealand

1982, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
1. Netherlands
2. Australia
3. India
4. Pakistan
5. West Germany
6. Soviet Union

1981, Karachi (Pakistan)
1. Netherlands
2. Australia
3. West Germany
4. Pakistan
5. Spain
6. England

1980, Karachi (Pakistan)
1. Pakistan
2. West Germany
3. Australia
4. Netherlands
5. India
6. Spain
7. Great Britain

1978, Lahore (Pakistan)
1. Pakistan
2. Australia
3. Great Britain
4. New Zealand
5. Spain

FIH Hockey World League (Finals) – Standings

Women

2017, Auckland (New Zealand)
1. Netherlands
2. New Zealand
3. Korea
4. England
5. Argentina
6. Germany
7. United States
8. China

2015, Rosario (Argentina)
1. Argentina
2. New Zealand
3. Germany
4. China
5. Netherlands
6. Australia
7. Great Britain
8. Korea

2013, San Miguel de Tucumán (Argentina)
1. Netherlands
2. Australia
3. England
4. Argentina
5. New Zealand
6. China
7. Germany
8. Korea

Men

2017, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (India)
1. Australia
2. Argentina
3. India
4. Germany
5. Belgium
6. Spain
7. Netherlands
8. England

2015, Raipur (India)
1. Australia
2. Belgium
3. India
4. Netherlands
5. Argentina
6. Great Britain
7. Germany
8. Canada

2014, New Delhi (India)
1. Netherlands
2. New Zealand
3. England
4. Australia
5. Belgium
6. India
7. Germany
8. Argentina

Youth Olympics–Standings

2018, Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Women
1. Argentina
2. India
3. China
4. South Africa
5. Australia
6. Austria
7. Poland
8. Namibia
9. Uruguay
10. Zimbabwe
11. Mexico
12. Vanuatu

Men
1. Malaysia
2. India
3. Argentina
4. Zambia
5. Poland
6. Australia
7. Austria
8. Bangladesh
9. Mexico
10. Canada
11. Kenya
12. Vanuatu

2014, Nanjing (China)

Women
1. China
2. Netherlands
3. Argentina
4. Japan
5. New Zealand
6. Uruguay
7. Germany
8. South Africa
9. Zambia
10. Fiji

Men
1. Australia
2. Canada
3. Spain
4. South Africa
5. Pakistan
6. New Zealand
7. Zambia
8. Mexico
9. Germany
10. Bangladesh

2010 Singapore (Singapore)

Women
1. Netherlands
2. Argentina
3. New Zealand
4. Korea
5. Ireland
6. South Africa

Men
1. Australia
2. Pakistan
3. Belgium
4. Ghana
5. Chile
6. Singapore

Appendix 2 – FIH Hockey Stars Awards Winners

FIH Player of the Year

Women

2022–23	Xan de Waard	NED
2021–22	Felice Albers	NED
2020–21	Gurjit Kaur	IND
2019	Eva de Goede	NED
2018	Eva de Goede	NED
2017	Delfina Merino	ARG
2016	Naomi Van As	NED
2015	Lidewij Welten	NED
2014	Ellen Hoog	NED
2013	Luciana Aymar	ARG
2012	Maartje Paumen	NED
2011	Maartje Paumen	NED
2010	Luciana Aymar	ARG
2009	Luciana Aymar & Naomi Van As	ARG NED
2008	Luciana Aymar	ARG
2007	Luciana Aymar	ARG
2006	Minke Booij	NED
2005	Luciana Aymar	ARG
2004	Luciana Aymar	ARG
2003	Mijntje Donners	NED
2002	Cecilia Rognoni	ARG
2001	Luciana Aymar	ARG
2000	Alyson Annan	AUS
1999	Natascha Keller	GER
1998	Alyson Annan	AUS

Men

2022–23	Hardik Singh	IND
2021–22	Harmanpreet Singh	IND
2020–21	Harmanpreet Singh	IND
2019	Manpreet Singh	IND
2018	Arthur Van Doren	BEL
2017	Arthur Van Doren	BEL
2016	John-John Dohmen	BEL
2015	Robert Van Der Horst	NED
2014	Mark Knowles	AUS
2013	Tobias Hauke	GER
2012	Moritz Fürste	GER
2011	Jamie Dwyer	AUS
2010	Jamie Dwyer	AUS
2009	Jamie Dwyer	AUS
2008	Pol Amat	ESP
2007	Jamie Dwyer	AUS
2006	Teun de Nooijer	NED
2005	Teun de Nooijer	NED
2004	Jamie Dwyer	AUS
2003	Teun de Nooijer	NED
2002	Michael Green	GER
2001	Florian Kunz	GER
2000	Stephan Veen	NED
1999	Jay Stacy	AUS
1998	Stephan Veen	NED

FIH Goalkeeper of the Year

Women

2022–23	Savita Punia	IND
2021–22	Savita Punia	IND
2020–21	Savita Punia	IND
2019	Rachael Lynch	AUS
2018	Maddie Hinch	GBR
2017	Maddie Hinch	GBR
2016	Maddie Hinch	GBR
2015	Joyce Sombroek	NED
2014	Joyce Sombroek	NED

Men

2022–23	Pirmin Blaak	NED
2021–22	PR Sreejesh	IND
2020–21	PR Sreejesh	IND
2019	Vincent Vanasch	BEL
2018	Vincent Vanasch	BEL
2017	Vincent Vanasch	BEL
2016	David Harte	IRE
2015	David Harte	IRE
2014	Jaap Stockmann	NED

FIH Rising Star of the Year

Women

2022–23	Teresa Lima	ESP
2021–22	Mumtaz Khan	IND
2019	Lalremsiami	IND
2018	Lucina von de Heyde	ARG
2017	Maria Granatto	ARG
2016	Maria Granatto	ARG
2015	Lily Owsley	GBR
2014	Florencia Habif	ARG
2013	Maria Verschoor	NED
2012	Anna Flanagan	AUS
2011	Stacey Michelsen	NZL
2010	Zhao Yudiao	CHN
2009	Casey Eastham	AUS
2008	Maartje Paumen	NED
2007	Maike Stockel	GER
2006	Mi Hyun Park	KOR
2005	Maartje Goderie	NED
2004	Soledad Garcia	ARG
2003	Maartje Scheepstra	NED
2002	Soledad Garcia	ARG
2001	Angie Skirving	AUS

Men

2022–23	Gaspard Xavier	FRA
2021–22	Timothée Clément	FRA
2019	Vivek Prasad	IND
2018	Arthur de Sloover	BEL
2017	Arthur Van Doren	BEL
2016	Arthur Van Doren	BEL
2015	Christopher Rühr	GER
2014	Gonzalo Peillat	ARG
2013	Christopher Rühr	GER
2012	Florian Fuchs	GER
2011	Matthew Swann	AUS
2010	Tobias Hauke	GER
2009	Ashley Jackson	ENG
2008	Eddie Ockenden	AUS
2007	Mark Knowles	AUS
2006	Christopher Zeller	GER
2005	Robert van der Horst	NED
2004	Santi Freixa	ESP
2003	Grant Schubert	AUS
2002	Jamie Dwyer	AUS
2001	Tibor Weissenborn	GER

FIH Coach of the Year

Women's team

2022–23	Alyson Annan	AUS
2021–22	Janneke Schopman	NED
2020–21	Sjoerd Marijne	NED
2019	Alyson Annan	AUS
2018	Alyson Annan	AUS
2017	Alyson Annan	AUS
2016	Karen Brown	GBR
2015	Karen Brown	GBR
2014	Max Caldas	ARG

Men's team

2022–23	André Henning	GER
2021–22	Graham Reid	AUS
2020–21	Graham Reid	AUS
2019	Colin Batch	AUS

2018	Shane McLeod	NZL
2017	Max Caldas	ARG
2017	Shane McLeod	NZL
2016	Danny Kerry	GBR
2015	Craig Fulton	RSA
2014	Rich Charlesworth	AUS

FIH Umpire of the Year

Women

2022–23	Ayanna McClean	TTO
2021–22	Amber Church	NZL
2018	Michelle Meister	GER
2017	Sarah Wilson	SCO
2016	Laurine Delforge	BEL
2015	Michelle Joubert	RSA

Men

2022–23	Ben Göntgen	GER
2021–22	Coen Van Bunge	NED
2018	Marcin Grochal	POL
2017	John Wright	RSA
2016	Christian Blasch	GER
2015	Nathan Stagno	GIB

FIH would like to express its sincerest gratitude to its Commercial and Broadcast Partners for their major contribution to the development of hockey worldwide.

We feel privileged to collaborate with such dedicated partners and look forward to pursuing our successful collaboration and journey together.

Global Leadership Partner

Hero

Global Partners

ODISHA
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.

Global Supplier

polytan

THE HISTORY OF HOCKEY

1976
OLYMPIC EVENT MOVES FROM GRASS TO ARTIFICIAL TURF

Artificial turf was introduced at the hockey event of the Montreal 1976 Olympic Games, and has replaced natural grass in the most elite hockey events ever since then.

1980
MEN AND WOMEN TOGETHER AT THE OLYMPICS

Women's hockey is included for the first time in the Moscow 1980 Olympic Games, following the decision taken in October 1974 by the Internatiobal Olympic Committee. Both Men's and Women's events have remained in the Games since then.

2003
FIRST INDOOR WORLD CUP

The inaugural edition was held in February 2003, in Leipzig, Germany. The host nation Germany were champions in both the men's and women's event, Poland and France were placed 2nd and 3rd in the Men's event with the Netherlands then France in the women's event.

2019
FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE CREATION

The FIH Hockey Pro League is the annual global League involving hockey's best national teams in the world, men and women.

The best team of the season – having accumulated the highest number of points at the end of the League – is crowned Champion and receives the coveted FIH Hockey Pro League Trophy

2024
FIRST FIH HOCKEY5S WORLD CUP EVENT

Oman was selected to host the inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup (16 teams Men and Women) played in January 2024. Matches took place in Oman's capital city, Muscat.

2024
FIH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS: A HERITAGE OF EXCELLENCE

Paris 2024 also marked the 25th edition of hockey at the Olympic Games, played at the historic Yves-du-Manoir stadium, which hosted the Olympic Games Paris 1924.

Reflecting on FIH's 100 years, the journey of hockey at the Olympics is a testament to the sport's enduring appeal and global reach. From its early days to the modern era, hockey has captured the hearts of millions and provided some of the most unforgettable moments in Olympic history.