



FIH HOCKEY MEN'S NATIONS CUP
MALAYSIA 2024-2025

MEDIA KIT



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For all media queries relating to the event, please contact media@fih.hockey

ABOUT THE EVENT

Event title FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2024-2025
When 15-21 June 2025
Where National Hockey Stadium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

TEAMS

Pool A France, Korea, South Africa, Wales
Pool B Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan

EVENT WEBSITE

<https://www.fih.hockey/events/nations-cup/men/fih-hockey-mens-nations-cup-malaysia-2024-25-1767>

SOCIAL MEDIA

The FIH will provide comprehensive coverage of the event via our social media channels, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter/X](#) and [YouTube](#).

HASHTAG

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup taking place in Malaysia's capital city, Kuala Lumpur. The global hockey community is delighted to go back to the Southeast Asian country, one of the powerhouses of global hockey, that has become a regular host of FIH events, always very successfully staged!

Our Malaysian friends are wonderful and experienced hockey tournament organisers, and I already know that they will, once again, put together a fantastic tournament that will leave lasting memories to athletes and fans alike.



In its first two editions, the Nations Cup, involving some of the best teams in the world, has proven to be a really exciting tournament! It's no surprise that most of the participating teams are regular contenders of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup or even the Olympic Games. Furthermore, the Nations Cup gives its winners the chance to reach the next level by joining the "League of the Best", namely the FIH Hockey Pro League, making it a really competitive event.

As always, athletes will play a pivotal role in the success of this Nations Cup. They are at the centre of everything FIH does. Together with the Malaysian Hockey Confederation, we have strived to create the best possible stage for them so that they can express the very best of themselves!

Athletes have worked tirelessly to perform at their peak. It's our duty to ensure that they will be able to do so. I wish all of them to make the most of this wonderful experience for their career and development.





On behalf of FIH, I would like to express our sincerest thanks to all stakeholders involved in the organisation of this Nations Cup, starting with the local authorities – the city of Kuala Lumpur in particular – and the Malaysian Hockey Confederation for their hospitality and professionalism.

Our gratitude also goes to the participating teams, and especially the athletes, for gracing us with their talent! To the commercial and broadcast partners, whose support plays a tremendous part in the global development of hockey. To all the volunteers – including our amazing officials and umpires – for their admirable dedication.

I wish everyone a great FIH Hockey Nations Cup in Malaysia, that you can also follow on our fully renewed streaming platform Watch.Hockey.

May the best win, with respect and fair play!

Yours in Hockey,

Tayyab Ikram

FIH President



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ABOUT KUALA LUMPUR AND THE NATIONAL HOCKEY STADIUM

About Kuala Lumpur

It is hard to believe that 200 years ago, the city of Kuala Lumpur did not even exist! What is more surprising is that one of Asia's richest cities had a beginning so devastating and gory that no one could have even fathomed its prosperity and popularity today.

The town was founded when some Chinese miners discovered the area because it was naturally rich in tin. The word 'Kuala Lumpur' translates to 'muddy confluence', which comes from the intersection of the Gombak and Klang rivers; both significant gateways to the city. It was at this spot where it all started, where settlements grew and flourished to become the Kuala Lumpur we now know.

Kuala Lumpur, officially the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and colloquially referred to as KL, is a federal territory and the ceremonial, legislative and judicial capital city of Malaysia. It is one of the fastest growing cities in Asia and the largest city in Malaysia, covering an area of 243 km² (94 sq. mi) with a census population of 1,982,112 as of 2020. Greater Kuala Lumpur, also known as the Klang Valley, is an urban agglomeration of 8,621,724 million people as of 2023. It is among the fastest growing metropolitan regions in Southeast Asia, both in population and economic development.

The city serves as the cultural, financial, and economic centre of Malaysia. It is also home to the Parliament of Malaysia, and the Royal Palace, the official residence of the King (Yang di-Pertuan Agong) (monarch of Malaysia). Kuala Lumpur first developed around 1857 as a town serving the tin mines of the region and served as the capital of Selangor from 1880 until 1978.

Kuala Lumpur was the founding capital of the Federation of Malaya and its successor Malaysia, and the city remained the seat of the executive and judicial branches of the Malaysian federal





government until these were relocated to Putrajaya in early 1999. However, some sections of the political bodies still remain in Kuala Lumpur. The city is one of the three federal territories of Malaysia, enclaved within the state of Selangor, on the central west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

Since the 1990s, the city has played host to many international sporting, political and cultural events including the 1998 Commonwealth Games and the 2017 Southeast Asian Games. Kuala Lumpur has undergone rapid development in recent decades and is home to the tallest twin buildings in the world, the Petronas Towers, which have since become an iconic symbol of Malaysian development. Kuala Lumpur is well connected with neighbouring urban regions such as Petaling Jaya via the rapidly-expanding Klang Valley Integrated Transit System. Residents of the city can also travel to other parts of Malaysia through KL Sentral.

Kuala Lumpur on Wikipedia: [Click Here](#)

Kuala Lumpur on Lonely Planet: [Click Here](#)

Kuala Lumpur on Trip Advisor: [Click Here](#)



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About the National Hockey Stadium

The venue for the FIH Hockey Junior Men's World Cup Malaysia 2023 is The National Hockey Stadium, which is located in the Bukit Jalil suburb of Kuala Lumpur.

Built in preparation for the 16th Commonwealth Games in 1998, the stadium has hosted numerous major international hockey competitions, including the 2001 Men's Champions Challenge, 2002 Men's World Cup, 2007 Men's Champions Trophy, 2017 South East Asian Games, 2019 FIH Series Finals and the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2023.

With the main arena having a seating capacity of 12,000 and 2,000 seats surrounding pitch 2, this world class venue will provide the perfect stage on which some of the world's most exciting players can perform.



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ABOUT THE FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP

The FIH Hockey Nations Cup is an annual tournament that involves some of the best hockey playing nations of the world and acts as a pathway to the FIH Hockey Pro League, to which it introduces a relegation/promotion axis, with the first placed team in the FIH Hockey Nations Cup getting the opportunity to replace the bottom placed team in the FIH Hockey Pro League in the subsequent year.

Additionally in 2025, FIH introduced the Hockey Nations Cup 2, which would add another tier below the Nations Cup, with the team winning the Nations Cup 2 earning the opportunity to replace the bottom placed team of the Nations Cup in the subsequent season.

The FIH Hockey Nations Cup features the best eight teams (by world rankings) that are not a part of the FIH Hockey Pro League, in both men's and women's competitions. The eight teams are split into two pools of four teams each, with the top two teams in each pool proceeding to the semi-finals, while the bottom two teams from each pool will play for 5-8 place classification.

The FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 match schedule, including match timings is [available here](#).

The FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2 will run from 16 to 22 June 2025 in Watz, Poland. The complete match schedule including match timings is [available here](#).

For more information on the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup 2 played earlier in the year, please visit the website [here](#).

More information about the FIH Hockey Pro League can be [found here](#).





COMPETITION FORMULA

15 - 21 JUNE 2025

POOLS DISTRIBUTION

Pools allocated according to the snake system based on the World Ranking of 31 January 2024

Winner of Nations Cup will be promoted to FIH Pro League Season 7

POOL A

FRANCE
SOUTH AFRICA
KOREA
WALES

POOL B

NEW ZEALAND
MALAYSIA
JAPAN
PAKISTAN

STAGE 1 - POOL STAGE

KUALA LUMPUR 15 - 18 JUNE

OPENING MATCH ON 15 JUNE

8 TEAMS, 2 POOLS OF 4 TEAMS, 12 MATCHES IN TOTAL

1st & 2nd RANKED TEAM OF EACH POOL ADVANCES TO THE SEMI-FINALS

3rd AND 4th RANKED TEAM OF EACH POOL ADVANCES TO CLASSIFICATION MATCHES 5th to 8th
5th RANKED TEAM OF POOL A IS ELIMINATED FROM THE COMPETITION

STAGE 2 - SEMI-FINALS & CLASSIFICATION MATCHES 5th-8th

KUALA LUMPUR 20 JUNE

CLASSIFICATION MATCHES 5th-8th

MATCH I

3rd POOL A	4th POOL B
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MATCH II

3rd POOL B	4th POOL A
------------	------------

SEMI-FINALS

MATCH III

1st POOL A	2nd POOL B
------------	------------

MATCH IV

1st POOL B	2nd POOL A
------------	------------

STAGE 3 - FINAL, BRONZE, CLASSIFICATION MATCHES 5th-6th & 7th-8th

KUALA LUMPUR 21 JUNE

CLASSIFICATION MATCH 7th-8th

LOSER MATCH I	LOSER MATCH II
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CLASSIFICATION MATCH 5th-6th

WINNER MATCH I	WINNER MATCH II
----------------	-----------------

BRONZE

LOSER MATCH III	LOSER MATCH IV
-----------------	----------------

FINAL

WINNER MATCH III	WINNERMATCH IV
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MATCH SCHEDULE



POOLS & MATCH SCHEDULE

POOL A
FRANCE
SOUTH AFRICA
KOREA
WALES
POOL B
NEW ZEALAND
MALAYSIA
JAPAN
PAKISTAN

DATE	N°	POOL	TIME CET	MATCH
15 JUNE	1	A	14:00	FRANCE vs KOREA
	2	A	16:00	SOUTH AFRICA vs WALES
	3	B	18:00	NEW ZEALAND vs JAPAN
	4	B	20:00	MALAYSIA vs PAKISTAN
16 JUNE	5	A	14:00	KOREA vs WALES
	6	A	16:00	SOUTH AFRICA vs FRANCE
	7	B	18:00	JAPAN vs PAKISTAN
	8	B	20:00	MALAYSIA vs NEW ZEALAND
17 JUNE	REST DAY			REST DAY
18 JUNE	9	A	14:00	KOREA vs SOUTH AFRICA
	10	A	16:00	FRANCE vs WALES
	11	B	18:00	NEW ZEALAND vs PAKISTAN
	12	B	20:00	JAPAN vs MALAYSIA
19 JUNE	REST DAY			REST DAY
20 JUNE	13	5/8 ¹	13:30	3rd POOL A vs 4th POOL B
	14	5/8 ¹	16:00	3rd POOL B vs 4th POOL A
	15	SF ¹	18:30	1st POOL A vs 2nd POOL B
	16	SF ¹	21:00	1st POOL B vs 2nd POOL A
21 JUNE	17	7/8	13:30	LOSER MATCH 13 vs LOSER MATCH 14
	18	5/6	16:00	WINNER MATCH 13 vs WINNER MATCH 14
	19	3/4	18:30	LOSER MATCH 15 vs LOSER MATCH 16
	20	FINAL	21:00	WINNER MATCH 15 vs WINNER MATCH 16

Subject to the approval of the FIH any match(es) may be rescheduled.

¹ The sequence of matches will be confirmed on completion of the pool matches

² The pools and match sequence as per the FIH Competition Policies and Tournament Regulations are based on the FIH World Rankings on 1 July 2024.





PROMOTION/RELEGATION

The aim of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup, and the FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2, is to offer a top-level competition to the best-ranked teams, ranked below the teams participating in the FIH Hockey Pro League, and provide them the pathway to earn a place in the competition.



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TEAMS

Below you will find some general information as well as the squad lists for the teams that will compete in each pool at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025. All squad information is correct at the time of publication. To see complete and up-to-date squad lists for each team competing in Kuala Lumpur, please [click here](#).

POOL A

France

Korea

South Africa

Wales



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France

Nickname: Les Bleus

Notable honours: 4th place – Olympic Games (1920, 1936), 7th place – FIH Men’s World Cup (1971, 1990), 8th place – FIH Men’s World Cup (2018), 6th place – FIH Champions Trophy (1992), 4th place – EuroHockey Nations Championship (1970), 5th place – EuroHockey Nations Championship (2023), FIH Hockey Nations Cup silver medallists (2023-24)

Current World Ranking: 9

Nations Cup 2023/24: 2nd

The French team enters the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 with a renewed sense of purpose, building upon their commendable performance in the previous edition. In the 2023–24 Nations Cup held in Poland, France put on an impressive campaign, with a particular highlight coming from a thrilling 6-5 victory over Pakistan to advance to the semi-finals. They continued their impressive run by defeating South Africa in the semi-finals, earning a spot in the final against New Zealand. Although they finished as runners-up, this achievement underscored their growing stature in international hockey.

However, the team’s journey in major tournaments has been challenging. In the 2024 Paris Olympics, the French team, despite the advantage of playing on home turf, struggled in the group stages. They managed an impressive 3-3 draw against Spain but suffered losses to strong teams like the Netherlands and Great Britain, ultimately missing out on the quarter-finals.

France are the highest ranked team in the competition with a world ranking of 9th, reflecting their consistent efforts to climb the international ladder. At the Nations Cup, they are placed in Pool A alongside Korea, South Africa, and Wales. This grouping presents both challenges and





opportunities, as France aims to leverage their recent experiences at high level international competition to secure a top spot and vie for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League.

One to Watch: Victor Lockwood

As one of the most seasoned players in the French squad, captain Victor Lockwood brings a wealth of experience and composure to the backline at the Nations Cup. A defensive stalwart with over 150 international caps, Lockwood is known for his calm presence under pressure, sharp interceptions, and intelligent distribution out of defense.

Having featured in multiple major tournaments, including the Paris 2024 Olympics, FIH Hockey World Cup and the EuroHockey Championships, Victor has consistently delivered high-level performances against the world's best. His leadership on the pitch and deep understanding of the game make him an invaluable asset in France's push for Pro League promotion.

With his ability to marshal the defense and initiate counterattacks with pinpoint passing, Lockwood's role will be crucial in dictating France's defensive organization and transition play. Expect him to be a key figure as Les Bleus look to make a strong statement on the global stage.

Squad: [Click Here](#)





Korea

Notable Honours: Olympic silver medallists (2000), 4x Asian Games gold medallists (1986, 1994, 2002, 2006), 5x Asia Cup gold medallists (1994, 1999, 2009, 2013, 2022), 4th place – FIH Men’s World Cup (2002, 2006). FIH Champions Trophy silver medallists (1999). FIH Champions Trophy bronze medallists (2000, 2009), FIH Hockey Nations Cup bronze medallists (2022)

Current World Ranking: 14

Nations Cup 2023/24: 6th

The Korean men’s hockey team arrives at the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 with aspirations to reassert their presence on the global stage. In the 2023-24 Nations Cup held in Poland, Korea experienced a challenging campaign, securing a notable 4-3 victory over Malaysia but facing defeats against higher ranked opponents like South Africa and New Zealand. Their performance highlighted their skills, but also the need to increase consistency to compete at the highest level.

Korea have continued their rebuilding phase at the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, where they finished fifth after a tough tournament where their only wins came against Canada (twice), with losses against Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan and New Zealand, teams they will also face at the Nations Cup in Malaysia. Their performance in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Moqi China 2024 demonstrated a step up however, as they made the semi-finals following draws against Pakistan, Japan, Malaysia and with a win over hosts China.

Currently ranked 14th in the FIH Men’s World Rankings, Korea are positioned in Pool A with two higher ranked teams in France and South Africa, with Wales ranked four places below them. This grouping presents a balanced mix of different styles, offering Korea an opportunity to test their adaptability and strategic depth. With a blend of seasoned veterans and emerging talents, the





Korean team is poised to make a significant impact in Kuala Lumpur, aiming to secure a spot in the prestigious FIH Hockey Pro League for the very first time.

One to Watch: Lee Jung-jun

One of the standout players to watch in the Korean men's hockey team at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 is captain Lee Jung-jun. As a seasoned forward with over a decade of international experience, Lee brings leadership, creative and scoring prowess to the squad. With 148 caps and 35 goals and many more assists to his name, his consistency and ability to perform under pressure have been instrumental in Korea's successes on the international stage.

Throughout his career, Lee has contributed to several of South Korea's notable achievements, including gold medals at the 2013 and 2022 Asian Cups, as well as the 2021 Asian Champions Trophy. His experience in high-stakes tournaments, such as the FIH World Cup and the Asian Games, adds invaluable depth to the team. As Korea aims for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League, Lee Jung-jun's leadership and offensive capabilities will be crucial. His knack for finding the back of the net and creating opportunities makes him a player to keep an eye on in the upcoming tournament.

Squad: [Click Here](#)



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South Africa

Notable honours: 8x Africa Cup of Nations gold medallists (1993, 1996, 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, 2022), 2x All-Africa Games gold medallists (1995, 1999), 5x African Olympic Qualifier champions (2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, 2023), 10th Place – FIH Men’s World Cup (1994, 2010), 10th Place – Olympic Games (1996, 2004). FIH Champions Challenge silver medallists (2001), FIH Hockey Nations Cup gold medallists (2022), FIH Hockey Nations Cup bronze medallists (2023-24)

Current World Ranking: 11

Nations Cup 2023/24: 3rd

The South African hockey team enters the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 with momentum from a series of strong performances on the international stage. In the 2023-24 Nations Cup held in Poland, South Africa secured a commendable third-place finish through a dramatic 4-3 victory over Pakistan in the bronze medal match. Earlier in the tournament, they achieved a crucial win against Poland, with a standout defensive play by Ryan Julius in the final seconds securing the victory.

At the 2024 Paris Olympics, South Africa faced a challenging Pool A lineup, including top-ranked teams like the Netherlands and Germany. Despite early setbacks, the team concluded their Olympic journey on a high note with a 5-2 victory over hosts France, highlighted by a combined three goals from the Cassiem brothers, Mustapha and Dayaan. This win not only boosted team morale but also demonstrated their capacity to compete against formidable opponents on the world stage.

Currently ranked 11th in the world, South Africa only trail France in the world rankings in Pool A. With their strong recent performances against France and a dynamic attacking style that works for them in evenly-matched contests, South Africa will aim to secure a top spot and vie for promotion to the FIH Pro League. With a group of seasoned players who have regularly produced on the





international level for a few years now, the South African team is poised to make a significant impact in Kuala Lumpur.

One to Watch: Gowan Jones

One of the standout players to watch in the young South African team at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 is veteran shotstopper Gowan Jones. A cornerstone of the national setup, Jones brings with him a wealth of experience, composure under pressure, and a commanding presence in the goal.

Jones has been a consistent performer for South Africa over the years, with his international career spanning numerous key tournaments including three FIH Hockey World Cups and the Paris 2024 Olympics. Known for his sharp reflexes, excellent shot-stopping ability, and vocal leadership at the back, he played a pivotal role in South Africa's campaigns across all major events in recent times.

As South Africa pushes for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League, Jones' experience and leadership will be vital in anchoring the team's defense. His ability to pull off match-winning saves and organize his backline under high-stakes pressure makes him a player to watch in the upcoming tournament.

Squad: [Click Here](#)



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Wales

Notable Honours: Olympic bronze medallists (1908), 6th Place – EuroHockey Championships (1978, 1999, 2019), Silver medallists – EuroHockey Championship II (2017), 6th Place – Commonwealth Games (2022), 1st Place – Men’s FIH Hockey World Cup, European Qualifier (2022).

Current World Ranking: 18

Nations Cup 2023/24: N/A

The Welsh team enters the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 with a blend of ambition and momentum, following a period of notable achievements. Their historic debut at the 2023 Men’s FIH Hockey World Cup in India marked a significant milestone, where they secured an impressive 11th-place finish. Noteworthy performances included a 2-2 draw against France and competitive matches against Pro League teams in India and Spain. Building on this foundation, Wales demonstrated their growing prowess by clinching victories in international campaigns against Scotland and Austria in 2024, underscoring their upward trajectory in the international arena.

In the 2024 Paris Olympics, Welsh talent was prominently featured within Team GB, with players like Gareth Furlong, Rupert Shipperly and Jacob Draper contributing to the team’s journey to the quarter-finals. These experiences have not only elevated the players’ profiles but have also enriched the team’s collective overall experience on the biggest stage, which will aid the whole team in events such as the Nations Cup.

Currently ranked 18th in the FIH Men’s World Rankings, Wales are the lowest ranked team in a formidable pool featuring France, South Africa and Korea, but counting Wales out ahead of the event would be a folly, as they have shown their ability to rise to the occasion on multiple occasions now. Wales will aim to leverage their recent experiences to secure a top spot and vie for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League.





One to Watch: Rupert Shipperley

One of the standout players to watch in the Welsh men’s hockey team at the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 is captain Rupert Shipperley. Shipperley’s international career is marked by his versatility, playing both as a midfielder and forward. He has earned over 100 caps for Wales and has also represented Great Britain over 50 times, including appearances at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics. His leadership qualities were recognized when he was named vice-captain for the Great Britain squad during the 2023/2024 FIH Pro League. [?](#)

As Wales aims for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League, Shipperley’s experience, leadership and on-field prowess will be instrumental in their campaign. His ability to perform under pressure and deliver in crucial moments positions him as a key player to watch in the upcoming tournament.

Squad: [Click Here](#)



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POOL B

Japan

Malaysia

New Zealand

Pakistan



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Japan

Nickname: The Samurais

Notable Honours: Olympic silver medallists (1932), 9th Place – Hockey World Cup (1971, 2006), Asian Games gold medallists (2018), Asian Games bronze medallists (1966, 1970), Asian Hockey Champions Trophy silver medallists (2013), Sultan Azlan Shah Cup gold medallists (2024)

Current World Ranking: 16

Nations Cup 2023/24: N/A

The Japanese team arrives at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 with renewed vigor, following a landmark victory at the 2024 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. After going unbeaten in the pool stages, Japan clinched their first-ever title in the tournament's 30-year history by defeating Pakistan 4-1 in a penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw in regulation time of the finals. This historic win not only marked a significant milestone for a Japanese team that has been rebuilding over the past few years, but also showcased their ability to perform under pressure on the international stage, which will come in handy at the FIH Hockey Nations Cup.

Throughout the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, Japan demonstrated exceptional skill and strategic prowess. They secured victories against higher-ranked teams, including a notable 4-1 win over New Zealand, who were ranked 10th globally and had qualified for the Paris Olympics. Japan also triumphed over hosts Malaysia, and Korea. Key players like Tsubasa Tanaka, who scored three goals during the tournament, and Kazumasa Matsumoto, who netted the crucial equalizer in the final, were instrumental in Japan's success. With Pakistan, Malaysia and New Zealand in Pool B of the Nations Cup, Japan will count on their recent successes against their opponents to make their way to the semi-finals and towards the title that could earn them promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League.

Currently ranked 16th in the FIH Men's World Rankings, Japan might be the lowest ranked team in a competitive pool. But with the teams separated by no more than one or two positions across the pool, every match will be closely contested and each result could lead to changes in the world rankings!

One to Watch: Manabu Yamashita





One of the standout players to watch in the Japanese men’s hockey team at the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 is Manabu Yamashita. A seasoned defender and a pillar of experience in Japan’s backline, Yamashita brings leadership, composure, and tactical intelligence to the squad.

A veteran of multiple major international tournaments, Yamashita was part of the historic Japanese team that clinched the gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games as well as their recent success, winning their first ever gold at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2024. Known for his calm presence under pressure and precise tackling, he has long been a reliable figure in Japan’s defensive setup.

As Japan sets its sights on promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League, Yamashita’s experience and on-field leadership will be crucial. His ability to marshal the defense, disrupt opposition attacks, and guide younger teammates makes him a key figure in Japan’s Nations Cup campaign.

Squad: [Click Here](#)





Malaysia

Nickname: Speedy Tigers

Notable Honours: 8th Place – Olympic Games (1972), 4th Place – Hockey World Cup (1975), 6th Place – Champions Trophy (1993), FIH Champions Challenge 1 Bronze medallists (2014), Commonwealth Games Silver medallists (1998), Asian Games Silver medallists (2010), Asia Cup Silver medallists (2022), Asia Cup Bronze medallists (2007), Sultan Azlan Shah Cup gold medallists (2022), 4x Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Silver medallists (1985, 2007, 2013, 2014).

Current World Ranking: 13

Nations Cup 2023/24: 7th

The Malaysian hockey team, known as the “Speedy Tigers,” enter the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 with a determination to take full advantage of their home-ground knowledge. In the previous edition of the Nations Cup held in Gniezno, Poland, Malaysia put up a spirited campaign despite featuring multiple debutants in their squad. They secured victories against Austria (5-4) and Canada (4-2) and held Pakistan to a 4-4 draw. Despite these efforts, losses to France (1-3) and Korea (3-4) placed them seventh overall. Notably, forward Faizal Saari emerged as the tournament’s joint top scorer with seven goals, underscoring Malaysia’s offensive capabilities.

In May 2024, Malaysia hosted the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh. As defending champions, the team aimed to replicate their 2022 success. Despite a strong start, including a hat-trick by Abu Kamal Azrai in a narrow 4-5 loss to Pakistan, the Speedy Tigers concluded the tournament in fourth place after a narrow 2-3 defeat to New Zealand in the bronze medal match. Azrai’s performance was a highlight, as he became the tournament’s top scorer with eight goals, reaffirming his status as a key player in Malaysia’s attacking lineup.

Currently ranked 13th in the FIH Men’s World Rankings, Malaysia are the second highest ranked team in the pool. With the support of the home crowd and a roster featuring young talent that has



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grown more experienced over the past two years along with a few seasoned veterans, the Speedy Tigers will aim to capitalize on their familiarity with local conditions to secure the title and a promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League.

One to Watch: Abu Kamal Azrai

At 25 years old, Azrai has emerged as a prolific forward, known for his agility, sharp instincts, and goal-scoring prowess. Making his senior international debut in 2019 Azrai has become a mainstay in the team with 86 caps and 35 goals. His impressive performances include being the top scorer at the 2024 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, where he scored eight goals. [?](#)

As Malaysia aims for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League, Azrai's experience and offensive capabilities will be crucial. His consistent attacking performances and ability to rise to the occasion make him a key player to watch in the upcoming tournament.

Squad: [Click Here](#)





New Zealand

Nickname: The Black Sticks

Current World Ranking: 12

Notable honours: Olympic gold medallists (1976), Hockey World League silver medallists (2012-14 edition), Champions Challenge gold medallists (2009), Commonwealth Games silver medallists (2002), 11x Oceania Cup silver medallists (1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019), 2x Sultan Azlan Shah Cup winners (2012, 2015).

Nations Cup 2023/24: 1st

The New Zealand men's hockey team, known as the Black Sticks, arrives at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 with a strong track record and aspirations to win the title, joining their women's team in earning the right to reclaim a spot in the upcoming season of the FIH Hockey Pro League.

In the 2023–24 Men's FIH Hockey Nations Cup held in Poland, New Zealand were unstoppable throughout the competition, winning all of their games, and clinched the title by defeating France 4-3 in a shootout after a 1-1 draw in regular time of the final.

The Black Sticks also put in an impressive campaign in Oman to qualify for the Olympic Games Paris 2024. New Zealand faced strong opponents in the group stage at the Olympics including India, Australia, and Belgium. Despite a valiant effort through the group stage, where each match was closely contested, they concluded the tournament without advancing to the knockout rounds.

As of June 2025, New Zealand hold the 12th position in the FIH Men's World Rankings, which makes them the highest ranked team in Pool B. With a string of emerging young talent, the Black Sticks will aim to start a new era by standing on the top of the podium in Kuala Lumpur and earn the opportunity to gain promotion back into the FIH Hockey Pro League.





One to Watch: Sam Lane

One of the standout players to watch in the New Zealand men's hockey team at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 is captain Sam Lane. A dynamic forward known for his sharp instincts and clinical finishing, Lane brings energy, creativity, and leadership to the Black Sticks' frontline.

Since making his international debut, Lane has grown into a pivotal figure for New Zealand, playing in several major tournaments including the Olympic Games, FIH Hockey World Cups and Commonwealth Games. With 116 international caps and 61 goals, he has proven himself as a consistent goal-scorer and playmaker, capable of turning games in his team's favour.

As New Zealand push for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League, Lane's attacking flair and captaincy will be central to their ambitions. His ability to lead from the front-both literally and figuratively-makes him a key player to watch in the upcoming tournament.

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Pakistan

Nickname: The Green Shirts

Notable Honours: Olympic gold medallists (1960, 1968, 1984), FIH World Cup winners (1971, 1978, 1982, 1994), Asian Games gold medallists (1958, 1962, 1970, 1974, 1978, 1982, 1990, 2010), Asia Cup champions (1982, 1985, 1989)

Current World Ranking: 15

Nations Cup 2023/24: 4th

The Pakistan men's national hockey team enters the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 with renewed vigor, following a series of strong performances on the international stage. In the 2023-24 Nations Cup held in Gniezno, Poland, Pakistan made a step up on their recent performances by advancing to the semi-finals. They secured a thrilling 6-5 victory over France to reach the semi-finals, where they faced New Zealand. Despite a valiant effort, they were edged out 4-3 in a thriller of a contest, ultimately finishing fourth in the tournament. This performance marked a significant improvement from their previous outings and highlighted the team's upward trajectory.

In May 2024, Pakistan made a notable return to the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup final after a 13-year hiatus. Throughout the tournament, they continued proving that their upward trajectory in recent times was no fluke, securing victories against Malaysia, South Korea, and Canada, and drawing with New Zealand in the group stages. The final against Japan was a closely contested affair, ending in a 2-2 draw in regular time. However, Pakistan fell short in the penalty shootout, losing 4-1. Despite the loss, their performance was lauded by their fans, signaling a resurgence in Pakistan's hockey prowess.

Later that year, at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy in Moqi, China, Pakistan continued to build on their momentum. They secured a 5-1 victory over China and a 2-1 win against Japan in the group





stages. In the semi-finals, they faced China again, resulting in a 1–1 draw, but were defeated in the penalty shootout. Pakistan bounced back to claim the bronze medal with a 5–2 victory over Korea. Key players like Sufyan Khan and Hannan Shahid were instrumental in these successes, with Khan emerging as a top scorer in the tournament.

As of June 2025, Pakistan is ranked 15th in the FIH Men’s World Rankings and will aim to leverage their recent experiences to secure a top spot and vie for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League. Their recent performances suggest a team on the rise, ready to challenge the best in Kuala Lumpur.

One to Watch: Hannan Shahid

One of the standout players to watch in the Pakistani men’s hockey team at the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 is Hannan Shahid. At just 22 years old, Shahid has rapidly emerged as a dynamic forward, recognised for his agility, sharp instincts, and goal-scoring prowess.

Shahid made his senior international debut in 2023 and has since become a mainstay in the national squad, with 50 senior caps and 24 goals scored already, including goals at the 2024 Asian Champions Trophy, showcasing his ability to deliver in high-stakes tournaments. His consistent performance and ability to rise to the occasion make him a key player to watch in the upcoming tournament.

As Pakistan aims for promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League, Shahid’s youthful energy, offensive capabilities, and experience will be crucial. His dynamic play and goalscoring abilities position him as a key player to watch in the upcoming tournament.

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COMPETITION OFFICIALS

A complete list of competition officials for the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 can be found at the following link:

<https://www.fih.hockey/events/nations-cup/men/fih-hockey-mens-nations-cup-malaysia-2024-25-1767/officials>

Information regarding the appointed officials for each match will be made available on the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup website around 24 hours before the start of the contest. To see this information, simply visit the link below, select the match that you are interested in and then click the 'match info' tab.

<https://www.fih.hockey/events/nations-cup/men/fih-hockey-mens-nations-cup-malaysia-2024-25-1767/schedule-fixtures-results>



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RANKINGS AND LOGO

FIH WORLD RANKINGS

To see the official FIH World Rankings, [click here](#).

FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP LOGO

You can request the FIH Nations Cup Logo at media@fih.hockey.

FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP PHOTOS

Photos from the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Malaysia 2025 will be available to media members for download [here](#).

DATA HUB

For access to in-depth player and team statistics from all major international competitions, visit the FIH Hockey Data Hub by [clicking here](#).

