



# MEDIA KIT



## CONTENTS

### General Information

Key Resources and Contacts  
Welcome Message from FIH President

### Event Information

About Cape Town  
About FIH Hockey Nations Cup  
Competition Formula  
Match Schedule  
Promotion/Relegation

### The Teams

Pool A - Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland  
Pool B - France, Ireland, South Africa, United States

### Additional Information

Competition Officials  
FIH World Rankings  
Event Logos and Photos  
FIH Data Hub



## KEY RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

### CONTACT

For all media queries relating to the event, please contact [media@fih.hockey](mailto:media@fih.hockey)

### ABOUT THE EVENT

Event title     FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2025-26  
When            11-20 June 2026  
Where           Cape Town, South Africa

### TEAMS

Pool A           Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland  
Pool B           France, Ireland, South Africa, United States

### EVENT WEBSITE

<https://www.fih.hockey/events/nations-cup/mens/fih-hockey-mens-nations-cup-south-africa-2025-26-1869>

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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

### HASHTAG

#FIHNationsCup  
#MadeForHockey



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the fourth edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup in Cape Town, South Africa — the first time the city has hosted an FIH event. The global hockey community is excited to return to South Africa, which hosted the inaugural tournament in 2022.

Teams, fans, officials, and volunteers can look forward to warm hospitality and an unforgettable experience beneath the iconic Table Mountain.

Though still a young tournament, the Nations Cup has quickly become a key event in international hockey, featuring many of the world's top teams — several of whom will also compete at the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium & Netherlands 2026. The tournament also offers winners promotion to the prestigious FIH Hockey Pro League, ensuring intense competition.

The best ambassadors of our sport – the athletes – have been at the heart of the preparations for this event. FIH and the South African Hockey Federation have joined forces to establish the best possible conditions to promote athletes' excellence and ensure their well-being throughout the tournament. On their part, athletes have made significant efforts to perform at their best, hoping to add another trophy to their records. Everyone will be able to enjoy their fantastic skills thanks to our broadcast partners or via our streaming platform, Watch.Hockey.

On behalf of FIH, I would like to express our sincerest thanks to all stakeholders involved in the organisation of this Nations Cup, beginning with the local authorities – particularly the City of Cape Town – as well as the South African Hockey Association and its President Deon Morgan for their hospitality, dedication, and hard work.

Our gratitude also extends to the participating teams - especially the athletes - for their commitment to the success of hockey worldwide; to the commercial and broadcast partners, whose support plays a tremendous role in the global development of hockey; and to all the volunteers, including our remarkable officials and umpires, for their inspiring dedication.

I wish everyone a fantastic FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup 2025–26! May the best team win, with respect and fair play!

Yours in Hockey,  
Tayyab Ikram  
FIH President



## ABOUT CAPE TOWN

Nearly 400 years ago, the bustling, cosmopolitan city of Cape Town was little more than a seasonal stopover for nomadic tribes and a daunting, unexplored wilderness. The "Mother City" began as a humble vegetable garden intended to save sailors from scurvy—a modest start for a city that would become the legislative heart of South Africa.

The city was formally established in 1652 when Jan van Riebeeck, representing the Dutch East India Company (VOC), arrived to create a victualling station for ships traveling the long spice route to the East. Known as *Kaapstad* in Afrikaans, the city is defined by the iconic, flat-topped Table Mountain, which towers over the "City Bowl." Before European arrival, the area was inhabited by the indigenous Khoikhoi and San peoples, who knew the region as *Camissa*, or "The Place of Sweet Waters."

## Geography and Demographics

Cape Town, officially the **City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality**, is the legislative capital of South Africa and the primate city of the Western Cape province. It is world-renowned for its stunning harbor and its position within the Cape Floristic Region.

- **Area:** Approximately 2,446 km<sup>2</sup> (944 sq. mi).
- **Population:** Over 4.8 million residents as of 2023 estimates.
- **Significance:** It is the second-most populous city in South Africa, following Johannesburg, and serves as a major hub for tourism and maritime trade.

## Governance and Heritage

The city serves as the **legislative capital of South Africa**, housing the Parliament of South Africa, while the administrative and judicial capitals are located in Pretoria and Bloemfontein, respectively. Cape Town's history is a complex tapestry; it served as the center of the Dutch and later British Cape Colonies. For decades, it was also a focal point of the struggle against apartheid, most famously symbolized by **Robben Island**, the prison where Nelson Mandela was held for 18 years, visible from the city's shores.

## Modern Development and Culture

Since the end of apartheid in 1994, Cape Town has evolved into a global center for design, technology, and film. In 2014, it was named the **World Design Capital**, reflecting its commitment to using social, cultural, and economic design to improve city life. The city is famous for its architectural landmarks, from the colorful houses of **Bo-Kaap** to the modern **Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA)**, housed in a converted grain silo.



Whether it is the world-class vineyards of Constantia or the high-tech hubs of the "Silicon Cape," the city remains a beacon of South African innovation and natural beauty.

- **Cape Town on Wikipedia:** [Click Here](#)
- **Cape Town on Lonely Planet:** [Click Here](#)
- **Cape Town on Trip Advisor:** [Click Here](#)



## 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.

\*Since, on the basis of the FIH World Rankings, the South African team had not qualified for this FIH Hockey Nations Cup, the tournament will exceptionally be played with 9 teams.

The FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2026 match schedule, including match timings is [available here](#).

The FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Auckland 2026 will run from 15 to 21 June 2026 in Auckland, New Zealand. The complete match schedule including match timings is [available here](#).

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



## COMPETITION FORMULA

FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup 2025-26 South Africa		
Pools Distribution and Competition Information		
Pool A	Pool B	Pools Allocated according to the snake system based on the World Ranking of 30 June 2025
New Zealand	France	Winner of Nations Cup will be promoted to FIH Pro League Season 8
Malaysia	Ireland	
Korea	South Africa	
Japan	United States	
Scotland		
Pool Stage		
		Opening Match on 11th June
11 - 17 June	9 Teams, 2 Pools, one with 4 teams and the other with 5 Teams, 16 Matches in Total	
	1st and 2nd Ranked team of each pool advances to the Semi-Finals	
	3rd and 4th Ranked team of each pool advances to Classification Matches 5th - 8th	
	5th ranked team of Pool A is eliminated from the competition	



## Stage 2 - Semi-Finals and Classification Matches 5th - 8th

	Classification Matches 5th - 8th
	3rd Pool A vs 4th Pool B - Match I
	3rd Pool B vs 4th Pool A - Match II
19-Jun	Semi-Finals
	1st Pool A vs 2nd Pool B - Match III
	1st Pool B vs 2nd Pool A - Match IV

## Stage 3 - Final, Bronze, Classification Matches 5th-6th and 7th-8th

	Classification Match 7th - 8th
	Loser Match I vs Loser Match II
	Classification Match 5th - 6th
	Winner Match I vs Winner Match II
	Bronze
	Loser Match III vs Loser Match IV
20 June	Final
	Winner Match III vs Winner Match IV



## MATCH SCHEDULE

POOL A
NEW ZEALAND
MALAYSIA
KOREA
JAPAN
SCOTLAND

POOL B
FRANCE
IRELAND
SOUTH AFRICA
WALES

DATE	N°	POOL	TIME CET	MATCH
THU 11 JUNE	1	A	12:15	MALAYSIA vs SCOTLAND
	2	A	14:30	KOREA vs JAPAN
	3	B	16:45	IRELAND vs WALES
	4	B	19:00	FRANCE vs SOUTH AFRICA
FRI 12 JUNE	5	A	16:45	MALAYSIA vs JAPAN
	6	A	19:00	NEW ZEALAND vs SCOTLAND
SAT 13 JUNE	7	B	14:45	IRELAND vs FRANCE
	8	B	17:00	SOUTH AFRICA vs WALES
SUN 14 JUNE	9	A	14:45	JAPAN vs SCOTLAND
	10	A	17:00	KOREA vs NEW ZEALAND
MON 15 JUNE	REST DAY		REST DAY	
TUE 16 JUNE	11	A	12:15	MALAYSIA vs NEW ZEALAND
	12	A	14:30	SCOTLAND vs KOREA
	13	B	16:45	FRANCE vs WALES
	14	B	19:00	SOUTH AFRICA vs IRELAND
WED 17 JUNE	15	A	16:45	KOREA vs MALAYSIA
	16	A	19:00	NEW ZEALAND vs JAPAN
THU 18 JUNE	REST DAY		REST DAY	
FRI 19 JUNE	17	5/8	12:15	3RD POOL A vs 4TH POOL B
	18	5/8	14:30	3RD POOL B vs 4TH POOL A
	19	SF	16:45	1ST POOL A vs 2ND POOL B
	20	SF	19:00	1ST POOL B vs 2ND POOL A
SAT 20 JUNE	21	7/8	12:15	LOSER M17 vs LOSER M18
	22	5/6	14:30	WINNER M17 vs WINNER M18
	23	3/4	16:45	LOSER M19 vs LOSER M20
	24	FINAL	19:00	WINNER M19 vs WINNER M20

Notes: 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 30 June 2025





## 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.





## 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 South Africa 2025-26. All squad information is correct at the time of publication. To see complete and up-to-date squad lists for each team competing in Cape Town, please [click here](#).

### POOL A

**Japan**

**Korea**

**Malaysia**

**New Zealand**

**Scotland**



## Japan

**Nickname:** The Samurais

**World Ranking:** 15

**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), FIH World Cup Qualifier bronze medallists (2026)

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** 7th Place

The Japanese men's national team arrives at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2026 as a side in the midst of a powerful resurgence. Following a landmark period that saw them secure their first-ever Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title in 2024 and a hard-fought bronze medal at the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers in Egypt, the Samurais have proven they belong among the world's elite. Japan's style of play is defined by an organized structure, quick ball circulation, and a relentless work rate that allows them to punch well above their weight against higher-ranked opposition.

Japan enters this tournament with high confidence after successfully securing their ticket to the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026. While their previous Nations Cup campaign in Malaysia saw them finish 7th after a hard-fought 2-1 victory over South Africa in the final classification match, the team has used that experience to sharpen their competitive edge. Their qualifying campaign in Ismailia showcased a team capable of high-octane offense, punctuated by a thrilling 5-4 victory over Malaysia to seal their world stage return. This blend of tactical flexibility and collective belief has seen them climb to 15th in the world rankings, making them one of the most dangerous and tactically astute sides in the competition.



## Korea

**World Ranking:** 20

**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 Hockey Nations Cup bronze medallists (2022)

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** 4th Place

The Korean men’s national team arrives at the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup South Africa 2026 as a proud powerhouse of Asian hockey looking to reclaim their peak form. Recognized for a distinctive style built on explosive speed, disciplined structure, and clinical set-piece execution, Korea has long been a staple of the global game. Their historic Olympic silver in Sydney 2000 and two fourth-place finishes at the World Cup underscore a program with a deep-rooted winning culture and a tradition of succeeding on the world’s most pressurized stages.

While Korea has navigated a challenging period of rebuilding, their performance at the 2024/25 Nations Cup in Malaysia signaled a significant step forward. The team fought their way to a fourth-place finish, narrowly missing out on the podium after a dramatic 3–3 draw against France that was ultimately decided by a penalty shoot-out. Despite a difficult campaign at the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers in Santiago, where they missed out on qualification for the upcoming global showpiece, the Korean men’s side remain a tactically astute opponent capable of controlling the tempo of any match.

Blending veteran composure with a resilient defensive organization, Korea enters the 2026 Nations Cup determined to reaffirm their status among the international elite. With their ranking currently at 20th, they represent a high-value challenge for any opponent in Pool A, as they look to turn their technical precision and rapid counter-attacking threat into a title-winning campaign in Cape Town.



## Malaysia

**Nickname:** Speedy Tigers

**World Ranking:** 14

**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), Sultan Azlan Shah Cup gold medallists (2022), 4x Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Silver medallists (1985, 2007, 2013, 2014).

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** 5th Place

The Malaysian hockey team, known as the “Speedy Tigers,” arrive at the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup South Africa 2026 as one of the most dynamic and unpredictable sides in international hockey. Characterized by their blistering speed, technical flair, and high-energy pressing, the Tigers have spent the last several years cementing their status as a major power in Asia while consistently challenging the global elite. Their style of play emphasizes quick transitions and creative freedom, backed by a maturing tactical structure that allows them to thrive in the high-pressure environment of tournament hockey.

The Speedy Tigers enter this campaign with a point to prove after a bittersweet 2025. During the Nations Cup on home soil in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia finished 5th, concluding their run with a dominant victory to satisfy the home crowd but narrowly missing the semi-final spots. However, they carried that hunger into the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers in Egypt. In a heart-pounding qualification trail, Malaysia reached the final stages, only to narrowly miss out on a podium spot but managed to secure a World Cup ticket following a high-scoring 4-5 loss to Japan in the bronze medal match-up.

Currently ranked 13th in the world, Malaysia remains a formidable force with a roster that perfectly balances seasoned veterans and clinical finishers like Abu Kamal Azrai and Faizal Saari. With their recent history of high-scoring encounters and a resilient defensive mindset, the Speedy Tigers are determined to harness their speed and tactical growth in Cape Town. Their goal is clear: to reclaim a place on the podium and finally secure the elusive promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League.



## New Zealand

**Nickname:** The Black Sticks

**Current World Ranking:** 11

**Notable honours:** Olympic gold medallists (1976), Hockey World League silver medallists (2012-14 edition), Champions Challenge gold medallists (2009), Commonwealth Games silver medallists (2002), 12x Oceania Cup silver medallists (1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2023), 2x Sultan Azlan Shah Cup winners (2012, 2015).

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** 1st place

The New Zealand men's hockey team, known as the Black Sticks, arrives at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2026 with a formidable reputation as the defending champions, seeking to retain their title and secure a permanent return to the FIH Hockey Pro League.

In the 2024–25 Men's FIH Hockey Nations Cup held in Malaysia, New Zealand successfully defended their crown in spectacular fashion. After navigating a challenging group stage, they demonstrated clinical efficiency in the knockout rounds to finish 1st, proving their consistency as the leading force in the Nations Cup circuit.

The Black Sticks have maintained a high level of competition following their appearance at the Olympic Games Paris 2024. While their Olympic journey concluded in the group stages despite hard-fought matches against the world's elite, the experience served as a catalyst for growth.

In early 2026, they further prepared for the current season with a competitive Summer Series against Japan, showcasing a blend of veteran leadership and integrated youth talent.

As of May 2026, New Zealand hold the 11th position in the FIH Men's World Rankings, making them the top-seeded team in Pool A for the tournament in Cape Town. Facing opponents including Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Scotland in the pool stage, the Black Sticks are focused on clinching another gold medal at the Hartleyvale Stadium to finalize their ascent back into the top tier of international hockey.



## Scotland

**Current World Ranking:** 17

**Notable Honours:** 1x Gold FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2 (2025), 1x Bronze Olympic Games (1908), 1x Gold EuroHockey Championship II (2017), 1x Silver EuroHockey Championship II (2021), 3x Bronze EuroHockey Championship II (2007, 2011, 2015).

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** N/A

The Scotland men's national hockey team arrive at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2026 following a historic period of growth and silverware. Currently ranked 17th in the FIH World Rankings as of May 2026, the team has successfully transitioned from the inaugural Nations Cup 2 winners to serious contenders for a spot in the FIH Hockey Pro League. With a string of impressive results over the past year, Scotland aims to capitalize on their recent upward trajectory and challenge the world's top-tier nations in Cape Town.

In the 2024–25 Men's FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2 held in Muscat, Oman, Scotland was the class of the field. They captured the inaugural title with a series of high-intensity performances, demonstrating the physicality and clinical finishing that have become their trademark. This victory earned them promotion to the primary Nations Cup, marking a significant milestone in their ambition to reach the global elite.

As of May 2026, Scotland's rise to 17th in the world rankings places them in a competitive position in Pool A for the upcoming tournament at Hartleyvale Stadium. Blending the expertise of Great Britain international Struan Walker, captain Robert Field, along with a new generation of talent, the Blue Sticks enter the South African campaign with the belief and organization required to target the podium and continue their march toward the top tier of international hockey.



## POOL B

France

Ireland

South Africa

United States



## France

**Nickname:** Les Bleus

**Current World Ranking:** 10

**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), FIH Hockey Nations Cup bronze medallists (2024-25)

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** 3rd place

The French team enters the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup South Africa 2026 with a determined focus on reclaiming their place among the elite, following podium finishes in the previous two editions of the competition. In the 2024–25 Nations Cup held in Malaysia, France demonstrated their tactical depth, navigating a difficult group stage to reach the semi-finals. While they narrowly missed out on the final, a decisive victory in the third-place play-off secured them the bronze medal and confirmed their status as one of the most consistent performers in the competition.

The team’s journey in major qualifying events has seen moments of brilliance. At the FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers in Santiago in March 2026, France faced a grueling schedule. Despite a loss against Scotland putting them on backfoot early, France finished strong, qualifying for the semi-finals, where they defeated Poland to secure World Cup Qualification. While a loss in the final against Ireland meant they settled for a silver medal, it was target achieved for the French side, with World Cup qualification securing the main target. The closely contested matches in the qualifiers also served as a vital learning experience for a squad that is increasingly comfortable competing with the world’s top-ranked nations.

As of May 2026, France holds the 10th position in the FIH Men’s World Rankings, making them a formidable presence in Pool B for the tournament in Cape Town. Placed alongside New Zealand, South Africa, and Wales, Les Bleus aim to leverage their recent podium finishes in Malaysia and Santiago to secure the gold medal and earn a return to the FIH Hockey Pro League, where they last competed during the 2021-22 season.



## Ireland

**Nickname:** The Green Machine

**Current World Ranking:** 9

**Notable honours:** Olympic silver medallists (1908), European bronze medallists (2015), 10th Place – Paris 2024 Olympic Games, 10th Place – Rio 2016 Olympic Games, 12th Place – FIH Men's World Cup (1978, 1990), FIH Hockey Nations Cup silver medallists (2022), EuroHockey Championship II gold medallists (2005, 2009, 2023).

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** N/A

The Irish men's hockey team, known as the Green Machine, arrives at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2026 with a clear mission to reclaim their spot among the world's top tier following a challenging stint in the FIH Hockey Pro League. After competing against the world's elite throughout the 2023-24 and 2024–25 season, Ireland enters the tournament in Cape Town as one of the heavy favorites for promotion.

In the 2024–25 FIH Hockey Pro League, Ireland faced a grueling schedule against the top nine nations in the world. Despite a difficult campaign that ultimately resulted in relegation to the Nations Cup, the Green Machine secured several noteworthy results, including a hard-fought victory over former Olympic champions Belgium. This season of top-flight exposure has refined their tactical discipline and hardened a squad that is now uniquely prepared for the high-pressure environment of the Nations Cup.

Following the Pro League season, Ireland carried their momentum into the FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers in Santiago in March 2026. The Green Machine delivered a masterclass in tournament hockey, remaining undefeated throughout the competition. They secured their ticket to the 2026 World Cup in style, defeating France 2–1 in a tense final to claim the gold medal. This triumph highlighted the clinical form of Lee Cole and Matthew Nelson, further boosting the team's confidence ahead of their South African campaign.

As of May 2026, Ireland holds the 9th position in the FIH Men's World Rankings, making them the top-seeded team in the tournament. Placed in Pool B alongside hosts South Africa, France, and the USA, the Green Machine will look to utilize their defensive structure and counter-attacking efficiency to secure the title at Hartleyvale Stadium and earn an immediate return to the FIH Hockey Pro League.



## South Africa

**Current World Ranking:** 13

**Notable honours:** 9x Africa Cup of Nations gold medallists (1993, 1996, 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, 2022, 2025), 2x All-Africa Games gold medallists (1995, 1999), 5x African Olympic Qualifier champions (2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, 2023), 9th Place – Paris 2024 Olympic Games, 10th Place – FIH Men’s World Cup (1994, 2010), FIH Hockey Nations Cup gold medallists (2022), FIH Hockey Nations Cup bronze medallists (2023-24).

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** 4th place

The South African hockey team enter the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup South Africa 2026 as hosts, eager to leverage home advantage at the Hartleyvale Stadium. Following a highly competitive 2024–25 season, South Africa arrive in Cape Town looking to recapture the gold medal they first won in 2022 and secure promotion to the FIH Pro League in front of their home fans.

In the 2024–25 Men’s FIH Hockey Nations Cup in Malaysia, South Africa endured their poorest run of form in the competition’s history. Narrow losses to France and Korea, along with an entertaining draw against Wales, saw South Africa miss out on the semi-finals for the first time. Losses against Malaysia and Japan in the crossovers, capped a torrid tournament for South Africa, as they finished the competition in last place.

South Africa’s recent continental dominance however remains unmatched; they captured their ninth consecutive title at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Ismailia, comfortably defeating Egypt in the final. This victory ensured their direct qualification for the FIH Hockey Men’s World Cup 2026, allowing the team to focus on tactical refinement during the early months of 2026. Their 9th-place finish at the Paris 2024 Olympics—their best result since 1996—further underlines the upward trajectory of the squad under the leadership of captain Dayaan Cassiem.

As of May 2026, South Africa holds the 13th position in the FIH Men’s World Rankings. Placed in Pool B for the home tournament, they will face significant tests against top-seeded Ireland and rivals France and the USA. With a seasoned core including the prolific duo of brothers Mustaphaa and Daayan Cassiem and defensive veteran Andrew Hobson, South Africa aims to turn the energy of the Cape Town crowd into a championship-winning performance.



## United States

**Nickname:** United Wolves

**Current World Ranking:** 26

**Notable Honours:** 1x Bronze Olympic Games (1932), 2x Silver Pan American Cup (2009, 2025), 1x Bronze Pan American Cup (2017), 5x Bronze Pan American Games (1967, 1987, 1991, 1995, 2019).

**Nations Cup 2024/25:** N/A

The United States men's hockey team, known as the United Wolves, arrives at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2026 as a program on the rise, following a season that proved they can compete with established international powers. Currently ranked 26th in the FIH World Rankings as of May 2026, the United Wolves are using the tournament in Cape Town as a critical building block toward the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic cycle.

In the 2024–25 Men's FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2 held in Muscat, Oman, the United States signaled their intent with a breakout performance. They navigated a competitive field to reach the knockout stages, ultimately finishing in 4th place. Their ability to push higher-ranked opponents to the brink in Oman demonstrated a new level of tactical maturity and resilience, earning them a place in the primary Nations Cup for the 2025–26 season.

The team's momentum was further solidified in the Americas, where they captured a silver medal at the 2025 Pan American Cup in Montevideo. A series of disciplined defensive displays led them to the final, and while they eventually fell to Argentina, the result secured their spot in the FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers. At the 2026 Qualifiers in Santiago, the United Wolves continued to showcase their high-intensity transition play, earning vital ranking points and while they missed out on semi-finals, they finished the tournament strong with a hard-fought victory over Canada in the qualification matches.

United States enter Pool B in Cape Town as underdogs based on their rankings with the potential to disrupt the group standings. Facing top-seeded Ireland, France and host nation South Africa, the United Wolves will rely on the leadership of seasoned veterans and a core of dynamic young players developed through the centralized training program in the lead up to the home Olympics in LA28. Their objective is to maintain their aggressive, athletic style of play and use the Nations Cup stage to continue climbing the global rankings ahead of their home Olympics.



## COMPETITION OFFICIALS

A complete list of competition officials for the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2025-26 can be found at the following link:

<https://www.fih.hockey/events/nations-cup/mens/fih-hockey-mens-nations-cup-south-africa-2025-26-1869/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/mens/fih-hockey-mens-nations-cup-south-africa-2025-26-1869/schedule-fixtures-results>



## 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](mailto:media@fih.hockey).

### FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP PHOTOS

Photos from the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South Africa 2025-26 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](#).