

# RULES COMMITTEE

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## Terms of Reference

### Rules Committee

March 2019

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#### 1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aims and objectives of the Rules Committee are to assist the FIH in the following ways in relation to all sanctioned forms of hockey:

- 1.1 To specify the current Rules and, working with others in the game, to ensure they are interpreted and applied consistently and fairly at all levels of participation.
- 1.2 To develop the Rules while retaining the game's well known and appealing characteristics.
- 1.3 To make the game safer including monitoring current safety aspects.
- 1.4 To make the game easier to understand and more enjoyable for players, officials, coaches and spectators television audiences and fans.
- 1.5 To conduct trials, monitoring mandatory experimental rules and promoting Rules changes to achieve aims.
- 1.6 To co-ordinate the collection of match and tournament statistics related to Rules and their development.
- 1.7 To contribute, in liaison with others as appropriate, to the development of the game as a whole including the development of equipment, player welfare, events management and variations in the format of the game.

#### 2. AUTHORITY, STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Committee derives its authority from the FIH Executive Board and the members agree to be bound by and to comply with the Integrity Code, the Committee and Panel protocols established by the Executive Board, and any other applicable FIH Regulations.
- 2.2 The membership of the FIH Rules Committee shall be as directed by the FIH Executive Board. Currently the members appointed by the FIH Executive Board is as follows:

Committee	Executive	By Invitation
1 x Chair 5 x CF representatives (1 per CF) 1 x Athletes representative Additional members at the FIH Executive Board discretion Secretary will be a member of FIH staff	The President is an ex-officio member of the Committee/Panel but does not have the right to vote. The CEO is an ex-officio member of the Committee/Panel but does not have the right to vote, however will refer items from time to time	The FIH Sport Director will be solicited for his opinion but does not have the right to vote. If necessary and/or appropriate, members of other Committees and/or FIH staff

The Committee may create temporary Sub-Committees for specific projects.

#### 2.3 Gender Equality

The Committee aspires to 50/50 representation aligned to the FIH Gender Equality Policy.

- 2.4 The full Committee will review the Rules of Hockey, Indoor Hockey, Hockey5s and other formats on a regular basis. The Committee may create temporary Sub-Committees for specific projects to liaise with Continental Federations.
- 2.5 The Committee recommends changes to the Rules to the FIH Executive Board. If the Executive Board does not approve a recommendation, it may not vary the recommendation or agree a different Rules change but must refer the matter back to the Rules Committee.
- 2.6 Competencies/Attributes
  - Broad experience of Hockey at all levels as a Team or Technical Official, Umpire, Umpire Manager, Coach or Athlete.
  - Extensive knowledge of the Rules of Hockey and FIH, Continental and National Tournament Regulations

### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 To implement and evaluate the Rules Committee's plans.
- 3.2 Research and Development
  - To promote research into the current strengths and weaknesses of the Rules from the perspective of players at all levels, officials, spectators and the media while having regard to the aims and objectives of the FIH.
  - To promote research and to monitor playing safety in relation to current and proposed Rules in conjunction with the Health and Safety Committee.
  - To promote trials of revised Rules and develop successful trials into Mandatory Experiments and subsequently into formal Rules changes with rigorous evaluation taking place throughout this process.
  - To ensure, in cooperation with the Athletes, Competitions and Officials Committees, that the Rules are applied consistently, without variation in a singular version, throughout hockey.
  - To support the development of complementary versions of the game while maintaining the Rules of Hockey as the foundation of the sport.
- 3.3 Communications
  - To provide electronic materials (web-based or Rules App) to communicate Rules matters.
  - To develop processes for feedback on Rules issues from all relevant parties including players, officials, spectators and the media.
  - To ensure there is a constant flow of information and news on Rules matters, to enhance the profile, image and value of the sport to its key audiences.
  - To research and develop links between hockey and other relevant sports in order to learn one from the other about the best means of developing the Rules of the game.
- 3.4 Application of the Rules
  - To work with other FIH Committees and Panels to promote the consistent and fair interpretation and application of the Rules.

### **4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ALIGNMENT WITH HOCKEY REVOLUTION**

The Committee supports the Hockey strategy through the following initiatives, which it reports to the Executive Board, when necessary:

- Recommendations to simplify, enhance and standardise communication of the Rules.
- Reviews and recommends amendments to the Rules based on a two-year cycle.
- Create small expert groups when required for Beach Hockey, Para Hockey, Hockey5s and any other disciplines of Hockey. Simplicity and safety should be the focus of the Rules.
- Minimise variations in the Rules and Regulations between International and mass participation levels in conjunction with the FIH Competitions Committee and to provide recommendations on any amendments.

#### **5. WORKING METHOD**

Upon request to the FIH, meet physically once per year or hold conference calls. Sub-Committees will normally hold conference calls and report back to the main Committee.

#### **6. TERM OF PANEL**

The Committee will be appointed on a biennial basis.