

# World Hockey



## Umpiring Boost Handbook

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We would like to thank to the FIH Development and Coaching Committee, the FIH Umpiring Committee, the joint Taskforce, all contributors and in particular England Hockey.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is committed to the development of all aspects of the game of hockey.

Umpiring is an integral part of the game and in both competitive and recreational hockey having good umpires adds much to the enjoyment of all participants. In an ideal world every player should also be an umpire. In many countries this is already a golden rule, which helps to enhance a mutual understanding between players and umpires. Others who do not play, such as parents, or those who are no longer able to play and have a good understanding of the game, are either able to participate or remain involved by taking up the whistle.

No-one doubts that hockey players should be trained and coached. It is sometimes forgotten that the same should apply to umpires, who are often under appreciated members of the hockey community. Throughout World Hockey, we see a real need for the development of umpiring in order to assist and promote the recruitment, retention and expertise of umpires at all the various levels at which hockey is played. This requires a commitment to invest time, effort and adequate resources (financial or otherwise).

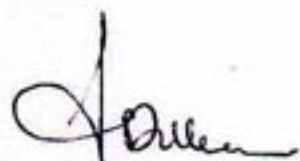
The FIH Umpiring Committee concentrates its efforts on the improvement of International Umpiring. The FIH Development and Coaching Committee sees umpiring development at all National levels as essential, and together the two Committees have made it a priority to support National Associations in this important field.

The result is the WorldHockey Umpiring Boost (WHUB) project, which is a joint co-operation between the two Committees. The project will take place during 2005 and 2006. The FIH Executive Board has given the WHUB plan its full support and allocated considerable funding. We trust that the WHUB will have a positive and lasting effect on umpiring throughout the whole hockey world, similar to the impact that the FIH International Year of the Youth project in 2001 made and continues to make.

The FIH's Umpiring Development Manager Richard Wilson is the appointed WHUB project manager. He has received the voluntary support of various experts from around the world. Many have been prepared to share their umpiring and umpire coaching know how with others. The results of this preparation phase of the WHUB are laid out in this Handbook.

We hope that each and every National Association will take the opportunity to actively participate in the WorldHockey Umpiring Boost in order to benefit the development of hockey in general and umpiring in particular within your own country, and to offer more people the enjoyment of umpiring and playing hockey with good umpires.

We wish you every success in all your efforts for hockey.



Annabel Dillon  
Chair  
FIH Umpiring Committee



Theo Ykema  
Chair  
FIH Development and Coaching Committee

FIH's WorldHockey Umpiring Boost... – what is this and why are we doing it are questions you may be asking! The answer is simple: we want and need more and better umpires. This project gives us the opportunity to focus on this aspect of our game, which is usually taken for granted and not always valued or appreciated.

This is the second major worldwide project initiated and fully supported by the FIH in terms of finance, resources and personnel. The first was the very successful Year of the Youth and although this is a very different project with a different target group and audience, we feel that it has the potential to be as successful and have a similar lasting legacy to that of the Year of the Youth.

This handbook is a comprehensive document, which covers all aspects and a wide range of topics within umpiring: from coaching to accreditation to examples of “best practice” and to 30 enjoyable and fun ideas to celebrate this project. Every National Association – from the smallest to the largest - can use it; there is something from which everyone can choose.

It has been a privilege to have played a small part in this initiative but I have to pay tribute to the people who have done an immense amount of work and are mainly responsible for producing this excellent resource namely Richard Wilson FIH Umpiring Development Manager supported by Gabrielle van Doorn FIH Development Manager, Jane Nockolds, Gill Clarke and Claire Chandelier.

The success of any initiative is in the hands of you our member National Associations. I encourage every NA to become involved and have a special focus on Umpiring in 2005 and 2006; it will have a significant impact on the development of hockey in your country.

Let us all take up this challenge and Whistle around the World.



Anne Ellis  
Chair  
WorldHockey Umpiring Boost Taskforce

The FIH Mission Statement is to encourage, promote, develop and administer hockey at all levels in order to maintain hockey as an Olympic Sport and maximise participation standards, enjoyment and community involvement.

Within this Mission Statement one of the key objectives is to provide assistance and guidance to National Associations, Continental Federations and other partners.

In 2001 the Year of the Youth gave an impetus to Youth Hockey in many of our member National Associations (NAs). The work which continues to be done in these NAs is a testament to the success of this project and its lasting effect on Youth Hockey. More recently a Club Development Manual has been developed which provides a model that Clubs, Regions and NAs can utilise to assist them in many activities from starting Clubs and Regional Associations to Junior Development and Partnerships with Schools.

In 2005 and 2006 our efforts will be concentrated on Umpiring. During this period the overall objective of the WorldHockey Umpiring Boost will be to help as many National Associations as possible to encourage, promote and develop Umpiring in their own country.

The project is not just for those National Associations who already have dedicated umpiring personnel or structures. It applies equally to those who would like to establish their own umpiring development systems. Whilst 2005 and 2006 is initially the focus, the intention is that the WorldHockey Umpiring Boost will be on-going with a lasting effect, and not just seen as a one-off, two year long, project.

The individual aims of the Umpiring Boost will be to: -

- Increase the numbers of umpires in all age groups, with particular emphasis on the young
- Increase the expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm of existing National and International Umpires, Umpire Managers and Umpire Coaches in order that they can more effectively pass the message on to others
- Increase the communication and contact with National Associations through provision of information and advice, and encouraging them to commit additional funds and resources to Umpiring
- Improve the image of Umpiring, so that: -
  - it is recognised as an important and integral part of the game of hockey.
  - the role of the Umpire is better understood and respected.
  - players are encouraged to take up Umpiring.

Central to the World Hockey Umpiring Boost is this Handbook, which aims to provide the necessary information and advice to help National Associations to develop their umpiring and umpiring structures. It contains 3 sections: -

1. FIH Guidelines and Recommendations for a National Umpiring Structure. This includes Umpires and Umpire Coaches Education and Accreditation Schemes, and these will be supported by templates and other associated resources.
2. Information regarding the types of FIH Supported Umpiring Courses that can be offered to National Associations either funded through FIH National Association Development Fund Grants, Olympic Solidarity Grants or through National Associations own resources.
3. Ideas to help National Associations recruit, retain and develop umpires at all levels and all ages, supported by a variety of resources to assist putting them into practice.

It is our desire that all National Associations will actively participate in the WorldHockey Umpiring Boost to the benefit of not only umpiring, but also hockey at all levels, in their countries and continents. We hope that it will be a success and that ultimately this will be seen in increases in the numbers of:

- NAs having a National Umpiring Development Officer (a person dedicated to umpiring)
- NAs having an Umpire Education and Umpire Coach Accreditation Scheme
- NAs having a long term Umpiring Development Plan and associated budget
- Accredited Umpires at Young Player, Starter and Levels 1, 2 and 3

The WorldHockey Umpiring Boost is a joint project of the Development and Coaching Committee (DCC) and the Umpiring Committee (UC)

The DCC and UC are two of the nine FIH Committees, as per the FIH Organisational Structure on the following page:

The Objectives of the DCC are to:

1. Improve standards of playing, coaching, umpiring (at National level) and administration
2. Increase the numbers of players and others involved in making hockey happen in the NAs, with a special focus on all youth age groups till U-21
3. Increase the number of accredited coaches and umpires
4. Achieve growth of and in NAs where there is realistic potential for sustainable development
5. Improve communication and contacts between NAs, and between FIH, CFs and NAs
6. Promote hockey at National and Continental level

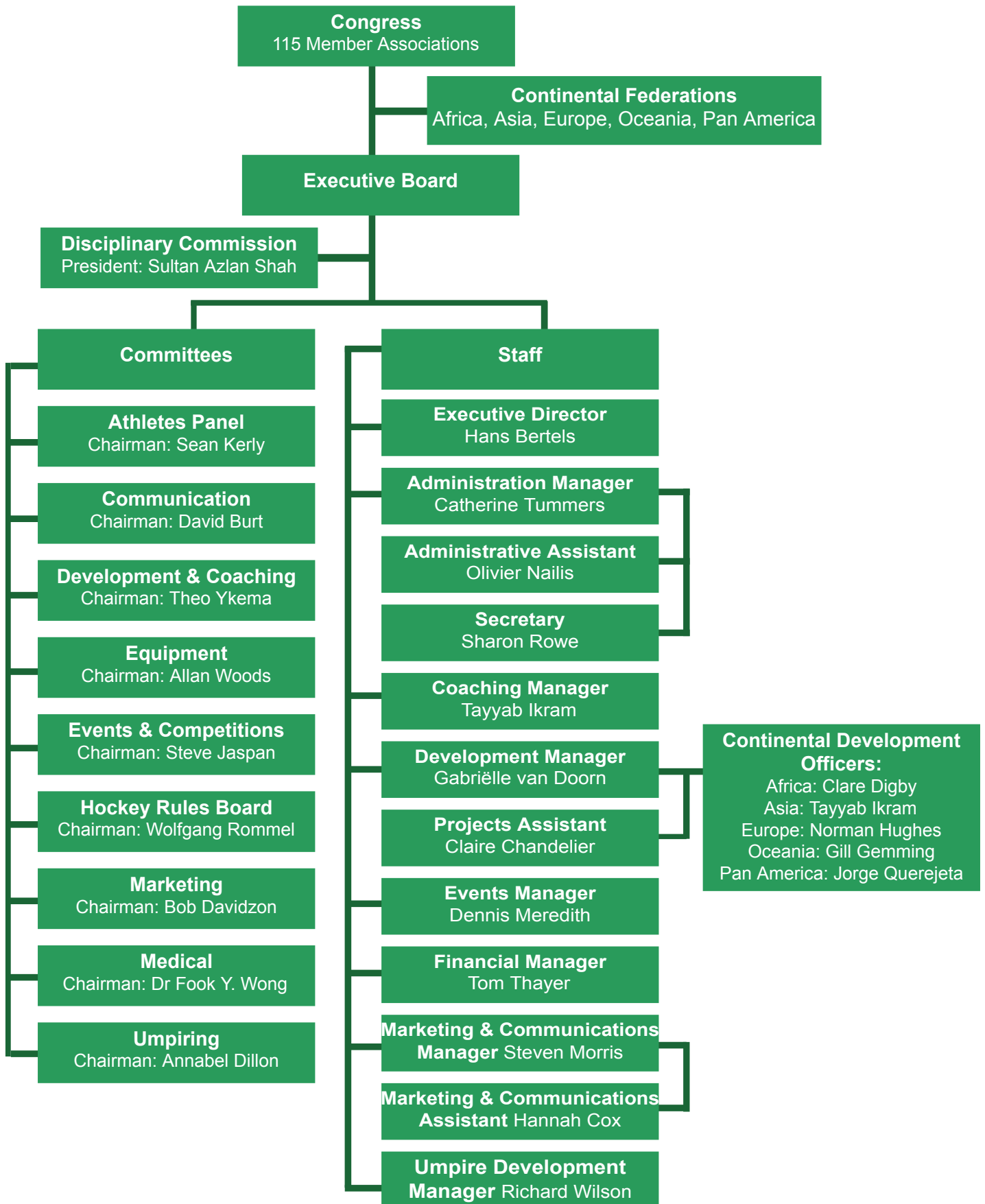
The Objectives of the UC are to: -

1. Increase the number and quality of International umpires
2. Increase the number of young umpires
3. Increase the number and quality of Umpire Managers and Umpire Coaches
4. Establish a worldwide accreditation scheme for Umpire Coaches

#### *Note*

The FIH recommends that all Umpires and Umpires Coaches should consult their local Umpiring Association or National Association regarding the minimum required insurance cover necessary for them to take part in any umpiring activities, for whatever level and type of game (school, club, area, regional, National; mens, womens, mixed), whether at home or abroad. To participate in hockey, or indeed any sport, without adequate insurance cover is an unnecessary risk.

# FIH Structure



The FIH is the world governing body for hockey, comprising 115 national associations, a network of five continental federations, an Executive Board, nine expert advisory committees and a disciplinary commission. The Federation's head office is based in Brussels.

The FIH retains overall responsibility for hockey worldwide, including the rules of hockey, umpiring, coaching, the organisation of international tournaments and the global development and promotion of the sport.

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