

World Hockey



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To: All International Umpires and Umpire Managers

I
Lausanne, Thursday 26 April 2007

Dear Friends,

Please find following the latest news on umpiring matters, which we hope will be of interest to you.

Contact Details Reminder

We start with our usual request for contact details! In order to be able to communicate quickly and effectively with all our International Umpires and Umpire Managers, it is essential that we have your up to date contact details.

Obviously your e-mail address is of prime importance, since this is our main method of contacting you. However, the number of returns of the Rules of Hockey Outdoor and Indoor 2007-2008 also indicates to us that we do not have up to date postal addresses for several of our Umpires! So, if you did not receive your copies, we probably have an old or incorrect postal address on file for you!

If any of your contact details alter through changing jobs, moving house etc, please let Richard Wilson know immediately at richard.wilson@worldhockey.org

FIH Umpiring Committee

The planned meeting of the FIH Umpiring Committee due to take place in Nairobi (KEN) 19-20 May 2007 has been postponed. The next meeting is now scheduled for 17-18 November 2007, with the location to be advised in due course.

Appointments for 2007

The FIH Appointments for 2007 are published on the FIH website. These show the Umpire appointments through to the Men's Champions Trophy, due to take place in Lahore (PAK) in early December 2007.

These will be updated on a regular basis as we become aware of more events on the 2007 Hockey Calendar and further appointments are made.

It is anticipated that the FIH Appointments for 2008 will also be posted to the FIH website very shortly, although at this stage these are limited to TD and UM appointments to the various Men's and Women's Olympic Qualifiers, due to take place in the early part of the year.

We would also stress the need to reply promptly to e-mails both from FIH and Tournament Organising Committees, whether they concern appointments, travel plans or other arrangements. Timely replies make everyone's jobs easier! In case of problems in contacting, or getting replies from, Organising Committees, when you have been appointed as a Neutral Umpire or Umpires Managers to FIH World and FIH Invitational events, please advise Richard Wilson who will do his best to assist you.

Test Series and One off Internationals

With the various Continental Federation Games, Cups and Championships, which are taking place over the next few months, there is increased activity by National Associations who are using Test Series and one off Internationals as match practice for their forthcoming events.

If you are umpiring these Test Series and International games, and they are 'official' matches, please try and persuade the home National Association to send FIH the Result Form and Match Reports. This will enable us to not only keep track of the games played, but also update your umpire records at the same time! Please be aware that official matches must be registered with FIH before they can appear on your umpiring record.

Hockey on TV

The Women's Champions Challenge, due to take place in Baku (AZE) from 9-17 June 2007 will be shown on national TV in Azerbaijan, Ten Sports in Asia and the Middle East, Astro in Malaysia, CCTV5 in China, Cricket+ in the USA and Xports in Korea. There is a possibility that it will also be shown on satellite channels in New Zealand and the UK.

The Men's Champions Challenge, which takes place in Boom (BEL) over the period from 23 June to 1 July 2007, will be shown on Ten Sports in Asia and the Middle East, and Astro in Malaysia. There is the possibility of coverage in Argentina, New Zealand and the UK on satellite channels.

The full TV scheduling for both these events will be advised on the FIH Tournament Microsites that will be set up on the FIH website in due course.

Video Umpire

Following the Executive Board decision that Video Umpire will be used at all FIH major events, Olympic Games, World Cups, Champions Trophies and Olympic Qualifiers, subject to the availability of the TV equipment, the system was used in Quilmes (ARG) for the Women's Champions Trophy in January 2007.

Exceptionally, the TV coverage in Boom (BEL) enables a viable Video Umpire system and so it will be used there for the first time at a Men's Champions Challenge.

TK Gear for International Umpires and Umpire Managers

Following the recent agreement with TK to make the WorldHockey range of umpiring gear available to all FIH International Umpires and Umpires Managers for purchase, they have requested that in future these orders be placed on a yearly, rather than quarterly, basis.

Therefore the next order date will be early in 2008. A new circular e-mail regarding the ordering procedure will be sent out to all International Umpires and Umpire Managers towards the end of 2007.

Monthly Upgradings, FIH Umpire & Umpires Manager Lists and Retirements

The monthly Umpire Upgradings, FIH Umpire and Umpires Manager lists are posted to the Umpires section of the FIH website at the start of each month and can be accessed from this link: -

<http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vnavsite/page/directory/0,10853,1181-117486-118753-nav-list,00.html>

As at 26 April 2007 we have been notified of the following retirements from International Umpiring since 14 December 2006, due either to personal reasons or reaching the stipulated retirement age.

Men Outdoor:

Stefan Brenner (GER), Jamil Butt (PAK), Nick Lockhart (ENG), Euan Robertson (ECO), Pierluigi Zucca (ITA)

Women Outdoor

Louise Knipe (ENG), Maria Vlasenkova (BLR)

Men Indoor:

Markus Bircher (SUI), Euan Robertson (ECO), Pedro Teixeira (POR)

Women Indoor:

Louise Knipe (ENG), Brigitta Sedy (AUT), Alicia Takeda Hirata (MEX), Maria Vlasenkova (BLR)

All have been thanked with a formal letter from the Umpiring Committee.

FIH Umpire Managers

Geoff Blakeman (ENG) and Graham Nash (ENG) have announced their retirement from Umpire Manager duties. Both have served for a large number of years and many umpires will have benefited from their advice and experience throughout their careers. Graham has retired with immediate effect, while Geoff will retire after his EHF appointment in September 2007. Sree Sreedharan (MAS) and Jean Buchanan (RSA) have been placed on the inactive list of FIH Umpire Managers and Janice McDonald (ECO) retired after the Indoor World Cup in Vienna (AUT) in February 2007. We thank all of them for their contribution to umpiring.

We are pleased to confirm that the following FIH Umpire Manager traineeship will take place: -

- Tony Kelleher (ENG) at the EuroHockey Club Champions Trophy in Prague (CZE) 24-27 May 2007

Following her recent retirement from umpiring Louise Knipe (ENG) has had an application on her behalf from England Hockey accepted to become a trainee FIH Umpires Manager. Her traineeship event will be scheduled in due course.

WorldHockey Umpiring Boost

The official period of the WHUB project came to an end as of 31 December 2006. For various reasons only three out of the five Continental Umpiring Development Officers Workshops have been held so far, in Asia, Africa and Oceania. Arrangements are in hand to hold the remaining Workshops in Europe and Pan America in combination with planned Development and Coaching Workshops.

To date, 25 WHUB Umpiring Courses have been held. Due to the average cost per Course being lower than budgeted there are still funds available to hold at least another four, and possibly more, Umpiring Courses. These are scheduled to take place this year.

The unspent budget remaining from the WHUB project has been carried forward into 2007, and will be utilised for the remaining Workshops and extra Umpiring Courses. Further to an evaluation of the WHUB project, it is anticipated that the remaining budget (if possible) will extend to assisting with follow up on the Workshops and Umpiring Courses that have been held, as well providing help to some of the neediest NAs. The aim is that the follow up to the project will ensure that the effect of the WHUB continues into 2007 and beyond.

Finally ...

We would like to wish you every success and much enjoyment in your umpiring. There is a very busy Tournament programme during the forthcoming months and through the early stages of next year in the run up to the Beijing Olympics in August 2008.

We hope to be able see you at one of the events due to take place in the 2007/early 2008 Hockey Calendar.

Best wishes and with kindest regards



Peter von Reth
Chairman
FIH Umpiring Committee

cc Members of Umpiring Committee
Secretaries Continental Federations
FIH Events Manager
FIH Technical Manager