

World Hockey



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To: All International Umpires and Umpire Managers

Lausanne, Thursday 2 August 2007

Dear Friends,

It is now just over 3 months since our last Newsletter. Please find following the latest news on umpiring matters, which we hope will be of interest to you.

Contact Details Reminder

As ever, 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.

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

Please reply promptly to e-mails both from FIH and Tournament Organising Committees, whether they concern appointments, travel plans or other arrangements. 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. He will do his best to assist you to obtain the information that you require.

International Umpire Cards

Following communications from some Tournament Organisers, we would remind you that the privilege, which allowed International Umpires free admission into grounds around the world, was withdrawn some time ago. In fact this occurred as of the 1 January 1998, at which time all National Associations were advised accordingly. We mention this once again since we understand that some Umpires, trying to gain free entry into Tournaments, have been causing problems for Tournament Organisers. All newly appointed International Umpires now receive cards without this free admission clause on the back.

Appointments for 2007 & 2008

The FIH Appointments for 2007 and 2008 are updated and published on a monthly basis on the FIH website. For 2007 these show the Umpire appointments through to the Men's Champions Trophy, due to take place in Lahore (PAK) in early December 2007.

At this stage, the FIH Appointments for 2008 are still limited to TD and UM appointments to the various Men's and Women's Olympic Qualifiers, due to take place in the early part

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of the year. The Umpire appointments will be drafted as soon as the participating teams and pools for each Qualifier have been confirmed. Although we have already investigated the availability of the World and World Development Panel Umpires for 2008, this does not guarantee an automatic appointment to any of these Tournaments.

Observations from Tournaments

Following feedback that we have received from various events from Organisers, Tournament Directors, Umpires Managers and even some Umpires, we feel that it is both appropriate and important for us to emphasise your role as an Umpire at Tournaments.

As with the players, we are trying to build a team that is able to perform at the best possible level. So it is important that all Umpires take their share of this responsibility and be a part of the Umpires' team, putting aside issues of which country you come from. Your full focus should be on your performance as an Umpire, and not trying to do this in combination with watching all the matches that the team from your country plays as well. Often Umpires are under the impression that they have to be present at the stadium when their team is playing, even if (for example) this is very early in the morning and their own game is in the late afternoon. Long waits can be very tiring and may adversely affect umpiring performance. If, however, the timings are suitable and there is a good opportunity to watch these matches it is important to sit together with some of your umpiring colleagues, in preference to sitting with officials from the team or your National Association (as we sometimes see now). Similarly, most teams have a video operator and, depending on the software used, sometimes ask their National Umpire for assistance with logging or match analysis. Once again, this is no problem in itself, however it does take away another opportunity to interact with other Umpires. We fully understand that you wish to support your National teams but, if this affects your preparation for your own duties, the choice should be clear to you. We are confident that no official of your National Association will disagree with this approach!

It is not only the Umpires Manager who will coach you at a Tournament. Learning from your colleagues is also a great opportunity, which should not be missed, since they are likely to have more time available to sit and discuss umpiring matters with you. In summary, the message is – like everything else in umpiring - use your common sense and do what you feel is best for you.

Over the past few years most Tournaments have had experienced Umpires being appointed as Neutrals and these Umpires have their own special role to play. By watching games with their less experienced colleagues, they can share their knowledge and help with useful advice. This is an important aspect of a Neutral Umpire's role, which also helps build team spirit amongst the umpiring panel. Every opportunity for this should be taken. Players spend months playing and training together, in contrast the Umpires team only has a few days together at each Tournament. The Umpires Managers will be delighted to have experienced Neutral Umpires assisting in this way. It is therefore expected that Neutral Umpires will be present at the stadium for longer periods than just to umpire their own games. It may sound tough but, to repeat an expression often used at Umpires Seminars, if you want to have a holiday - go to your travel agent!

Health and Nutrition for Umpires at Tournaments

Some recent Tournaments have been played under extreme weather conditions, with temperatures of up to 35°C in the shade. It is therefore important that Umpires take care of themselves, particularly in the longer length Tournaments.

Specialist advice in terms of good health care and nutrition is being requested from the Medical Committee (which we will report to you in a future Newsletter). In the meantime,

we can advise of the information currently available and which can be accessed via the following links: -

International Umpires Handbook (checklist on page 12 and appendix 4): -

<http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vfile/page/fileurl/0,11040,1181-163518-180733-85128-0-file,00.pdf>

Nutrition Guidelines for Players: -

<http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vfile/page/fileurl/0,11040,1181-174461-191679-97413-0-file,00.pdf>

Hot and Humid Environments: -

<http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vfile/page/fileurl/0,11040,1181-174462-191680-97414-0-file,00.pdf>

Cold Weather Precautions: -

<http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vfile/page/fileurl/0,11040,1181-180391-197609-115953-0-file,00.pdf>

Daily Allowances for Officials at WorldHockey World Level Events

The FIH Executive Board has approved a daily allowance for Umpires and Umpires Managers for all future WorldHockey World Level Tournaments of Eur50.00 (or its equivalent) per day. The events covered by this are Champions Trophies, Champions Challenges, Olympic Qualifiers, World Cups and their Qualifiers.

This amount is designed to cover the cost of extra meals that may be necessary and any out of pocket expenses, such as laundry, telephone calls, taxi fares, visa costs, excess baggage charges and currency exchange rate costs for example.

Access to Organisers Hospitality areas for Umpires and Umpires Managers at the above mentioned Tournaments will also be compulsory in future.

Hockey on TV

A Beijing based television station will produce live coverage of the "Good Luck Beijing Test Event" of 14 or 16 matches out of the 18 to be played during the period 8-13 August 2007. It is not yet confirmed if any of the coverage will be taken by International Broadcasting Companies.

Below is the list of TV Coverage for the EuroHockey Nations Championship which is being played in Manchester (ENG) over the period 18-26 August 2007.

The list is unconfirmed, but is understood to include: -

- BBC1 - One hour highlights package Bank Holiday Monday
- BBC digital - medal matches live via 'red button'
- Eurosport – 14 live games, plus 5 games delayed coverage
- British Eurosport – England Men's & Women's matches live
- Web based narrowcast coverage
- Additional international sales are being targeted

WorldHockey Monthly

More Hockey on TV - Sky Sports UK has agreed to show the ABN AMRO WorldHockey Monthly from June this year.

The ABN AMRO WorldHockey Monthly is FIH's monthly TV magazine featuring all hockey highlights around the world. Sky Sports UK is the second major broadcaster to show the monthly magazine, sponsored by FIH WorldHockey partner ABN AMRO from May 2007.

The ABN AMRO WorldHockey Monthly is shown over 100 countries worldwide, while highlights of this programme will be featured on the official FIH website www.WorldHockey.org starting this summer.

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 1 August 2007 we have been notified of the following retirements from International Umpiring since 26 April 2007, due either to personal reasons or reaching the stipulated retirement age.

Men Outdoor:

Craig Gribble (NZL), Markus Petter (GER), Richard Wolter (GER)

Men Indoor:

Markus Petter (GER), Richard Wolter (GER)

All have been thanked with a formal letter from the Umpiring Committee. On this occasion, however, we would like to express our thanks specifically to them in this Newsletter, since all three have fulfilled an outstanding role at the highest level of umpiring over a long period.

FIH Umpire Managers

We are pleased to confirm that, further to successful appointments as Trainee/Assistant Umpires Managers at recent Tournaments, the following have now been included on the FIH Umpire Managers List: -

- Tony Kelleher (ENG)
- Roger St. Rose (TRI)

We wish Tony and Roger every success in their new 'career'.

Following their recent retirement from umpiring, Craig Gribble (NZL) and Antonio Bustos (ESP) have had applications from their respective National Associations accepted to become Trainee FIH Umpires Managers. Their traineeship events will be scheduled in due course.

FIH Umpiring Committee

The next meeting of the FIH Umpiring Committee due to take place will take place 17-18 November 2007, in Amsterdam (NED).

Continental Umpiring Committees

Following recent Congresses, there have been some changes announced in the positions of Chairs and Secretaries of Continental Umpiring Committees: -

Africa: -

Outgoing Chair: Bob Gagel (RSA)

Incoming Chair: Resham Bains (KEN)

PanAm: -

Outgoing Chair: Richard Kentwell (USA)

Incoming Chair: Janice McClintock (CAN)

Outgoing Secretary: Janice McClintock (CAN)

Incoming Secretary: Roger St. Rose (TRI)

We thank all outgoing members for their contribution and support and welcome the new Chairs and Secretaries and wish them every success in their new roles.

Finally ...

The year to date has been very busy with a full Tournament programme. The hectic schedule is set to continue over the next 2-3 months. The Olympic Test events are due to take place in Beijing next week and the various EuroHockey Nations Tournaments and Oceania Cups, which will decide the final automatic qualification spots for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, will take place during August and September.

We wish you all every success and much enjoyment in your umpiring, in particular those appointed to the above Tournaments, and hope to be able to meet you at one of the forthcoming events.

Best wishes and with kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter von Reth', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Peter von Reth

Chairman

FIH Umpiring Committee

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