

## ***Invitational Tournaments (Outdoor & Indoor)***

**Date of Issue: January 2010**

### **Introduction**

One of the main targets of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) is to have all national teams playing at all times under the same technical rules and regulations in order to guarantee a fair result for all teams involved.

The Executive Board believes that this is just part of the promotion of hockey and is for the benefit and interest of players, officials and spectators.

You will appreciate that, in order to reach the target, the FIH, just like any World Body governing sports, must keep control of what is happening on the international scene and all arrangements which are taken in the frame of any hockey event at that level. Therefore, some procedures need to be followed by all parties involved.

I further wish to draw your attention to the fact that invitational tournaments not only serve the purpose of providing expertise and/or training of players but also contribute to the development and grading of umpires and technical officials.

**All National Associations are again reminded of the decision of the FIH to no longer accept events that are staged with more than two participating countries unless they are controlled by a Tournament Director and, depending on the size of the event, by one or more neutral umpires, and, if six or more countries, by an Umpires' Manager, all of whom shall be appointed exclusively by the FIH.**

However, despite our previous advice and reminders, there are still National Associations that fail to comply with this rule and organise or participate in "ghost" tournaments under unacceptable pretexts such as training events, events with no representative teams, representative teams with odd names, more than 16 players per team, etc. By doing so, they indirectly punish those who comply with the rule.

I understand that countries may wish to have training sessions with other countries. Such sessions are authorised, but only if **two** countries are involved.

### **Approvals**

If more than two teams are to participate, then it must be a formal tournament and the host country must make written application to the FIH in due time for authorisation to stage the event. The application must be made to the FIH **before the formal invitation letters are issued.**

The FIH will only withhold approval where there is a clear reason, for example, where there is a clash of dates with main FIH meetings, with an FIH world level event, with a tournament meant for the same category of players in the same geographical area, or with classic club events involving the same players.

All authorisations will be in writing to enable the host country to provide a copy to any invited country wishing to check whether the tournament is an official F.I.H. tournament.

## **Non Compliance**

National Associations are advised that the following fines will be applied for non-compliance of this directive:

- the imposition of a fee of not less than CHF 12,500 for any host National Association of such an event.
- the imposition of a fee of not less than CHF 6,000 for any country taking part in an event which has not been approved by the FIH

## **Tournament Fees**

Hosting fees and/or participation fees do not currently apply for Invitational Tournaments. However, the FIH is currently considering hosting fees for these tournaments.

## **Technical Officials**

The FIH will appoint the Tournament Director, Umpires' Manager (if 6 or more teams) and the neutral umpire(s). The organising National Association shall be responsible for the return travel and full board accommodation expenses of any such FIH appointed officials from dinner 2<sup>nd</sup> night preceding the first day of the tournament until breakfast on the day following the last day of the tournament.

The host National Association is responsible for nominating an experienced Technical Officer from the host country and seeking nominations from each of the participating countries of an umpire (compulsory) and of a Technical Officer and/or Judge (non-compulsory). Travel costs for nominated technical officials and umpires from participating countries shall be at the account of each participating country. The organising National Association shall be responsible for full board accommodation expenses for all appointed technical officials and umpires.

It is **compulsory** for each participating country to nominate one of its umpires, (National or International badge status), for any invitational tournament in which its team takes part, in order to provide the Tournament Director with an appropriate panel of Umpires allowing him/her to achieve balanced appointments to the matches.

If a participating nation fails to provide an umpire the FIH will appoint an additional neutral umpire. All costs (including travel) incurred as a result of further neutral appointments will be the responsibility of the National Association failing to provide an umpire. The cost of replacing such umpire will be determined by the FIH and paid by the participating nation that has defaulted.

Where it is not possible to appoint a further neutral umpire, the Executive Board has the authority to impose a fine on the participating nation failing to provide an umpire. The amount of such fine will be fixed by the Executive Board.

The host National Association is responsible for advising all nominations of the technical panel for approval by the F.I.H. in due time prior to the start of the tournament.

## **Dope Testing**

In accordance with the FIH Anti-Doping Policy it is a requirement that dope testing is conducted at all International Invitational Tournaments.

The policy sets out the number of tests required as follows:

- (a) events involving 8 to 11 nations: there should be 10 tests (8 during pool competition, 2 during classification competition)
- (b) for events involving 6 to 7 nations: there should be 8 tests (if a competition with classification competition: 6 during pool competition, 2 during classification competition; if a competition without classification competition: 8 during pool competition)

- (c) for events involving 3 to 5 nations: there should be 6 tests (if a competition with classification competition: 4 during pool competition, 2 during classification competition: if a competition without classification competition: 6 during pool competition)

The host organising National Association is responsible for the organisation and for the payment of all costs involved with doping controls and must obtain the equipment and materials and make all necessary arrangements for the testing to be carried out in accordance with the World Anti Doping Code and the FIH Anti-Doping Policy.

The host organising National Association must ensure that there is a signed contract with a WADA approved laboratory for the analysis of the Doping Control Samples and, at the same time, provide FIH with a copy of that Contract.

Penalties for non compliance with these provisions are set out in FIH Policies and Procedures – *Penalties / Sanctions – Non Compliance with FIH Regulations, Policies and Procedures.*

### **Match Schedule**

The host National Association is responsible for proposing the match schedule to the FIH for approval in due time prior to the start of the tournament.

I thank you in advance for your understanding of the FIH's concerns and for your collaboration in future.

Please do not hesitate to ask if any clarification is required.



**Peter L Cohen**  
Hon. Secretary General

01 January 2010