

World Hockey



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To: All International Umpires and Umpire Managers

Lausanne, Thursday 20 December 2007

Dear Friends,

It is now just over 4 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 usual, we start with our regular 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. This also applies to requests for information on sizes of TK Gear for our World Level Tournaments!

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.

Appointments for 2008

The FIH Appointments for 2008 are updated regularly and we try to publish these updates on a monthly basis on the FIH website. This is not always possible!

At this stage, the FIH Appointments for 2008 are made for Umpires and Umpires Managers virtually all the way through to the Olympic Games in Beijing in August 2008. Currently only 11 of the 15 Umpire appointments for both the Mens and Womens panels in Beijing have been made. It is anticipated that the remaining appointments will be made in the near future.

International Caps and Golden Whistles

Following some queries, we can confirm that a Golden Whistle is awarded to those FIH International Umpires who have officiated in 100 official Senior international matches.

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'Official' means that the match must be recorded by FIH. U-21 Tournaments and matches do not count towards the Golden Whistle, but are still counted as international caps.

(Therefore when umpiring Test Series or one off Test Matches and in order to help keep your FIH umpire record up to date, please request that your National Association sends us the official, signed, match reports).

To date, only 25 Male Umpires and 24 Female Umpires have achieved this milestone. The latest recipient is Judy Barnesby (AUS), and we congratulate her on this achievement.

Indoor Rules Trials 2007/8 Explanation and Description & Feedback

Following the establishment of a taskforce by the Hockey Rules Board to look closely at the Rules of Indoor Hockey, two rules trials have been introduced as follows.

One of the trials requires at least one player always to be outside their team's defensive half of the pitch. In the other trial, a free push taken by a team inside the half of the pitch they are attacking must not be played directly into the circle.

Use of the trial rules is voluntary, but the Hockey Rules Board hopes they will be adopted in various national and local competitions. For further information, please follow the link: - <http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vcontent/page/custom/0,8510,1181-185440-202662-43949-277610-custom-item,00.html>

FIH Umpires Indoor Briefing

To take account of the above rules trials, the Indoor Briefing in the Umpires section on the FIH website has been updated and can be accessed by following this link: - <http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vfile/page/fileurl/0,11040,1181-180263-197481-115789-0-file,00.pdf>

Video Umpire

A small taskforce has been reviewing the Video Umpire procedures and protocols in the light of the various referrals from the Tournaments at which it has been in use – the Women's Champions Trophy in Amstelveen (NED) in July 2006, the Men's & Women's World Cups in September 2006 in Monchengladbach (GER) and Madrid (ESP) respectively, the Women's Champions Trophy in Quilmes (ARG) in January 2007 and the Men's Champions Challenge in Boom (BEL) in June 2007.

The possibility to reach a correct Video Umpire decision, but an incorrect match decision, became apparent at the Quilmes Tournament and therefore changes were proposed to, and agreed by, the Executive Board. Read about the changes that have been made via the following link: -

<http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vcontent/content/news/0,10869,1181-144740-161956-40507-278479-news-item,00.html>

The new procedures and protocols were in place for the recently concluded Men's Champions Trophy in Kuala Lumpur (MAS). During this Tournament, a Video Umpire Questionnaire was handed out to all the appointed Officials as well as to the Team Managers/Coaches of the participating teams. The Questionnaire has also been sent to some of the Officials and all of the Umpires who have already been selected for Beijing Olympics, as well as to the Coaches of all the qualified teams (who were not in KL).

The aim is to receive feedback on Video Umpire, not only on the current procedures and protocols but also on how it might be developed (or indeed whether it is felt that it needs to be developed) in the future.

Health and Nutrition for Umpires at Tournaments

In the August 2007 Newsletter we advised you that we were trying to obtain Health and Nutrition information from the Medical Committee for Umpires at Tournaments, in particular for those which take place in hot and humid climates.

We have enquired about how to hydrate properly before officiating and how to re-hydrate afterwards, what sort of foods are of most benefit before and after officiating, and requested information on other resources such as ice/cooling vests and the provision of isotonic drinks at pitchside.

Unfortunately our consultation with the Medical Committee is taking longer than anticipated, and we now hope to bring you this information in a future edition of the Newsletter.

Hockey on TV

The FIH has a new partnership with Cricket Plus channel for live and delayed broadcasts of FIH major events, and the ABN AMRO World Hockey monthly magazine programme in USA and Canada. Cricket Plus will broadcast selected matches including the finals of all major televised FIH events over the next 3 years.

Sky Sports UK has been showing the ABN AMRO WorldHockey Monthly since June this year. The ABN AMRO WorldHockey Monthly is FIH's monthly TV magazine featuring all hockey highlights around the world. 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.

There will be Microsites for each of the Olympic Qualifiers, which you will be able to access through the main FIH website. It is planned that information will be included on each Microsite of the TV coverage. At this stage it is thought that the Qualifiers in Santiago (CHI), Baku (AZE) and Kazan (RUS) will be fully televised, while Auckland (NZL), Kakamigahara (JPN) and Victoria (CAN) will have full TV coverage for the final two days.

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/0,10853,1181-136489-137797-nav-list,00.html>

As at 20 December 2007 we have been notified of the following retirements from International Umpiring since 2 August 2007, due either to personal reasons or reaching the stipulated retirement age.

Men Outdoor:

Muhammad Faiz (PAK), Sumesh Putra (CAN) Erik Klein Nagelvoort (NED)

Women Outdoor

Judith Hutchison (ECO), Anne Logan (IRL)

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

FIH Umpire Managers

Since the last Newsletter, Geoff Blakeman (ENG) has retired from the FIH Umpire Managers list. He too has been thanked for his services over a number of years with a letter from the Umpiring Committee.

It is proposed to hold an Umpire Managers Seminar in Rotterdam (NED), from Friday afternoon/evening 27 June 2008 through to Sunday afternoon 29 June 2008, to be run in conjunction with the Men's Champions Trophy. We are currently checking on the availability of all our FIH Umpire Managers and Trainee Umpire Managers to attend the proposed Seminar. The response to date suggests that the attendance will be sufficiently high to be able to proceed with the arrangements.

FIH Umpiring Committee

The FIH Umpiring Committee met in Amsterdam (NED), over 17-18 November 2007.

Amongst the various Agenda Items under discussion was how we might be able to work with the Continental Federations to increase the number of development opportunities for National and International Umpires.

Also under discussion was the matter of Umpire Discipline, given a small number of disciplinary problems at Tournaments over the last year. This included a major breach of security at the Olympic Test events in Beijing, which resulted in an Umpire having his accreditation withdrawn and being sent home from the Tournament. The meeting agreed that the seriousness of this particular incident should be brought to the attention of all International Umpires in this Umpiring Committee Newsletter.

Following discussions it was agreed that the options open to the Committee for such Disciplinary Matters included the removal of International Umpire status for cases of gross misconduct, and also the possible drawing up of a Code of Conduct Paper (such as the one that Players and Team Officials sign at FIH Tournaments).

It is anticipated that the next meeting of the FIH Umpiring Committee will take place in Singapore 7-8 June 2008, with a further meeting to be held in conjunction with the FIH Congress which is due to take place in Los Angeles (USA) over the period 23-30 November 2008.

Finally ...

2007 has been a busy year with Men's and Women's Champions Trophies and Champions Challenges, the Indoor World Cups, various Continental Olympic Qualifiers and the Men's and Women's Olympic Test Events.

2008 will present similar challenges for all our International Umpires and Umpire Managers, with the hectic schedule set to continue over the next 4-5 months, with the Men's and Women's Olympic Qualifiers to decide the final places for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

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.

Our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter von Reth', with a horizontal line underneath.

Peter von Reth
Chairman
FIH Umpiring Committee

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