

World Hockey



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To: All International Umpires and Umpire Managers

Lausanne, Wednesday 15 October 2008

Dear Friends,

It is some considerable time 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 (in particular your e-mail address) alter through changing jobs, moving house etc, please let Richard Wilson know immediately at richard.wilson@worldhockey.org

Replies to e-mails

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.

Digital Photo Update

For those of you who were appointed as FIH International Umpires prior to 2006 and have not sent in an up to date digital photo recently, we should be grateful if you will forward a new photo so that we can keep our records up to date.

Appointments for 2008 & 2009

The FIH Appointments for 2008 are now updated on a regular monthly basis, with the most recent version being posted on 3 October 2008.

Following a very busy calendar for the first 8 months of the year, the remainder of 2008 sees a comparatively quiet period in terms of the number of Tournaments. The majority of the activity during the final 3 months of the year takes place in Pan America and Oceania,

with qualifiers for the Men's and Women's Junior World Cup; and in Asia with a qualifier for the Women's Junior World Cup.

We are in the process of drawing up a list of 2009 Tournaments to consider appointments for this period, but will first need to wait for news of the dates for the Men's and Women's Champions Challenges I & II, as well as the Men's World Cup Qualifier Tournaments. These dates will only be settled at the meetings which take place in Los Angeles (USA) during the FIH Congress in November 2008. Therefore the first set of FIH Appointments for 2009 are likely to be published in January/February 2009.

Rules of Hockey 2009-2010 Outdoor and Indoor

All National Associations and Continental Federations have recently been advised as follows: -

It is anticipated that the next Rules of Hockey and Rules of Indoor Hockey will take effect from 1 June 2009.

Until new sets of rules are published and implemented, the 2007-2008 rules continue to apply.

What changes there will be in 2009 is still under discussion within the FIH. The Hockey Rules Board has already undertaken a significant review of the Rules of Indoor Hockey. At its meeting in November 2008, it will finalise any proposals for changes to the rules for outdoor hockey.

Roger Webb
Secretary, Hockey Rules Board

Beijing Olympics

We send our congratulations to the Men's and Women's Olympic umpiring teams on their performances in Beijing, for what was a long, but enjoyable and successful three weeks in China.

Following the success of the pre-Games Training Camp before the Athens Olympics, it was considered essential that a similar Camp be held before the Beijing Olympics. The aim of the Camp was to prepare the umpiring team as professionally as possible for their task during the Games. It also provided the opportunity to put the finishing touches to the umpires' individual preparation programmes which they had been following in the months leading up to Beijing. This was held over 5-7 August 2008 and provided not only time to get over jet lag, but also acclimatisation to the hot and humid conditions and allowed final preparations to be made for the Olympic Tournaments.

The programme covered presentations on 'strength based thinking'; detailed briefings and use of video analysis to aim for the highest possible level of consistency in decision making – all set against a 'Awareness, Recognition, Action' theme; physical training and fitness testing; information on what to expect in Beijing and team building exercises.

Once again the Camp proved to have an extremely positive influence on the umpiring performances during the Games.

Hockey on TV and the Internet

FIH is one of the first International Sports Federations with its own YouTube section. The monthly ABN AMRO WorldHockey Magazine, as well as footage of matches from the 2008 Men's Champions Trophy, is available online at: - <http://www.youtube.com/WorldHockey>
It is hoped to extend the service that is offered on YouTube during the course of 2009.

The first rounds of the new 2008-2009 EHL (Euro Hockey League) will be played in Amsterdam (24-26 October 2008) and Lille (31 October – 2 November 2008). Some live and delayed coverage of the matches can be seen on Eurosport 2 and Eurosport Asia Pacific – please check your local schedules for dates and timings.

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 15 October 2008 we have been notified of the following retirements from International Umpiring since our last Newsletter, due either to personal reasons or reaching the stipulated retirement age.

Men Outdoor:

Xavier Adell (ESP), Iftikhar Ahmed (PAK), Bala Muraly Anchang (SIN), Roger Broomes (BAR), Ramamoorthy Krishanan (SIN), Philip Schellekens (NED), Daljit Singh (MAS), Sergei Smirnov (RUS), Hashim Bin Mohamed Yusoff (MAS)

Women Outdoor

Judy Barnesby (AUS), Ute Conen (GER), Sarah Garnett (NZL), Lurah Hess (USA), Claire Kelly (IRL), Lourdes Santiago (ESP), Gina Spitaleri (ITA), Minka Woolley (AUS), Kazuko Yasueda (JPN)

Men Indoor

David Leiper (ECO), Philip Schellekens (NED), Sergei Smirnov (RUS)

Women Indoor

Ute Conen (GER), Gina Spitaleri (ITA)

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

Golden Whistles

We congratulate David Gentles (AUS) and Julie Ashton-Lucy (AUS) on the award of their Golden Whistles. David received his at the Champions Trophy in Rotterdam (NED) in June 2008, while Julie received hers at the Olympics in Beijing (CHN) in August 2008.

FIH Umpire Managers

Since the last Newsletter, Amarjeet Bawa (IND), Christian Siebrecht (GER) and Elfie Farke (GER) have all retired from the FIH Umpire Managers list. Each has been thanked for their years of service with a letter from the Umpiring Committee.

During this period, Craig Gribble (NZL) and Louise Knipe (ENG) successfully completed their traineeships and have been added to the list.

Traineeships are scheduled for Philip Schellekens (NED) and Rui Figueiredo (POR) during the forthcoming European Indoor season at, respectively, the EuroHockey Junior Nations Championship in Vienna (AUT) in January 2009 and the EuroHockey Club Champions Challenge I in Cambrai (FRA) in February 2009.

Traineeships for a number of the other FIH Umpire Managers list candidates will be scheduled at the earliest opportunity.

An FIH Umpire Managers Seminar was held in Rotterdam (NED) over the period 27-29 June 2008. The objective of the Seminar was to ensure that our Umpire Managers and Trainees have the necessary tools and information to enable a more consistent approach at Tournaments, and to develop the personal skills which will allow them to provide a higher quality of coaching for the umpires. It was attended by 30 FIH Umpire Managers and Trainees from 19 countries.

The programme, which included contributions from the Course Conductors as well as some of the participants, featured presentations by Alain Goudsmet from the Mentally Fit Institute on teambuilding, Ric Charlesworth on the view from a Coaches perspective and how umpiring standards could be improved by developing the Coach/Umpire Manager interaction and Ken Read regarding the Tournament Director/Umpire Manager relationship. All attendees received copies of the presentations from the Seminar, as did all of our Umpires Managers who were unable to be present in Rotterdam.

FIH Umpiring Committee

The FIH Umpiring Committee last met in Singapore (SIN), 7 & 8 June 2008.

Amongst the various Agenda Items under discussion was how we can better co-ordinate our efforts with those of our Continental counterparts in terms of Operational Plans and the consideration of ways in which we can try and increase the number of development opportunities for National and International Umpires.

Also under discussion was the question of travel costs to Tournaments when fulfilling FIH or Neutral Umpire appointments. We are aware that with some Organising Committees the return travel is only refunded on the basis of from airport to airport. This is not a problem for those who live close to the airport of departure, but can be if you live a long way away from one. So we are therefore trying to address the question of the responsibility for the travel costs that are incurred for the journey from home to the airport of departure (and back). A proposal has been made to the Events Committee for their consideration.

The next meeting of the FIH Umpiring Committee will take place in Los Angeles (USA) on 26 November 2008 during the FIH Congress. Members of the Umpiring Committee are generally appointed on a 4 year cycle, with 11 of the current membership coming to the end of their mandate in LA. All of the retiring members have been nominated, however re-appointment will be dependent upon the decisions of the Executive Board. We would like to thank all the outgoing members for their contribution during their term of office. In our next Newsletter we will introduce the new Committee to you.

Finally ...

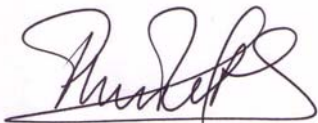
2008 has been possibly the busiest year ever for FIH Tournaments with 3 Men's and 3 Women's Olympic Qualifiers, Men's and Women's Champions Trophies and the Men's and Women's Olympic Events ... not to mention all the various Invitational Tournaments and pre-Olympic warm up events.

We recognise and commend the immense commitment which all of our Umpires and Umpires Managers make, in particular those in this Olympic year whose contribution and time spent away from home, friends and family far exceeds their normal holiday allowances and may even extend to taking unpaid leave. We would therefore like to thank all of you, including your partners, family, friends and employers for the commitment and support which you have given to make 2008 a successful year for umpiring.

From the way that the 2009 calendar is shaping up it seems that it will also present similar challenges, but this will only become clearer once we have the venues and dates settled for the Champions Challenges and the Men's World Cup Qualifiers.

Our best wishes to those of you who are appointed to one of the remaining Tournaments in 2008. We wish you all every success and hope to be able to meet you at one of the forthcoming events in 2009.

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