

Lausanne, Wednesday 15 February 2006

To: All International Umpires and Umpire Managers

Dear Friends,

Since the Indoor season is nearly over and several National teams and Umpires will now start to prepare for the forthcoming Outdoor events, it is time to update you once more regarding the latest news on umpiring matters.

We regret to report the death of the former Grade 1 Umpire Garth Proudfoot (RSA) in January 2006. During his International career he will certainly be known to many of you who will have met him at Tournaments. We all lose a great friend in hockey. A letter of condolence has been sent from the Umpiring Committee to his family, via the South African Hockey Association.

### **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 you move house, change jobs, or any of your contact details alter (in particular your e-mail address), please let Richard Wilson know immediately at [richard.wilson@worldhockey.org](mailto:richard.wilson@worldhockey.org)

### **Appointments for 2006**

The FIH appointments for 2006 to date are now published on the FIH website, and will be updated on a regular basis.

It is anticipated that the remaining appointments to the World Cups will be made following the respective Qualifiers (with any remaining places to be announced directly after the Champions Trophies).

### **Behaviour at Tournaments**

On 13 February 2006, the FIH Hon. Secretary General sent a letter to all the FIH affiliated National Associations, regarding Behaviour at Tournaments. The text of this letter is copied below, in order that you are aware of this directive, since Behaviour at Tournaments will no doubt be mentioned to you by your Tournament Directors and Umpires Managers during Tournament Briefings: -

*Dear Friends,*

*The Events and Competitions Committee (ECC) has noted and reported to the Executive Board a number of cases of poor and unsporting behaviour at recent tournaments.*

*The behaviour and conduct of certain players and some team officials, on and off the field, has damaged the image of the game.*

*These have included incidents of abuse of umpires and technical officials, mobbing of umpires after decisions, throwing of sticks and equipment, kicking advertising boards, refusal to co-operate with technical officials, improper behaviour during the playing of national anthems or prize giving, and other similar acts.*

*The Executive Board has resolved that strong action must be taken to eliminate these incidents from our game and has authorized the ECC to instruct technical officials (including umpires, TOs and TDs) to adopt a very strong line in tournaments during this year to ensure that these practices and unacceptable behaviour are prevented.*

*Where incidents of this nature occur, the technical officials will be instructed to take very firm disciplinary measures. All National Associations and team officials are aware of the authority of Tournament Directors to take decisive action during tournaments and also to refer matters for further investigation and the imposition of penalties that extend beyond the duration of the tournament. Technical officials will be instructed to exercise their full powers and authorities to eliminate these incidents from our game.*

*I ask you to make sure you inform your National Teams and the team management of these steps and to encourage them to fully co-operate with tournament officials and eliminate poor behaviour and any actions that could bring themselves and the game into disrepute.*

*Thank you in advance for your co-operation. I hope it will be a wonderful year of great hockey and excellent sportsmanship.*

*Kind regards*

*Yours sincerely*

*Peter L. Cohen  
Hon. Secretary General.*

### **Fitness Testing**

Following some questions from Umpires and Umpire Managers, with regard to when Fitness Tests are to be conducted, we can advise that for the time being we only **require** a Fitness Test to be held at FIH organised Tournaments with a participation of 6 or more Nations and at Continental Nations Championships with a participation of 6 or more Nations.

Since the time prior to the start of a Tournament is limited, and also as a result of the regulations applicable to Umpires travel and accommodation at the smaller events, we feel that it is not appropriate to execute a Fitness Test a few hours prior to the first match. If there is any doubt in the mind of either the TD or UM about the fitness of individual Umpires, at their discretion, a Fitness Test may still be conducted.

For Youth Nations Tournaments (U-19, U-18, U-16) with 6 or more Nations participating, we **recommend** to organise a Fitness Test only if the time for its proper execution is available, with the decision to be made by the Umpire Manager in agreement with the Tournament Director. At these events the result of the test is not of major importance as most Umpires will be new to International level, however it will help those Umpires to be aware that physical fitness is a requirement for progression in an umpiring career.

For any event the Umpires are personally responsible to arrive physically fit at all Tournaments and should seek assistance from their National Association for training and testing if needed.

The Summary requirements for Fitness Tests are: -

**MANDATORY** to stage a Fitness Test (Shuttle Run/Beep Test or Cooper Test): -

- At all Senior Inter-Nation Tournaments with 6 or more teams participating
- At all U-21 Inter-Nation Tournaments with 6 or more teams participating
- At all World Cup or Olympic Games Qualifying Events
- At Continental Qualifying Nations events

**RECOMMENDED (not mandatory)** to stage a Fitness test (shuttle run/beep test only): -

- At Youth (U19, U18, U-17, U-16) Inter-Nations Tournaments with 6 or more teams participating; decision to be made by Continental Federation or by UM/TD
- At ALL other events with 6 or more teams participating and controlled by a Tournament Director appointed by Continental Federation or FIH

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS: -**

<b>Shuttle run / beep test</b>	<b>MEN</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>
Under 30 years	10	9
30 to 40 years	9	8
40 years and over	8	7
<b>Cooper test</b>		
Any age	2.500 metres	2.300 metres

Notes: -

- Date of test is decisive for required level
- English tape/cd, the indication “start of level 8 or 9 or 10” means that the respective required level has been achieved

**FIH Umpire Managers List**

We are pleased to confirm, following his attendance at the Trainee Umpire Manager Workshop held in Vienna over Easter 2005 and his recent retirement from the active FIH International Umpires list, that Rashad Mahmood Butt (PAK) has been added to the list of FIH Umpires Managers.

**FIH Umpire Briefings for 2006**

The 2006 versions of the Umpires Briefings for both Outdoor and Indoor Hockey have recently been posted to the Umpires section of the WorldHockey website.

They may be accessed by following this link:-

<http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vnavsite/page/directory/0,10853,1181-136925-154141-nav-list,00.html>

NB. They may take a little while to download, depending upon the speed of your Internet connection.

**Umpiring Committee**

The next meeting of the Umpiring Committee will take place in Rome (ITA) on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 May 2006. The meeting coincides with the final two days of the Women's World Cup Qualifier.

**Retirements**

As at 13 February 2006 we have been notified of the following retirements from International Umpiring since 16 January 2006, due either to personal reasons, reaching the stipulated retirement age or being non-active as an umpire at National or International level.

**Women Outdoor:**

Tania Frankle (NAM), Penelope Stephens (TRI)

**Men Outdoor:**

Soo Chan Ji (KOR), Muneer Moghul (IND), Blaise Monteiro (IND)

**Finally ...**

We wish you all every success for the both the remainder of the Indoor season and the forthcoming Outdoor season, for what we expect will be an interesting and challenging year. With the World Cups to look forward to we are sure that there are likely to be more events added to what is already a very busy hockey calendar for 2006.

With kindest regards



Peter von Reth  
Chairman  
FIH Umpiring Committee

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