

Lausanne, Wednesday 11 January 2006

To: All International Umpires and Umpire Managers

Dear Friends,

### **Appointments for 2006**

The FIH appointments for 2006 are in the process of being advised. We hope to be able to publish the approved version of these on the WorldHockey website in the next few days.

All of the Umpires nominated to the various World Cup Qualifiers, Champions Trophies and some Invitational Tournaments that will be taking place in 2006 are currently being contacted as to their availability.

We thank you for your patience. The appointments process has taken far longer than we anticipated.

### **Dangerous Hits (Low Forehand Hit)**

This information updates the advice given in the August 2005 Umpiring Committee Newsletter.

In December 2005, the Hockey Rules Board met in Chennai to discuss and review the matter and has advised the following to National Associations for distribution among their players, team management and umpires. Please take note of the following text which has been provided by the Hockey Rules Board: -

“Attention is drawn to the ‘low forehand’ hit. This note provides an interpretation of this action in relation to dangerous play (Rule 9.7).

This is a relatively new technique where the ball is played with the edge of the stick (in a similar way to the ‘low backhand’) just above the hook on the forehand with the face of the stick upwards.

This action is considered to be dangerous. This is because the ball must be hit very precisely at the correct spot, otherwise it is likely that the ball will be raised at high speed and in an uncontrolled manner. Also, the direction of the ball from these hits is not predictable by opponents and in most cases not even by the player hitting the ball. This action can be executed accidentally or can be disguised as a different action so opponents have little or no chance to react if the ball is raised.

This applies only to a (hard) hit of this type. It is not considered dangerous to use the forehand edge of the stick in a controlled action such as the “jab” tackle, raising the ball in a controlled way over an opponent’s stick or goalkeeper who is lying on the ground or when “sweeping” the ball along the ground on the forehand.

This interpretation has been drawn up by the Hockey Rules Board. A change to the Rules of Hockey to reinforce this interpretation is under consideration.”

### **Excess Baggage Charges**

An issue which has come to light in the last few weeks is that of excess baggage charges.

Airlines are becoming stricter on baggage allowances, and applying penalties wherever they can. The decision has been taken that for WorldHockey events only (Olympic Games and their Qualifiers, World Cups and their Qualifiers, Champions Challenges and Champions Trophies) 'reasonable' excess baggage charges will be compensated for from the Umpiring Committee budget.

We are still considering what is 'reasonable', and will review this in the light of our experiences at the two forthcoming World Cup Qualifiers in Changzhou (CHN) and Rome (ITA). Please note that that excess baggage charges which result from 'shopping activities' will not be considered as such!

### **Retirements**

As at 16 January 2006 we have been notified of the following retirements from International Umpiring since 3 December 2005, due either to personal reasons, reaching the stipulated retirement age or being non-active as an umpire at National or International level.

#### Women Outdoor:

Lyn Farrell (NZL), Sandi Notredame (BEL)

#### Women Indoor

Susie Gomes (TRI), Lyn Hill (AUS), Claudia Pape (GER)

#### Men Outdoor:

Muhammad Asif (PAK), Andrew Bellis (GAL), Rashad Mahmood Butt (PAK), Martin Cerveny (CZE), Raymond Micallef (MLT), Arkadiusz Nowak (POL), Kevin Ross (ZIM), Edmundo Saladino (ARG), Alejandro Schön (PAR), Narinder Singh (IND)

#### Men Indoor

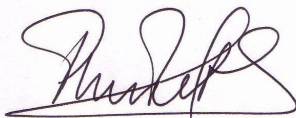
Jeff Brown (NZL), Martin Cerveny (CZE), Arkadiusz Nowak (POL)

They have each been thanked with a personal letter on behalf of the Umpiring Committee.

### **Finally ...**

We look forward to your contribution and support to hockey for what is likely to be a very busy 2006. We wish you success and enjoyment in your umpiring during the year and hope that we may meet some of you at one or more events in the not too distant future.

With kindest regards,



Peter von Reth  
Chairman  
FIH Umpiring Committee

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