



GUIDELINES

Covering the Grading of International Umpires (Outdoor)

Effective as from 1st June 2006

1. General

- 1.1 Only women's matches will be taken into consideration as far as female umpires are concerned, and only men's matches will be taken into consideration as far as male umpires are concerned.
- 1.2 Matches played within the framework of an international tournament under the control of a Tournament Director appointed or approved by the FIH, as well as any senior Inter-Nations matches recorded by the FIH, will be taken into account. (See also Rules 2.5 and 2.6(d))
- 1.3 Any senior Inter-Nations matches which are recorded by the FIH providing the following requirements have been fulfilled:
 - (a) Match between Senior 'A' national teams;
 - (b) Match supervised by neutral umpires;
 - (c) An 'A' Teams Inter-Nations Match Result Form and/or a copy of the signed Match Report is received by the FIH (Note: Senior 'A' national teams are considered to be the first choice team);

2. International Umpires

- 2.1 Candidatures must be sent to the FIH by an affiliated National Association to which the umpire concerned belongs.
- 2.2 Candidatures must reach the FIH on the appropriate form (Outdoor-Form A), within three months of the final qualifying event.
- 2.3 Candidates must:
 - (a) Be regularly active as an umpire at the top level of an FIH affiliated National Association, not necessarily their own;
 - (b) Have a complete knowledge of the latest issue of The Rules of Hockey and interpretations as set out by the Hockey Rules Board and Umpiring Committee;
 - (c) Be medically healthy and able to achieve the fitness test requirements (subject to the relevant age limits) as set out by the Umpiring Committee;
 - (d) Be able to understand and communicate in English, which the National Association certifies by signing the application;
- 2.4 Before a candidature can be submitted the umpire must have umpired a minimum of three matches. This may be as a non-neutral umpire in one of the three matches within the two calendar years preceding the candidature, subject to an 'A' Teams Inter-Nations Match Result Form and/or a copy of the Match Report being received by the FIH. Where the matches were part of a

tournament, the candidate must have achieved a mark of at least 6.5 in each match umpired.

2.5 The events where the requirements can be achieved are:

- (a) Senior and Junior (U21) 'A' Teams Inter-Nations Tournaments;
- (b) Senior 'A' Teams Inter-nations Matches (including a Test Series provided Rule 1.3 has been complied with);
- (c) Continental 'A' Division Club Championship and Continental 'A' Division Cup Winners Cup. This will count as two matches providing that during the tournament a minimum of three matches are umpired with a mark of at least 6.5 each. The third match must then comply with Rule 1.2 or 1.3;
- (d) Other events that are approved by the Umpiring Committee to be of a suitable standard;
- (e) Test-Series with a minimum of three matches played between Senior 'A' national teams and umpired as a non-neutral umpire, providing a neutral FIH assessor is requested and appointed. (Any such request must be sent by the National Association of the umpire to the FIH on the appropriate form (Outdoor-Form B). The travel, full board and any ancillary costs of such an assessor will be the responsibility of the requesting National Association).

In the case of 2.5(e) the assessor will send their report direct to the National Association (with copy to FIH) but will also supply written feedback to the umpire.

Grading to International Umpire will be considered following the receipt of a recommendation from the assessor, providing Rules 1.3(c), 2.2 and 2.3 are complied with.

2.6 The position of active international outdoor umpire will cease:

- (a) At 31st December following reaching the age of 47 years;
- (b) Upon own request or notification of retirement;
- (c) Upon ceasing to be regularly active as an umpire at top level (Rule 2.3(a)) for more than 12 months;
- (d) After three consecutive years without umpiring an Inter-Nations match or Continental Club Tournament;
- (e) At the discretion of the Umpiring Committee upon receipt of a report of unacceptable actions/behaviour or poor performance or poor fitness;

2.7 Non-active international outdoor umpires will retain their badge but will no longer be appointed by the FIH or the Continental Federation to international matches or tournaments. However, a National Association may still nominate a non-active international outdoor umpire for such events and they will once again be considered active having umpired these matches or tournaments.

2.8 Further progress is governed by Rule 3 onwards.

Note: Umpires who show potential for progression to Grade 1 may, subject to the decision of the Umpiring Committee, be placed on a 'Promising Umpires List' (although this is not a pre-requisite to achieving Grade 1 status).

The PUL will be reviewed on a regular basis. Before being placed on this list the umpires will have achieved marks with a minimum of 7.3 in each match umpired in a tournament considered to be of a suitable standard.

Umpires who fail to achieve Grade 1 status within two tournaments or within a period of two years will be returned to the list of International umpires. PUL (and Grade 1) status may be achieved once again in the light of performances at subsequent events.

3. Grade 1 Umpires

- 3.1 Umpires can only achieve an upgrading to Grade 1 status by being awarded the required marks at an event.
- 3.2 Candidates must satisfy all the requirements set out in Rule 2.3, and be able to understand and communicate effectively in English.
- 3.3 To be considered for upgrading, umpires must have umpired at least twice in any of the events listed below. (This is in addition to any event attended in relation to International status)
 - (a) Senior 'A' Teams Inter-Nations tournament;
 - (b) Continental U21 'A' Teams Nations Finals or Championships and U21 Nations tournaments with more than 5 teams participating;
 - (c) Other FIH approved tournaments that are considered by the Umpiring Committee to be of suitable standard.
- 3.4 The following criteria must be met:
 - (a) The umpire must control a minimum number of three matches at each of the required two events as listed above under Rule 3.3. Where the matches were in a tournament, the candidate must have achieved a mark of at least 7.5 in all matches umpired, except one (where a mark of 7.40 shall be the minimum).
 - (b) At least one of the events must be a Senior 'A' Teams Inter-Nations Tournament in which a minimum of three matches shall have been umpired.
 - (c) At least one of the events shall be of a type where an Umpires' Manager has been appointed or approved by the FIH.
- 3.5 Where an umpire controls a minimum of six matches (in exceptional circumstances this may be five) at a Senior 'A' Teams Inter-Nations tournament and achieves a minimum mark in each match of 7.7 then that umpire may, at the discretion of the Umpiring Committee, be upgraded to Grade 1 Umpire after that single tournament.
- 3.6 Once appointed to Grade 1 the umpire must continue to fulfil the conditions listed in Rule 2.3.
- 3.7 The position of active Grade 1 Umpire will cease:
 - (a) At 31st December following reaching the age of 47 years;
 - (b) Upon own request or notification of retirement;

- (c) Upon ceasing to be regularly active as an umpire at top level (Rule 2.3(a)) for more than 12 months;
- (d) After three consecutive years without umpiring an Inter-Nations match or Continental 'A' Division Club Tournament;
- (e) At the discretion of the Umpiring Committee upon receipt of a report of unacceptable actions/behaviour or poor performance or poor fitness;

3.8 Non-active Grade 1 Umpires will be subject to conditions listed in Rule 2.7.

4. The World Panel List

- 4.1 This list (which should not be considered to be a grade) consists of those umpires who are currently considered to be performing to the highest standard.
- 4.2 Umpires may move on and off this list on more than one occasion in their careers to reflect their current standard.
- 4.3 Umpires who move off the list will remain Grade 1 umpires and will be given an opportunity to demonstrate a return to the previous standard.
- 4.4 The World Panel list will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Chairman of the FIH Umpiring Committee. Proposals based on the review of the performances in the relevant number of events as set out in 4.6, and reflected by the marks achieved at those events, will be communicated to the members of the FIH Umpiring Committee. This may be either formally, in the case of an imminent FIH Umpiring Committee meeting; or informally, in the case where there is no imminent meeting.
- 4.5 Candidates must satisfy all the requirements set out in Rule 2.3, and be able to fully understand and communicate effectively in English.
- 4.6 To be considered for the World Panel List umpires must have officiated at tournaments as set out below: -
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|-----|--|---|
| (a) | Once | Olympic Games or World Cup or Final Qualifying Tournament |
| (b) | Twice (at least one of the two events shall be either (1), (2) or (3)) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Olympic Games Continental Qualifying Tournament (2) World Cup Continental Qualifying Tournament (3) Champions Trophy (4) Champions Challenge (5) Junior (U21) World Cup (6) Other events considered by the Umpiring Committee to be of sufficient standard |
- 4.7 The following criteria must be met before this listing is considered:-

The umpire must control a minimum total of four matches within the events listed above under Rule 4.6. Where the matches were in a tournament, the candidate must have achieved a mark of at least 8.0 in all matches except one, where a mark of 7.85 shall be the minimum.

- 4.8 Upon being placed on the World Panel List the umpire is expected to officiate at a minimum of one senior Inter-Nations tournament, being either appointed or approved by FIH, in any twelve-month period and achieve the required standard.
- 4.9 Their position on the World Panel List will cease as per the conditions shown in 3.7.
- 4.10 Non-active World Panel umpires will be subject to conditions shown in Rule 2.7.
- 4.11 Note: Grade I umpires who show potential to progress to the World Panel, together with those umpires from the World Panel who experience a 'drop' in performance but have shown potential to retrieve this status, can be placed on a World Development Panel List. This list will be published on a regular basis.

The minimum mark the umpires should achieve for being considered for the WDP list is 7.8 in all matches except one (where a mark of 7.70 shall be the minimum) at tournaments as set out in 4.6.

Umpires on the World Development Panel will, wherever practical, receive priority in relevant appointments to tournaments, subject to the ratification of the FIH Appointments Committee.

Umpires who fail to achieve World Panel status within three qualifying tournaments or within a period of two years will be returned to the list of Grade 1 umpires. WDP (and WP) status may be achieved once again in the light of performances at and recommendations from subsequent events.

Note to the Grading Guidelines

For the purposes of these Grading Guidelines, it should be noted that the final decision regarding all upgradings rests with the Umpiring Committee.