

**USA FIELD HOCKEY REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FIH
REGULATIONS ON SANCTIONED AND UNSANCTIONED EVENTS**

**REGULATIONS RELATING TO UNSANCTIONED EVENTS AND TO NO-OBJECTION
CERTIFICATES FOR SANCTIONED EVENTS**

A Introduction

1. USA FIELD HOCKEY has adopted these regulations to further the fundamental sporting imperatives identified in the FIH Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events, by implementing and giving effect to those FIH Regulations within **USA FIELD HOCKEY**'s jurisdiction. To such ends, these regulations:
 - 1.1 prohibit Athletes and other organisations and individuals under the jurisdiction of **USA FIELD HOCKEY** participating in Unsanctioned Events (see clause B.1);
 - 1.2 establish a procedure for an Event organiser to apply to **USA FIELD HOCKEY** to sanction that Event (see clause B.2);
 - 1.3 prohibit participation in an Event organised or sanctioned by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** by an Athlete whose Home National Association is not **USA FIELD HOCKEY** unless that Athlete has first obtained a No-Objection Certificate from his/her Home National Association (see clause C.1.1);
 - 1.4 prohibit an Athlete whose Home National Association is **USA FIELD HOCKEY** participating in an Event organised or sanctioned by another National Association unless the Athlete has first obtained a No-Objection Certificate from **USA FIELD HOCKEY** (see clause C.1.2); and
 - 1.5 establish a procedure for an Athlete to apply to **USA FIELD HOCKEY** for a No-Objection Certificate confirming that **USA FIELD HOCKEY** has no objection to the Athlete participating in an Event organised or sanctioned by another National Association (see clause C.2).
2. These regulations are to be interpreted and applied (including where an issue arises that is not expressly provided for in these regulations) by reference to the need to protect and advance the fundamental sporting imperatives referenced above. This purposive interpretation and application will take precedence over any strict legal or technical interpretations that may otherwise be proposed.
3. These regulations will come into force on 31 March 2011 (the Effective Date) and will apply to all Events taking place after that date. However, they shall not have retrospective effect, and therefore no action will be taken under these regulations against any Athlete, organisation or individual based on any legally binding commitment that the Athlete, organisation or individual made prior to the Effective Date. Instead, the regulations in effect prior to the Effective Date shall apply in respect of any such commitments.
4. For the purpose of these regulations:
 - 4.1 An Event is any indoor or outdoor Hockey match, tournament, competition or other event, at whatever level played, whether international, continental, national or local, and including age-group events such as "Masters" events.
 - 4.2 A Home National Association is the National Association for whose National Representative Team the Athlete in question plays or last played or (if he/she has not yet played for any National Representative Team) is qualified to play.

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***Explanatory note:** If the Athlete is eligible to play for the National Representative Team of more than one National Association, but has not yet played for any of them, he/she must designate one of those National Associations for purposes of these regulations, and that will be the National Association from whom a No-Objection Certificate must be obtained to allow him/her to play in Events organised by another National Association.*

- 4.3 A National Representative Team is a team selected to represent a National Association, including age-group teams from Under-16s up to "Masters".
 - 4.4 A No-Objection Certificate means a document issued by an Athlete's Home National Association, certifying that it has no objection to his/her participation in an Event organised or sanctioned by another National Association.
 - 4.5 A Sanctioned Event is any Event organised or sanctioned by the relevant Continental Federation(s), National Association(s) and/or the FIH in accordance with the FIH Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events, including any Event organised or sanctioned by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** pursuant to clause B.2.
 - 4.6 An Unsanctioned Event is any Event that is not a Sanctioned Event.
5. These regulations may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** and/or it may issue further guidance as to their operation and implementation, as it sees fit.

B. Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events

- 1. Prohibition on participating in Unsanctioned Events:
 - 1.1 Organisations, Athletes, technical officials, umpires, coaching or management staff, and other individuals under **USA FIELD HOCKEY**'s jurisdiction may not participate in any manner in any Unsanctioned Event.
 - 1.2 Any Organisation, Athlete, technical official, umpire, coaching or management staff, or other individual under **USA FIELD HOCKEY**'s jurisdiction who is found to have participated in an Unsanctioned Event:
 - a. may be excluded from consideration for selection for any National Representative Team for a period specified by **USA FIELD HOCKEY**; and/or
 - b. may have disciplinary consequences imposed under **USA FIELD HOCKEY'S BY-LAWS** for failure to comply with clause B.1.1, including (if seen fit) being ruled ineligible to participate in any capacity in Sanctioned Events for a period of up to 12 months (first offence) or more (subsequent offences).
 - 1.3 **USA FIELD HOCKEY** will recognise and give effect within its own jurisdiction to any restriction, exclusion or ineligibility imposed by another National Association on an organisation or individual under its jurisdiction for participating in an Unsanctioned Event.
 - 1.4 It is a condition of eligibility for participation in any capacity in any Event organised or sanctioned by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** that the organisation or

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individual in question has not participated in any Unsanctioned Event in the twelve months prior to that Event.

2. Applying to **USA FIELD HOCKEY** to sanction an Event:
 - 2.1 In accordance with the FIH Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events, any Event that is open only to teams in membership of or affiliated to **USA FIELD HOCKEY** and that would be staged entirely within **The United States** must be either organised or sanctioned by **USA FIELD HOCKEY**.
 - 2.3 Anyone wishing to organise an Event that falls within the scope of Article B.2.1 [, has not been sanctioned pursuant to clause B.2.2,] and therefore requires the express sanction of **USA FIELD HOCKEY** must submit a written application by hand or by post [or by email] to the following address:

USA FIELD HOCKEY:

USA Field Hockey
1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA
Email: information@usafieldhockey.com

- 2.4 The application must be submitted as soon as possible after the details of the proposed Event are known and must include the following information:
 - 2.4.1 The name and address and (if applicable) company registration number of the applicant (which must be the organiser of the proposed Event).
 - 2.4.2 The proposed name, venue(s), date(s) and format of, the proposed participants in, and the proposed technical officials and umpires for, the proposed Event.
 - 2.4.3 A binding, unqualified and unconditional commitment by the organiser to stage the Event in accordance with and subject to all applicable regulations of the FIH and **USA FIELD HOCKEY**, and to be accountable to **USA FIELD HOCKEY** for applying and enforcing those regulations in relation to all participants in the Event.
 - 2.4.4 A detailed explanation of:
 - a. The extent to which the proposed Event will contribute to the maintenance and promotion of the health, safety and welfare of Athletes, including by the prevention of overplaying (Athletes must have adequate time to rest and recover, as well as train, between Events).
 - b. How the organiser will ensure the safety and suitability of the venue(s) intended to be used for the proposed Event.
 - c. The extent to which the proposed Event may be accommodated within the existing calendar of Events without conflicting with or otherwise compromising (i) Events already in the calendar, and/or (ii) any commitments that **USA FIELD HOCKEY** has made to any commercial partner(s).

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- d. The extent to which the proposed Event would have any meaningful role in the promotion and development of the sport or any other charitable or benevolent purpose.
 - h. Any other factor that the organiser would like **USA FIELD HOCKEY** to take into consideration.
- 2.5 **USA FIELD HOCKEY** may ask the applicant for any further information about the proposed Event that it considers relevant, and may delay further consideration of the application until that information is received.
- 2.6 **USA FIELD HOCKEY** will send written notice of its decision in relation to the application to the organiser at the address specified in the application. The application may be granted or denied, or granted conditionally. In particular (but without limitation), **USA FIELD HOCKEY** may require that the proposed Event is played in accordance with and subject to specified codes of conduct, anti-corruption rules, anti-doping rules and/or other rules or regulations. Where an application is granted conditionally, the proposed Event shall not be deemed sanctioned unless and until **USA FIELD HOCKEY** confirms in writing that the organiser has demonstrated to the satisfaction of **USA FIELD HOCKEY** that all of the conditions have been met.
- 2.7 An application for sanction made pursuant to this clause B.2 may not be deemed approved unless and until written notice is received from **USA FIELD HOCKEY** that the Event is sanctioned and (if applicable) that any relevant conditions have been satisfied. The Event organiser should not issue any formal invitations to participate in the Event until such notice is received.
- 2.8 Any sanction granted by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** pursuant to this clause B.2 shall amount solely to recognition of the Event as a Sanctioned Event, and shall not amount to or be construed as approval by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** of any of the safety or security or other arrangements for the Event. Instead, those arrangements shall remain the sole responsibility of the Event organiser.
- 2.9 If a proposed Event requires **USA FIELD HOCKEY**'s sanction under clause B.2.1[, falls outside the scope of clause B.2.2,] and the Event organiser fails to obtain **USA FIELD HOCKEY**'s sanction for the Event in accordance with clause B.2.7, then for purposes of these regulations and the FIH Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events the Event shall be an Unsanctioned Event.
- 2.10 **USA FIELD HOCKEY** will include details of all Events that it has sanctioned in its official fixture calendar posted on its official website, and will update that calendar regularly to ensure that it includes details of all Sanctioned Events. In the event of any uncertainty as to whether or not an Event is a Sanctioned Event or an Unsanctioned Event, clarification should be sought from **USA FIELD HOCKEY** at the address set out at clause B.2.3.
- 2.11 Subject only to the right of review reserved by the FIH to itself under the FIH Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events, **USA FIELD HOCKEY**'s decision on an application for sanction of a proposed Event pursuant to these regulations shall be final and binding on all parties.

C. No-Objection Certificates

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1. Prohibition on participating in certain Events without a No-Objection Certificate:
 - 1.1 An Athlete whose Home National Association is not **USA FIELD HOCKEY** may not participate in an Event organised or sanctioned by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** unless such Athlete holds a valid No-Objection Certificate from his/her Home National Association for that Event.
 - 1.2 An organiser of an Event sanctioned by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** may not permit an Athlete whose Home National Association is not **USA FIELD HOCKEY** to play in that Event without a No-Objection Certificate.
 - 1.3 An Athlete whose Home National Association is **USA FIELD HOCKEY** who wishes to participate in an Event organised or sanctioned by another National Association must obtain a No-Objection Certificate from **USA FIELD HOCKEY** in respect of that Event.
 - 1.4 An Athlete who fails to comply with clause C.1.3 may not participate in the Event in question.
 - 1.5 A failure to comply with this clause may result in the bringing of disciplinary proceedings and the imposition of disciplinary consequences under USA FIELD HOCKEY'S By-Laws.
2. Obtaining a No-Objection Certificate from **USA FIELD HOCKEY**
 - 2.1 **USA FIELD HOCKEY** may from time to time issue a notice identifying Athletes and/or categories of Athletes who are deemed to have been given a No-Objection Certificate by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** to participate in some or all Events organised or sanctioned by other National Associations.
 - 2.2 An Athlete whose Home National Association is **USA FIELD HOCKEY** who wishes to participate in one or more Events organised or sanctioned by another National Association, and who is not included by name or by category in a notice issued by **USA FIELD HOCKEY** pursuant to clause C.2.1, must submit a written application for a No-Objection Certificate by hand or by post [or by email] to the following address:

USA FIELD HOCKEY
USA Field Hockey
1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA
Email: information@usafielddhockey.com
 - 2.3 The written application must be submitted as soon as possible and must include the following information:
 - 2.3.1 The name and address and contact details (phone number, email address) of the Athlete.
 - 2.3.2 The name, date(s) and format of each Event organised or sanctioned by another National Association in which the Athlete wishes to participate.
 - 2.3.3 Details of the team(s) on whose behalf the Athlete would be participating in the Event(s), including the name of and contact details of the team manager/coach.

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- 2.3.4 Confirmation that as far as the Athlete is aware, his/her participation in the Event(s) would not clash with any commitments that he/she has made to any National Representative Team.
- 2.4 **USA FIELD HOCKEY** may ask the Athlete for any further information about the proposed Event that it considers relevant, and may delay further consideration of the Athlete's application until that information is received.
- 2.5 **USA FIELD HOCKEY** will send written notice of its decision in relation to the application to the Athlete at the address specified in the application. The application may be granted or denied, or granted conditionally. In particular (but without limitation), **USA FIELD HOCKEY** may agree to the Athlete's participation in parts of an Event as long as he/she is released from other parts of the Event for specified periods so that he/she can train/prepare for and/or participate in other Events as part of his/her National Representative Team.
- 2.6 An application for a No-Objection Certificate made pursuant to this clause C.2 may not be deemed granted unless and until written notice is received from **USA FIELD HOCKEY** to that effect.
- 2.7 Subject only to the right of review reserved by the FIH to itself under the FIH Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events, **USA FIELD HOCKEY's** decision on an application for a No-Objection Certificate pursuant to these regulations shall be final and binding on all parties.