



RULES

Governing the Grading of International Umpires (Indoor)

Effective as from 1st November 2002

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 F.I.H. will be taken into account. (See also Rules 2.6(c))

2. International Umpires

- 2.1 Candidatures must be sent to the F.I.H. by an affiliated National Association to which the umpire concerned belongs.
- 2.2 Candidatures must reach the F.I.H. on the attached form (Indoor – Form A).
- 2.3 The gradings will be decided provided that the requirements have been met, and that no adverse reports have been received.
- 2.4 Candidates must:
 - (a) Be regularly active at the top level of their own Association (or another if they reside, work or umpire in another country);
 - (b) Have a complete knowledge of the latest Rules of Indoor Hockey and interpretations as set down by the Hockey Rules Board;
 - (c) Be medically healthy and able to achieve the fitness tests as set out in the International Umpires Handbook
 - (d) Be at least 20 years of age and not older than 40 years; and
 - (e) Be able to fully understand and communicate effectively in English.
- 2.5 Before a candidature can be submitted the umpire must have umpired a minimum of three matches as described in Rules 1.2 or 2.6 within the two calendar years preceding the candidature. Where the matches were in a tournament, the candidate must have achieved an average mark of at least 6.5.
- 2.6 The events where the requirements can be achieved are:
 - (a) Senior and Junior (U21) 'A' Inter-Nations Tournaments;
 - (b) Continental 'A' and 'B' Division Club Championships;

- (c) Other events that are approved by the Umpiring Committee to be of a suitable standard. Some such events will require the presence of an F.I.H. appointed assessor not from the country of the umpire.

Any request pursuant to this rule must be sent by the National Association of the umpire to the F.I.H. on the appropriate form (Indoor – Form B). The costs of such an assessor will normally be the responsibility of the requesting National Association.

The assessor will send their report direct to the National Association (with copy to F.I.H.) but will also supply written feedback to the umpire.

Grading to International Indoor Umpire will follow the receipt of a recommendation from the assessor, providing Rule 2.2 is complied with and a copy of the Match Report is received by the F.I.H.

- 2.7 Once appointed, an International Indoor Umpire should strive for a minimum of one indoor tournament per two calendar years and achieve a mark of at least 6.5.
- 2.8 The position of active International Indoor Umpire will cease:
 - (a) Upon reaching the age of 47 years;
 - (b) Upon own request;
 - (c) Upon ceasing to be regularly active as an umpire at top level (Rule 2.4(a));
 - (d) At the discretion of the Umpiring Committee upon receipt of a report of unacceptable actions/behaviour or poor performance or poor fitness;
 - (e) After three consecutive years without umpiring an Inter-Nations match.
- 2.9 The 'three year rule' specified in Rule 2.8(e) may be waived by the Umpiring Committee where it can be clearly shown that the umpire or their National Association has been unsuccessful through no fault of their own in providing an appointment or where the umpire's personal circumstances of an exceptional nature has made it impossible.
- 2.10 Non-active International Indoor Umpires will retain their badge but will no longer be appointed by the F.I.H. or the Continental Federation to indoor tournaments. However, a National Association may still nominate a non-active International Indoor Umpire for indoor tournaments.
- 2.11 Further progress is governed by Rule 3 onwards.
- 2.12 Those umpires who show potential for progression to Grade 1 may be placed on a 'Promising Umpires List'.

This list will be published from time to time. Before being placed on this list the umpires will have received a recommendation as to their potential. Umpires on this list will, wherever practical, receive priority in relevant appointments.

Umpires who fail to achieve their potential will be deleted from the list.

3. Grade 1 Umpires

- 3.1 Only Tournament Directors or Assessors appointed or approved by the F.I.H. are entitled to propose umpires for upgrading to the Grade 1 Status to the Umpiring Committee.

3.2 Candidates must satisfy all the requirements set out in Rule 2.4 with the following variation:

--- Be at least 22 years of age.

3.3 To be considered for upgrading, umpires must have umpired at least twice in any of the events listed below. (This in addition to any event attended in relation to International Status)

- (a) Senior and Junior (U21) 'A' Inter-Nations Tournaments;
- (b) Continental 'A' and 'B' Division Club Championships;
- (c) Other events that are approved by the Umpiring Committee to be of a suitable standard. Some such events will require the presence of an F.I.H. appointed assessor not from the country of the umpire.

Any request pursuant to this rule must be sent by the National Association of the umpire to the F.I.H. on the appropriate form (Indoor – Form B). The costs of such an assessor will normally be the responsibility of the requesting National Association.

The assessor will send their report direct to the National Association (with copy to F.I.H.) but will also supply written feedback to the umpire.

Grading to Grade 1 umpire will be considered following receipt of a recommendation from the assessor, subject to a copy of the Match Report being supplied. If this criteria is used then the second event must be pursuant to Rule 3.3(a) or 3.3.(b)

3.4 The following criteria must be met:

- (a) The umpire must control a minimum total of six matches within the events listed above under Rule 3.3. Where the matches were in a tournament, the candidate must have achieved an average mark of at least 7.5.
- (b) At least one of the events shall, wherever possible, be of a type where an Umpires' Manager has been appointed or approved by the F.I.H.

3.5 Where an umpire controls a minimum of five matches at an event listed in Rule 3.3 (a) and (b), umpires a minimum of five matches, achieves an average mark clearly above 7.5, and receives a firm recommendation from the Tournament Director, then that umpire may, at the discretion of the Umpiring Committee, be upgraded to Grade 1 Umpire after that tournament.

3.6 Once appointed to Grade 1 the umpire must continue to fulfil the conditions listed in Rule 2.4 (except 2.4(d)) and strive for a minimum of one Inter-Nations indoor tournament per two calendar years and achieve an average mark of at least 7.5.

3.7 The position of active Grade 1 Umpire will cease:

- (a) Upon reaching the age of 47 years;
- (b) Upon own request;
- (c) Upon ceasing to be regularly active as an indoor umpire at top indoor level (Rule 2.4(a));

- (d) At the discretion of the Umpiring Committee upon receipt of a report of unacceptable actions/behaviour, or poor performance or poor fitness;
- (e) After three consecutive years without umpiring at a tournament. (This may be waived as specified in Rule 2.9.)

3.8 Non-active Grade 1 Indoor Umpires will be subject to conditions listed in Rule 2.10.

4. Other Relevant Matters Regarding Gradings

4.1 In reaching decisions on gradings and upgradings, the Umpiring Committee will take into account the views of any appointed Umpires' Managers.

4.2 The Umpiring Committee requires all umpires to work hard at improving the following:

- (a) **Personal Fitness:** The speed of the modern game and the pressures umpires experience demand that to do the job well they must be physically and mentally fit.
- (b) **Knowledge of English:** All briefings are given in English. It is important that umpires can fully understand and communicate effectively in English.
- (c) **Match Analysis:** The use of video is strongly recommended as a means for analysing personal performance as well as learning by watching the performance of others.

It is also important to use video to gain awareness of teams' tactics and styles of play. Both vary from continent to continent. This knowledge is essential for the successful international umpire

National Associations should make video available for the development of umpires like they do for the players and coaches of the National team.

You may well find that national team coaches will be delighted to assist if asked.