



Hockey World League 2014 / 2015

The Hockey World League was launched in 2012 with the following objectives:

1. Grow the profile of hockey all over the world
2. Develop the level of competition outside of Tier 1 Nations
3. Create a better qualification system for Olympic Games and World Cups
4. Generate new income for those involved
5. Create more hockey content

Definition of the competition

The next edition of the Hockey World League will commence in 2014 with the four rounds (Round 1, Round 2, Semi-Finals and Finals) concluding in 2015 / 2016. Entries from all National Associations will be sought early in 2013. The new Event Assignment process to determine the hosts for all the Hockey World League events will also be launched early in 2013 and National Associations will be able to submit offers to host in according with the timelines. It is FIH's ambition that, wherever possible, the dates of future events will be published several years in advance so that all member National Associations and Continental Federations can plan their programmes accordingly.

The competition will be used to determine the 6 / 7 places in the Olympic Games to accompany the 5 Continental Champions and host (this will be subject to the host satisfying FIH and IOC that it is of sufficient standard to play in the Games). Qualification to the Olympic Games will be subject to the Qualification System established by the FIH and approved by the International Olympic Committee.

The number of teams participating in each round will be as set out below. In Round 1 it is probable that there will be different numbers of teams in different events.

Events in the competition shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant FIH Tournament Regulations in force on the first playing day of the event.

The appointment of or the delegation of appointment of technical officials shall be the responsibility of the FIH.

Competition Entries

Entries will be sought from all eligible National Associations in 2013.

At the time of seeking entries to the Hockey World League, the teams placed 1 – 11 in the FIH World Ranking current at that time will be exempted from Rounds 1 and 2. Teams placed 12 – 19 in the World Ranking current at the time of seeking entries will be exempt from Round 1 of the competition. Although being exempted from the initial rounds, these 19 National Associations must submit an entry form by the required date to FIH.

Method of qualifying for Round 1 and Event Allocation

All eligible National Associations which have not directly qualified for Round 2 or the Semi Finals will be placed in Round 1 events as decided by the FIH Competitions Committee. In deciding which National Association shall play in which event, the Competitions Committee will allocate events on the following principles

1. Low cost to hosts and participating National Associations
 - Regional where possible (not necessarily within own continent);
 - A fair spread of strength as defined by the FIH World Ranking;
 - Minimum number of technical officials and umpires;
 - Minimize length of tournaments, for example reduced number of rest days;
 - No obligation of host to have in or out of competition dope testing for Round 1 Events; however the FIH reserves the right to test at any event;

- Tournament Directors, Umpire Managers and Neutral Umpires will be appointed from nearby countries;
- Competing teams will be required to provide an umpire for the event and to nominate a Judge and / or a Technical Officer as well. The travel and accommodation costs of these officials will be at the expense of their own National Associations. Wherever possible a majority of Technical Officials (i.e. Technical Officer and Judges) will be appointed from the host country.

2. Reduced cost to FIH

- Joint events where practical;
- Managed by FIH in co-operation with Continental Federations

The FIH Competitions Committee will determine the number of teams to qualify from each Round event 1 to Round 2. This will be announced in conjunction with the list of Round 1 events. In deciding how many teams proceed from a Round 1 event to Round 2, the Competitions Committee will take account of the number of teams in the Round 1 event and their relative strength as indicated by the FIH World Ranking current at the time of announcing the details of the Round 1 events. If the composition of a Round 1 event changes after the date of publication, the FIH Competitions Committee will review the revised events and determine the number of teams to qualify from each Round 1 event to Round 2.

Round 1 dates

Round 1 Events will be played in 2014 following the Rabobank Hockey World Cup 2014 in the period June - August. Dates outside of this window will be considered by FIH if requested by potential hosts. Where existing events can double up as a Round 1 event, they can be used as a Hockey World League Round 1 event if agreed by the FIH Competitions Committee.

Method of qualifying for Round 2 and Event Allocation

Round 2 of the Hockey World League will be played in three events of 8 teams in each.

The National Associations playing in Round 2 will be

- Those teams ranked 12 – 19 in the FIH World Ranking current at the time of seeking entries for the competition.
- The host of the event.
- 13 / 16 teams qualified from Round 1 as specified by FIH Competitions Committee.
- Events will be regionally based and will involve teams from more than one Continental Federation.
- No more than 3 teams ranked between 12 and 19 in the FIH World Ranking current at the time of seeking entries for the competition will be allocated to the same event.
- The composition of teams in each of the three Round 2 events will be at the discretion of the FIH Competitions Committee. The factors that will inform that discretion will be as follows: -
 - Those teams ranked 11 – 19 will be placed in events relative to their World Ranking and subject to whether or not they are hosting an event
 - Intercontinental.
 - Cost to other competing National Associations;
 - Commercial considerations for FIH;
 - A fair spread of strength as defined by the FIH World Ranking;
- Competing teams will be required to provide an umpire for the event and to nominate a Judge and / or a Technical Officer as well. The travel and accommodation costs of these officials will be at the expense of their own National Associations. Wherever possible a majority of Technical Officials (i.e. Technical Officer and Judges) will be appointed from the host country.

Round 2 hosts

The hosts for Round 2 Events will be selected by the FIH Event Evaluation Panel from bids received from those National Associations who are interested in hosting the event. National Associations that are hosting Round 2 events will be exempt from Round 1.

Round 2 dates

Round 2 events will be scheduled to be played between the beginning of December 2014 and the end of February 2015. Dates outside of this window will be considered by FIH if requested by potential hosts.

Method of qualifying for the Semi-Finals and Event Allocation

Semi-Finals of the Hockey World League will be played in two events with 10 teams in each.

The National Associations playing in the Semi-Finals will be

- a) Those teams ranked 1 – 11 in the FIH World Ranking current at the time of seeking entries for the competition
- b) The host of the Semi-Final.
- c) 7 / 9 teams qualified from Round 2. In the case of
 - (i) 7 teams, those qualifying will be the two highest placed teams in each Round 2 event plus the highest placed team in the FIH World Rankings current at the end of all the Round 2 events of the teams that finish 3rd in the Round 2 events;
 - (ii) 8 teams, those qualifying will be the two highest placed teams in each Round 2 event plus the 2 highest placed teams in the FIH World Rankings current at the end of all the Round 2 events of the teams that finish 3rd in the Round 2 events;
 - (iii) 9 teams, those qualifying will be the three highest placed teams in each Round 2 event.
- d) National Associations will be placed in one of the two the Semi-Finals events relative to their World Ranking at the completion of all Round 2 events.

<i>Semi-Final A</i>	<i>Semi-Final B</i>
1*	2*
4*	3*
5*	6*
8*	7*
9*	10*
12	11*
13	14
16	15
17	18
20	19

(Where 1 is the highest ranked country, 2 the second highest ranked country, 3 the third highest etc.)

Where both hosts are placed in the same event, the lower ranked of the two hosts will change places with the country opposite them (e.g. if the lower ranked host is country ranked 9th, it will change places with country ranked 10th)

* See note below in Format of Competition about allocation of teams ranked 1 - 11

Semi-Finals hosts

The hosts for the Semi-Finals will be selected by the FIH Executive Board at its discretion as part of the new Event Assignment process. The factors that will inform that discretion in order of importance will be as follows: -

- Ability to allocate set dates in advance;
- Commercial considerations for FIH;
- World Ranking;
- Fair spread of events throughout Continental Federations.

Semi-Finals dates

Semi-Finals should be played between the end of May 2015 and the end of August 2015 and before the Continental Championships for this cycle, where practicable. Dates outside of this window will be considered by FIH if requested by potential hosts.

Method of Qualifying for the Finals

The Finals of the Hockey World League will be played in one event with 8 teams.

The National Associations playing in Finals will be

- a) The host of the Final.
- b) 7 / 8 teams qualified from the Semi-Finals. In the case of
 - (i) 7 teams, those qualifying will be the 3 highest placed teams in each Semi-Final plus the highest placed team in the FIH World Rankings current at the end of both Semi-Finals finishing 4th in the Semi-Finals;
 - (ii) 8 teams, those qualifying will be the four highest placed teams in each Semi-Final.

Finals hosts

The hosts for the Finals will be selected by the FIH Executive Board at its discretion as part of the new Event Assignment process. The factors that will inform that discretion in order of importance will be as follows: -

- Ability to allocate set dates in advance;
- Commercial considerations for FIH;
- World Ranking;
- Fair spread of events throughout Continental Federations.

Finals dates

Finals should be played between the beginning of November 2015 and the end of March 2016.

Regulations

Tournament Regulations for each stage will be the general FIH Tournament Regulations current at the first day of an event.

Format of Competition

Round 1 National Associations will be allocated to events on a regional (not necessarily continental basis) in order to minimise costs. The number of teams in an event may vary from 3 to 8.

<i>No of Teams</i>	<i>Event Format</i>
3	Single pool with final between 1 and 2 in pool (no rest day between pool matches and final).
4 / 5 / 6	Single pool; event ranking based on pool ranking, i.e. no classification matches. Note: If as a result of withdrawals a scheduled 4 team event is reduced to 3 teams, it will be played as a single pool without a final.
7 / 8	2 pools with full classification matches.

Each match shall have a result; if the match is tied at the end of regular time, shoot-outs shall be played.

Event composition will be based on the FIH World Ranking at current at the time of seeking entries for the competition.

Round 2 Round 2 will comprise 3 events of 8 teams and will be played as two pools of 4 with full classification matches based on Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and a Final format. Allocation of teams to events will be a combination of FIH World Ranking and proximity. Each Round 2 event will contain no more than 3 of the teams ranked 12 – 19. Those teams ranked 12 – 19 will be placed in events relative to their FIH World Ranking and subject to whether or not they are hosting an event. Each pool match shall have a result; if the match is tied at the end of regular time shoot-outs shall be played.

Event composition will be based on the FIH World Ranking current at the time of seeking entries for the competition. .

Semi-Finals Semi-Finals will comprise two events of 10 teams, divided into pools of 5 with full classification matches based on Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and a Final format. Each pool match shall have a result; if the match is tied at the end of regular time shoot-outs shall be played.

The allocation of teams ranked 1 – 11 and who are exempt until the Semi-Finals will be based on the FIH World Ranking at the conclusion of the World League Finals in December 2103 / January 2014.

Finals Finals will comprise one Event of 8 teams and will be played as two pools of 4 with full classification matches based on Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and a Final format.

Pool composition and match schedules will be based on the FIH World Ranking at the completion of both Semi-Finals.

FIH World Ranking Points

The current ranking points for the Hockey World League and FIH Global Events as from 1 January 2012 are shown at Appendix 1. These are subject to on-going review.

For those teams that do not qualify from Round 1 to Round 2, FIH World Ranking Points will be allocated as follows

Competing in FIH Hockey World League	15 points
For winning a match	5 points
For winning a match after extra time or a shoot-out	3 points
For losing a match after extra time or a shoot-out	2 points

FIH Ranking Points will only be awarded in Round 1 pool matches

Withdrawals

If a National Association should withdraw from a Hockey World League event, it may be subject to any or a combination of the following sanctions, depending on which

Round 1	Less than 16 weeks before
	- Compensate any financial loss of host
	- Fine of up to CHF2,000 as determined by the FIH Competitions Committee at its discretion
	More than 16 weeks before
	- Compensate any financial loss of host
Round 2	- Disqualification from next FIH World League
	- Compensate any financial loss of host
	- Fine of up to CHF15,000 as determined by the FIH Competitions Committee at its discretion
	- Deduction of World Ranking Points as determined by the FIH Competitions Committee at its discretion
Semi-Finals and Finals	- Disqualification from next Hockey World League
	- Compensate any financial loss of host
	- Fine of up to CHF30,000 as determined by the FIH Competitions Committee at its discretion
	- Deduction of World Ranking Points as determined by the FIH Competitions Committee at its discretion

If any National Association withdraws from a Round 2 event, its place will be offered to the next highest placed National Association from the Round 1 event where the withdrawing National Association qualified. If this and any subsequent National Association that is offered the place in Round 2 declines and there is no National Association available from the Round 1 event, the vacancy will be offered to the next highest placed National Association in the FIH World Rankings current at the time of withdrawal of the original National Association, providing it played in a Round 1 event.

If any National Association withdraws from a Semi-Final, its place will be offered to the highest World Ranked National Association that has not qualified and who played in Round 2. The relevant FIH World Ranking will be that current at the time of the withdrawal.

If any National Association withdraws from the Final, its place will be offered to the highest World Ranked National Association that has not qualified and who played in the Semi-Finals. The relevant FIH World Ranking will be that current at the time of the withdrawal.

A National Association that declines to enter a subsequent round of the FIH Hockey World League that it has qualified for is not deemed to have withdrawn from the competition. The amount of FIH World Ranking points that it will be awarded will be the minimum from the stage from which it qualified.

Olympic Games Qualification

1. The hosts (subject to the host satisfying FIH and IOC that it is of sufficient standard to play in the Olympic Games);
2. The 5 Continental Champions;
3. The 6 (or 7 if the host does not satisfy the FIH and IOC that it is of sufficient standard to play in the Olympic Games) highest placed National Associations in the Semi-Finals of the Hockey World League not qualified under 1 and 2 above.
4. If the host is also the Continental Champion, the 7 highest placed National Associations in the Semi-Finals of the Hockey World League not qualified under 1 and 2 above.
5. In the situation where the last place available is shared between National Associations that finish in the same position in the two different Semi-Finals, the National Association to qualify for the Olympic Games will be that which has the highest FIH World Ranking current at the time of the completion at the latter of the two Semi-Finals.

December 2013

Appendix 1

Ranking	OG	World Cup	Hockey World League	Champions Trophy	Champions Challenge 1	Champions Challenge 2
1 st	750	750	400	200	130	85
2 nd	650	650	350	180	120	80
3 rd	550	550	325	170	110	75
4 th	450	450	300	160	100	70
5 th	400	400	280	150	95	65
6 th	350	350	260	140	90	60
7 th	300	300	240	130	85	55
8 th	250	250	220	120	80	50
9 th	225	225	200			
10 th	200	200	190			
11 th	180	180	180			
12 th	160	160	170			
13 th			160			
14 th			150			
15 th			140			
16 th			130			
17 th			125			
18 th			120			
19 th			115			
20 th			110			
21 st			100			
22 nd			95			
23 rd			90			
24 th			85			
25 th	80					
26 th	75					
27 th	70					
28 th	65					
29 th	60					
30 th	55					
31 st	50					
32 nd	45					

For those teams finishing in the same place (2nd, 3rd, 4th etc) in the different Round 2 events and Semi-Finals and not qualifying for the next stage, their ranking in the competition and the corresponding FIH World Ranking points will be allocated according to the following criteria:

1. The team with the most wins in normal time (i.e. before extra time and shoot-outs)
2. The team with the greatest positive goal difference
3. The team with the most goals for
4. If still equal then the ranking points available will be averaged