

FIH Media Release

20th March 2014

FIH changes match format from two halves to four-quarters for Rio 2016 Olympic Games

- Game time moves from two 35 minute halves to four 15 minute quarters
- Playing time maximized with 40 second time-out for penalty corners and goals
- Rule changes set to improve on-field hockey, fan experience and game analysis

20th **March 2014:** International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced today changes to the structure of the game, moving from two 35-minute halves to four 15-minute quarters. The four-quarter model has been tried and implemented by both the Euro Hockey League and Hockey India League.

The purpose of the change will improve the flow and intensity of the game and increase the fan experience and opportunity for game presentation and analysis.

Other changes include the implementation of 40-second time-outs following both penalty corner awards and the scoring of a goal. Both stoppages ensure that the 60-minute game time is maximized for actual play and not consumed with penalty corner set up or other dead time when the ball is not in play.

Leandro Negre, President of FIH, said: "The decision today demonstrates our commitment to fan engagement. With the additional breaks, fans will have the opportunity to enjoy more replays and be more engaged with the event, whether in the stadium or watching from a far, while hockey commentators will be allowed more time to provide sport analysis between plays. In addition, coaches and players will see improvement in their performance with the additional opportunities to re-hydrate and re-strategize."

The new format will result in a higher intensity, faster paced and more exciting game of hockey. It will enable event organisers and broadcasters to develop more engaging fan experiences, both at the venue, on TV and online. With an increase in opportunity to review highlights, explain the game and add colour to the play, people from all over the world can have a better lens on the exciting sport of hockey.

Moving to four quarters

Following the already-existing formats of several other sports such as basketball, American football and netball, the FIH Executive Board has decided to move hockey into a four-quarter format. Overall game time will move from 70 minutes (previously two 35-minute halves) to a 60-minute game with

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four 15 minute quarters where there is a time-out for penalty corner setup and goals.

After the first and third quarters, each team will have a two-minute break, while the existing 10-minute half time will remain unchanged.

The new regulations will be applied to the upcoming Champions Trophy, World League Round 2, World League Semi-Final and Final, all continental Olympic qualifying events as of 1 September 2014 as well as the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Additional 40 second stoppage increases playing time

Supplementing the new 60-minute regulation, FIH also announced the implementation of a 40-second time-out when a penalty corner is awarded. Additionally, a 40 second time out will also be added when a goal has been scored. Both time-outs allow for on-field team celebration time, video replays and analysis for televised matches, as well as additional opportunities to engage fans.

The time-outs ensure that the new 60-minute format is primarily actual playing time and eliminates the dead time associated with penalty corner set up while allowing for teams to enjoy their goal celebrations.

Notes to Editors:

When a penalty corner is awarded there is a 40 second time out with the exception of a re-award or penalty corners awarded after a video umpire referral. In the case of a re-awarded penalty corner time will be immediately stopped but the teams will not be allowed an additional 40 seconds, only enough time to get back into position. If a team takes longer than the 40 second time-out to get set for the initial penalty corner, the guilty player will be given a green card and therefore a two-minute suspension. If the defending goal keeper is the guilty player, the umpire will award a green card to another player in the defensive corner unit.

For more information about all the competitions please visit: www.fih.ch

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About the International Hockey Federation (FIH)

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is the world governing body for the sport of hockey, recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Founded in 1924, FIH today has 127 member National Associations. For further information about FIH, please visit us at:

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