

**INTERNATIONAL
HOCKEY
FEDERATION**

**REGULATIONS ON
SANCTIONED &
UNSANCTIONED
EVENTS**

Version 2.0

With effect from 1 January 2013



REGULATIONS ON SANCTIONED AND UNSANCTIONED EVENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION

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ARTICLE 1 – NATURE, SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 These *Regulations* have been adopted by the *Executive Board*, in accordance with the *Statutes*, in recognition of the following fundamental sporting imperatives:
- 1.1.1 The governance of the sport of *Hockey*, like most other sports, is organised in a pyramid structure, with the *FIH* as the sole and exclusive international governing body, one *Continental Federation* recognised as the sole and exclusive governing body for each continent, and one *National Association* recognised and admitted into membership of the *FIH* as the sole and exclusive national governing body for each country where the sport is played.
- 1.1.2 This pyramid governance structure is necessary to protect and promote the sport, for a number of reasons. In particular:
- 1.1.2.1 The pyramid governance structure is vital to the regulatory integrity of the sport, enabling the *FIH*, the *Continental Federations* and the *National Associations* to ensure the uniform application of rules protecting the sport and its stakeholders throughout the sport, wherever it is played, and to hold all participants accountable under those rules -- including anti-doping rules and other rules and regulations designed to protect participants and/or to preserve the integrity of the sport -- in a fair and transparent fashion.
- 1.1.2.2 The pyramid governance structure is also vital to the proper organisation and conduct of the sporting calendar, and to the primacy of national representative competition within that calendar as the showcase for and the main driver of development of the sport. The *FIH*, the *Continental Federations* and the *National Associations* have the right and the responsibility to maintain and control the sporting calendar so as to ensure that events are organised and staged in a coordinated fashion that does not undermine but rather promotes and furthers the development of the sport as a whole.
- 1.1.2.3 In particular, *National Associations* depend on their *National Representative Teams* qualifying for the finals of *International Events* and especially the Olympic Games to drive the popularity of and participation in the sport in their respective territories. The *FIH* seeks insofar as practicable to avoid fixture clashes so as to ensure that its *National Associations* have their best *Athletes* fully available for the preparatory periods spent in the lead-up to those events, and throughout the events themselves. And for the same reasons, the *FIH* recognises the right of every *National Association* to require its *Athletes* to give precedence to national representative competition over other *Events*.
- 1.1.3 *Unsanctioned Events* threaten to undermine these fundamental sporting imperatives:
- 1.1.3.1 They are not developed as an integrated and coordinated part of the official sporting calendar, in furtherance of the best interests of the sport as a whole. Instead they cut across that calendar and the imperatives it is designed to protect, including potentially clashing with *Sanctioned Events* and undermining the primacy of national representative competition within that calendar, and thereby creating potential conflicts between different stakeholders that could be very damaging to the sport.
- 1.1.3.2 They fall outside the jurisdiction of the *FIH*, the *Continental Federations* and *National Associations*, and so the organisers of and participants in *Unsanctioned Events* are not properly accountable for compliance with the rules and regulations of the sport. This poses a significant risk to the sport,

because the public is unlikely to appreciate fully the distinction between *Unsanctioned Events* and *Sanctioned Events*, and so if problems occur in *Unsanctioned Events* the reputation of the entire sport will suffer, and public confidence in the ability of the *FIH*, the *Continental Federations* and *National Associations* to maintain the integrity of the sport will be undermined.

- 1.2 These *Regulations* therefore:
- 1.2.1 confirm the right and responsibility of the *FIH*, the *Continental Federations* and the *National Associations* to maintain and control the official sporting calendar of *International Events* and *Domestic Events*;
 - 1.2.2 confirm the primacy of national representative competition over other types of competition by requiring an *Athlete* to obtain a *No-Objection Certificate* from his *Home National Association*, confirming that it has no objection to his participation in a *Domestic Event* organised or sanctioned by another *National Association* (or else requiring the *Athlete* to demonstrate that his *Home National Association* has waived that requirement), as a condition of participation in such *Event*;
 - 1.2.3 make any *Athlete* or other individual who participates in any capacity in an *Unsanctioned Event* automatically ineligible for twelve months thereafter to participate in any capacity in any *International Event*; and
 - 1.2.4 require a *National Association*:
 - 1.2.4.1 not to participate in *Unsanctioned Events*;
 - 1.2.4.2 to prohibit participation by *Athletes* and other organisations and individuals under its jurisdiction in *Unsanctioned Events*, and to take disciplinary action against anyone that breaches that prohibition; and
 - 1.2.4.3 not to permit an *Athlete* from another *National Association* to participate in a *Domestic Event* that it organises or sanctions unless he has first obtained a *No-Objection Certificate* from his *Home National Association* confirming that it has no objection to his participation in such *Event* (or else he can demonstrate that his *Home National Association* has waived that requirement).
- 1.3 The purpose and object of these *Regulations* is to protect and advance the fundamental sporting imperatives described above. In the interpretation and application of these *Regulations*, an interpretation/application that promotes the purpose and object of the *Regulations* is to be preferred to an interpretation/application that does not promote that purpose and object. Words and phrases in italicised text are defined terms that have the meaning set out in the Appendix to these *Regulations*. The explanatory notes annotating various provisions of the *Regulations* shall be used to interpret and apply the *Regulations*.
- 1.4 This version of these *Regulations* comes into force as of 1 January 2013 (the '*Effective Date*') and replaces the previous version of these *Regulations* (which was set out as a Bye-law to Article 5.4 of the *Statutes*) as from that date. *National Associations* must implement these *Regulations* in their own territories by no later than 1 March 2013. They shall not have retrospective effect. Instead, the regulations that were in effect prior to the *Effective Date* shall apply in respect of any acts or omissions occurring prior to the *Effective Date*.
- 1.5 These *Regulations* may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time by the *Executive Board*, and/or it may issue further guidance as to their operation and implementation, as it sees fit.

- 1.6 The powers granted to the *FIH* under these *Regulations* (including, without limitation, the power to grant or deny applications for sanction made to the *FIH* pursuant to Article 3.1, below), shall be exercised on behalf of the *FIH* by the *Executive Board*. Between meetings of the *Executive Board*, the power to grant or deny applications for sanction made to the *FIH* pursuant to Article 3.1, below, may be exercised by the *CEO*, in consultation with the Chairman of the Competitions Committee. Any such decisions shall be duly ratified at the next meeting of the *Executive Board*.

ARTICLE 2 - OBLIGATIONS

- 2.1 It is prohibited for any *National Association*, and for any organisation or individual (including *Athletes*, technical officials, umpires, coaching or management staff) under the jurisdiction of a *National Association*, to participate in any manner in an *Unsanctioned Event*.
- 2.2 Any *Athlete* or other individual who participates in any capacity in an *Unsanctioned Event* is automatically ineligible for twelve months thereafter to participate in any capacity in any *International Event*.
- 2.2.1 Such *Athlete* or other individual may apply to the *Disciplinary Commissioner* to avoid all or part of this period of ineligibility for good cause shown, provided that the circumstances will have to be exceptional to justify such avoidance. The *Disciplinary Commissioner's* decision may be appealed by the *Athlete*/other individual or the *FIH* to the *Judicial Commission*.
- 2.2.2 During the period of ineligibility, the *National Association* may not select the *Athlete*/other individual to participate in any capacity in an *International Event*, and (without prejudice to Article 2.5) any selection made despite this prohibition may be declined by the *FIH* or other event organiser.
- 2.3 A *National Association* must, to the greatest extent permitted by applicable law:
- 2.3.1 not participate in any way in any *Unsanctioned Event*;
- 2.3.2 prohibit the participation by organisations, *Athletes*, technical officials, umpires, coaching or management staff, and other individuals under its jurisdiction in any *Unsanctioned Event*;

Explanatory note: *The integrity and efficacy of the pyramid structure of governance and regulation depends on National Associations respecting each other's territorial authority by declining to participate in (or to allow persons under their jurisdiction to participate in) Unsanctioned Events taking place in another National Association's territory.*

- 2.3.3 take prompt and effective disciplinary action against any organisation, *Athlete*, technical official, umpire, coaching or management staff, or other individual under its jurisdiction who fails to comply with the clause 2.3.2 prohibition;

Explanatory note (1): *Those who benefit from the development activities of National Associations (e.g., Athletes and other individuals who are identified by, and gain experience, expertise and status from, those activities) owe commensurate duties of loyalty and solidarity to those National Associations. They breach those duties by taking steps that undermine the collective efforts of the National Associations to promote the best interest of the sport, such as by participating in Unsanctioned Events. In such circumstances, National Associations are entitled to deny such persons the opportunity to take further benefit from the collective (sanctioned) enterprise for a specified period, and must amend and/or supplement their rules and regulations in order to enable them to do the same.*

The period of exclusion to be imposed in such cases will depend upon the facts and circumstances of each particular case, as well as the constraints of applicable law.

However, considering the importance of solidarity among the National Associations to the long-term future of the sport, the need to protect the strength of their collective effort for the benefit of the sport as a whole, and the need to deter free-riding by private entrepreneurs on the development efforts and other contributions of the FIH, Continental Federations and National Associations, it is the view of the FIH, the Continental Federations and National Associations that, other than in exceptional circumstances, a person who participates in an Unsanctioned Event should not be permitted to participate in Sanctioned Events for a minimum of twelve months thereafter.

Explanatory note (2): It is the responsibility of each organisation and individual wishing to participate in a particular Event to establish that that Event is a Sanctioned Event and not an Unsanctioned Event.

- 2.3.4 recognise and give effect within its own jurisdiction to any restriction, exclusion or ineligibility imposed on an organisation or individual by another *National Association* for failure to comply with the clause 2.3.2 prohibition; and

Explanatory note: The integrity and efficacy of the pyramid structure of governance and regulation depends on National Associations recognising and giving effect in their own territories to disciplinary sanctions imposed by other National Associations on their members and affiliated persons for failure to comply with the prohibition on participation in Unsanctioned Events.

- 2.3.5 make it a condition of eligibility for any organisation or individual from another *National Association* wishing to participate in any *Event* played under its jurisdiction that the organisation or individual in question has not participated in any *Unsanctioned Event* in the twelve months prior to the *Event* in question.

2.4 *No-Objection Certificates:*

- 2.4.1 An *Athlete* who wishes to participate in a *Domestic Event* that is sanctioned or organised by a *National Association* that is not his *Home National Association* must first obtain a *No-Objection Certificate* from his *Home National Association* in respect of that *Event* (or else must demonstrate that his *Home National Association* has waived that requirement). Unless and until he does so, he may not participate in the *Event* in question.

- 2.4.2 Each *National Association* must ensure, to the greatest extent permitted by applicable law, that no *Athlete* for whom it is not the *Home National Association* participates in any *Event* that it has organised or sanctioned unless such *Athlete* holds a valid *No-Objection Certificate* from his *Home National Association* for that *Event* or his *Home National Association* has waived that requirement.

- 2.5 Without prejudice to the right of the *Executive Board* to suspend, and the right of *Congress* to suspend or expel, a *National Association* for serious breach of these *Regulations*, the *FIH* may bring proceedings before the *Disciplinary Commissioner* against any *National Association* that fails to comply with any part of these *Regulations*. In such proceedings, if the alleged non-compliance is established the *Disciplinary Commissioner* shall have the power to impose such sanctions on the *National Association* as he shall see fit in all of the circumstances of the case at hand, including reprimand or fine, and/or he may recommend that the *Executive Board* or *Congress* (as applicable) suspends or withholds grants or subsidies from the *National Association*, excludes its *National Representative Team(s)* from one or more *International Events*, removes or denies accreditation to officers or other representatives of the *National Association*, or suspends or expels the *National Association* from membership of the *FIH*.

ARTICLE 3 - SANCTIONING PARTICULAR EVENTS

3.1 Sanctioning of *International Events*:

- 3.1.1 Where a proposed *International Event* would be open to any *National Association* (if necessary, through qualification events, as in the case, for example, of the *FIH World Cup*, the *FIH Champions Trophy*, and the *FIH World League*), in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event*, it must be organised or sanctioned by the *FIH*.
- 3.1.2 Where a proposed *International Event* would involve only *National Associations* from one *Continental Federation*, and would be staged entirely within that continent, in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event* (a) it must be organised by the *Continental Federation* itself, or by one or more of those *National Associations* with the sanction of the *Continental Federation*; and (b) it must be sanctioned by the *FIH*.
- 3.1.3 Where a proposed *International Event* would involve *National Associations* from more than one *Continental Federation*, and/or would be staged in more than one continent, in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event* (a) it must be organised by the *Continental Federations* involved, or by one or more of those *National Associations* with the sanction of those *Continental Federations*; and (b) it must be sanctioned by the *FIH*.

Explanatory note: A match may be sanctioned pursuant to Article 3.1.2 or Article 3.1.3 notwithstanding that it is an 'unofficial' match, i.e., a 'training match' between two *National Representative Teams* for which no caps are awarded.

- 3.1.4 Once an *International Event* has been sanctioned by the *FIH* and included in the *FIH International Calendar*, any changes to the date(s), venue(s), participants and/or format of that event require the approval of the *FIH*.

3.2 Sanctioning of *Domestic Events*:

- 3.2.1 Where a proposed *Domestic Event* would be open only to teams in membership of or affiliated to one *National Association*, and would be staged entirely within that *National Association's* territory, then in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event* it must be organised or sanctioned by that *National Association*.
- 3.2.2 Where a proposed *Domestic Event* would be open to more than one *National Association's* teams, and/or would be staged by one *National Association* in another *National Association's* territory or in more than one *National Association's* territory, then in order for that event to be recognised as a *Sanctioned Event*:
- 3.2.2.1 If the event is open only to teams in membership of or affiliated to *National Associations* within one *Continental Federation*, and the event would be staged entirely within that continent, then it must be sanctioned by that *Continental Federation*.
- 3.2.2.2 If the event is open to teams in membership of or affiliated to *National Associations* from different *Continental Federations*, and/or it would be staged (in whole or in part) outside of the teams' continent, it must be sanctioned by the relevant *Continental Federations* and by the *FIH*.
- 3.2.3 On an exceptional basis, the *Executive Board* may designate particular *Domestic Events*, not falling within the scope of Article 3.2.2.2, that nevertheless require *FIH* sanction, because of their particular characteristics.

- 3.3 Whether acting of its own accord or on application by a *Continental Federation* or a *National Association* or an *Event* organiser or other person, the *FIH* may review any decision of a body to sanction or not to sanction a particular *Event*, and may reverse or amend that decision as it sees fit where it considers that the original decision was not in

the best interests of the sport. Any such reversal or amendment shall be final and binding on all parties, provided that the *FIH* shall not issue any such decision without first giving the body whose decision is being reviewed a full and fair opportunity to be heard.

3.4 Applying for sanction for an *Event*:

3.4.1 It is the responsibility of the organiser of a proposed *Event* to apply to the body or bodies specified in Articles 3.1 or 3.2 (as applicable) to sanction the *Event*. It is the responsibility of each such body to establish a mechanism for the processing of such applications.

Explanatory note: *The FIH will issue guidance on how to apply to the FIH for any sanction required under Article 3.1. Continental Federations and National Associations may develop their own processes for applying for any sanction required of them, and/or may adapt the FIH process and forms to suit their own requirements.*

3.4.2 Applications may be granted on a conditional basis. In particular (but without limitation), the *FIH* may specify that particular *Events* must be played in accordance with and subject to *FIH*-compliant codes of conduct, anti-corruption rules, anti-doping rules and/or other rules or regulations. It shall be the responsibility of the *Continental Federation(s)* and/or *National Association(s)* organising or sanctioning the *Event* to ensure compliance with that requirement.

Explanatory note: *Any sanction granted under Article 3.1 or Article 3.2 shall amount solely to recognition of the Event as a Sanctioned Event, and shall not amount to or be construed as approval by the granting body 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.*

3.4.3 The *Event* organiser should not issue any formal invitations to participate in the *Event* unless and until all necessary sanctions have been granted and any relevant conditions have been satisfied.

3.4.4 In determining whether to sanction a proposed *Event*, conditionally or otherwise, the *FIH*, *Continental Federations* and *National Associations* shall act in accordance with their obligations as custodians of the sport, and shall comply with all applicable laws relating to the proper exercise of regulatory powers by a sports governing body.

Explanatory note: *Because decisions of the FIH, Continental Federations and National Associations as to whether or not to sanction an Event are to be recognised and given effect by the FIH and all other Continental Federations and National Associations (see Article 2.2, above), in making such decisions the FIH, Continental Federation and/or National Association in question must ensure that it exercises its discretion consistently, validly, appropriately and lawfully.*

3.4.5 Subject always to Article 3.4.4, the *FIH*, *Continental Federations* and *National Associations* should base their decisions whether or not to sanction a proposed *Event* on the following factors:

3.4.5.1 Whether the organiser of the proposed *Event* has made a binding, unqualified and unconditional commitment to stage the *Event* in accordance with and subject to all applicable *FIH*, *Continental Federation* and/or *National Association* regulations;

3.4.5.2 Whether that commitment will be enforceable against the *Event* organiser, i.e., whether the *Event* organiser will be transparent and accountable to the *FIH*, the *Continental Federation(s)* and/or *National Association* (as applicable) as regards its application and enforcement of those regulations in relation to all organisations and individuals participating in the *Event*;

- 3.4.5.3 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*), and by ensuring the safety and suitability of the venue(s) intended to be used for the proposed *Event*;
- 3.4.5.4 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) agreements to which the *FIH* and/or one or more *Continental Federations* or *National Associations* is a party;

Explanatory note (1): *Hockey, like any other sport, depends for its long-term growth on the ability of its stakeholders to make decisions and take actions in the best interests of the sport as a whole, including in relation to the exploitation of the limited fixture opportunities offered by a finite calendar. A properly structured fixture calendar, with coherent windows allowing the development in an orderly and balanced way of Events that are attractive to participants and spectators alike, is of paramount importance to the long-term future of the sport. In this context, the role of the FIH, Continental Federations and National Associations who are asked to sanction proposed Events is to balance the interests of all of the sport's stakeholders, including protecting the primacy of national representative competition and respecting the history of longstanding Events, while at the same time encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in the development of new forms of competition that will generate further interest in the sport.*

Explanatory note (2): *The reference to 'agreements to which the FIH and/or one or more Continental Federations or National Associations is a party' is included because it is common for a sport's commercial partners to require certain commitments to protect their respective investments in the sport. For example, a commercial partner investing significant sums in an Event may require assurances that competing events will not be organised or sanctioned. Any breach of those commitments may threaten the generation of commercial income that is required for the development of the sport.*

- 3.4.5.5 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;
- 3.4.5.6 Any previous decision(s) by the body in question regarding recognition or otherwise of any similar *Event*;
- 3.4.5.7 The degree to which the proposed *Event* does or does not further the objectives of the *FIH* set out in the *Statutes*; and
- 3.4.5.8 Any other factor that is considered to be relevant.
- 3.4.6 To minimise administrative burden, the *FIH*, a *Continental Federation* and/or a *National Association* (as applicable) may grant advance sanction to categories of *Events* meeting the relevant criteria.

Explanatory note: *For example, a National Association may recognise in advance as Sanctioned Events all matches to be staged in its territory (a) by specified teams; (b) as part of specified Events; and/or (c) at or below a specified level of competition.*

- 3.4.7 If an *Event* does not fall within a category of *Events* that have been recognised in advance as *Sanctioned Events*, and the *Event* organiser fails to apply for and obtain the necessary sanction for the *Event*, in accordance with Article 3.1 (*International Events*) or 3.2 (*Domestic Events*), then the *Event* shall be an *Unsanctioned Event*.

- 3.4.8 To ensure clarity as to the status of an *Event*, all decisions to sanction an *Event* pursuant to Article 3.1 and/or 3.2 shall be confirmed in writing. An application for sanction may not be deemed approved unless and until such written confirmation is received. In addition, the *FIH* shall include details of all *Events* that it organises or has sanctioned in the *FIH* International Calendar; and *Continental Federations* and their *National Associations* shall include details of all *Events* that they organise or have sanctioned in their own respective official fixture calendars. These calendars should be (a) made available by publication on the Internet or similar, and (b) updated regularly as necessary to ensure they include details of all *Sanctioned Events*.

ARTICLE 4 - ISSUING NO-OBJECTION CERTIFICATES

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of each *National Association* to establish a mechanism for the processing of applications from its *Athletes* for a *No-Objection Certificate*. Applications may be granted on a conditional basis.

Explanatory note: For example, a Home National Association may agree to the Athlete's participation in parts of an *Event* as long as he is released from other parts of the *Event* for specified periods so that he can train/prepare for and/or participate in International Events as part of his National Representative Team.

- 4.2 In determining whether to issue a *No-Objection Certificate*, conditionally or otherwise, *National Associations* shall act in accordance with their obligations as custodians of the sport, and shall comply with all applicable laws relating to the proper exercise of regulatory powers by a sports governing body.

Explanatory note: Because a National Association's decisions as to whether or not to issue a *No-Objection Certificate* have to be recognised and given effect to by all other National Associations (see Article 2.2, above), in making such decisions the National Association must ensure that it exercises its discretion consistently, validly, appropriately and lawfully.

- 4.3 Subject always to Article 4.2, further to the need to preserve the primacy of national representative competition, *National Associations* may take the following (non-exhaustive) list of factors into account in deciding whether or not to grant a *No-Objection Certificate* to an *Athlete* for a particular *Event*:

- 4.3.1 Whether the *Athlete* in question has been, or is likely to be, selected to play for his *National Representative Team* in an *Event* that is to take place (or the preparation for which is to take place) at or around the same time as the *Event* in question;
- 4.3.2 Whether the *Athlete's* form, fitness and/or upcoming commitments to a *National Representative Team* might be compromised by his participation in the *Event* in question;
- 4.3.3 Whether the *Athlete* announced his retirement from playing for his *National Representative Team* during the year leading up to the *Event* in question; and/or

Explanatory note: This provision is intended to deter Athletes from seeking to circumvent these regulations by retiring from national representative competition simply in order to participate in Events organised by other National Associations.

- 4.3.4 Whether participation by the *Athlete* in the *Event* in question would compromise in any way the ability of the *Athlete* to comply with any contractual obligations owed by that *Athlete*, including obligations owed by the *Athlete* to his *Home National Association*.
- 4.4 To minimise administrative burden, a *National Association* may waive the requirement of a *No-Objection Certificate* for categories of *Athletes* for which it is the *Home National Association* and/or for categories of *Events* for which a *No-Objection Certificate* would otherwise be required. The *National Association* must ensure that it communicates any

such waiver clearly to *Athletes* and to other *National Associations*, e.g., by posting notice of the waiver on its official website. If requested by an *Athlete* or *National Association*, it must confirm the waiver in writing.

Explanatory note: For example, a *National Association* may (i) identify a pool of its *Athletes* that it requires to obtain *No-Objection Certificates* before participating in *Domestic Events* organised by other *National Associations*, and may waive the requirement for any *Athletes* not in that pool; or (ii) may waive the requirement that its *Athletes* apply for a *No-Objection Certificate* before participating in specified categories of *Domestic Events* organised by another *National Association* (e.g., local or regional events).

- 4.5 Whether acting of its own accord or on application by a *National Association* or an *Event* organiser or an *Athlete*, the *FIH* may review any decision of a *National Association* to issue or not to issue a *No-Objection Certificate* in relation to a particular *Event*, and may reverse or amend that decision as it sees fit where it considers that the original decision was not in the best interests of the sport. Any such reversal or amendment shall be final and binding on all parties, provided that the *FIH* shall not issue any such decision without first giving the *National Association* in question a full and fair opportunity to be heard.
- 4.6 For the avoidance of doubt, the prohibition on participation in an *Unsanctioned Event* means that a *No-Objection Certificate* may not in any circumstances be issued in relation to participation in an *Unsanctioned Event*.

APPENDIX - DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

A1. In these *Regulations*, the following words and expressions have the meanings set out opposite them:

<i>Athlete</i>	Any natural person competing in a <i>Hockey</i> event sanctioned by the <i>FIH</i> , a <i>CF</i> and/or a <i>National Association</i> .
<i>CEO</i>	The Chief Executive Officer of the <i>FIH</i> .
<i>Congress</i>	The Congress of the <i>FIH</i> .
<i>Continental Federation / CF</i>	A continental federation established in accordance with the <i>Statutes</i> .
<i>Disciplinary Commissioner</i>	The person with that title appointed under the <i>Statutes</i> .
<i>Domestic Event</i>	Any <i>Event</i> that does not involve <i>National Representative Teams</i> .
<i>Event</i>	Any indoor or outdoor <i>Hockey</i> 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.
<i>Effective Date</i>	As defined in Article 1.4.
<i>Executive Board</i>	The Executive Board of the <i>FIH</i> .
<i>Federation / FIH</i>	The International Hockey Federation.
<i>Hockey</i>	The game of <i>Hockey</i> , including both field and indoor <i>Hockey</i> and other derivatives of the game as decided from time to time by the <i>Executive Board</i> .
<i>Home National Association</i>	The <i>National Association</i> in membership of the <i>FIH</i> for whose <i>National Representative Team</i> the <i>Athlete</i> in question plays or last played or (if he/she has not yet played for any <i>National Representative Team</i>) is qualified to play. <i>Explanatory note:</i> <i>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 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 to play in Events organised by another National Association.</i>
<i>International Event</i>	An <i>Event</i> in which <i>National Representative Teams</i> compete, including (without limitation) <i>Events</i> staged as part of a multi-sport event such as the Olympic Games.
<i>National Association / NA</i>	A national governing body of <i>Hockey</i> that has been admitted as a member of the <i>FIH</i> .
<i>National Representative</i>	A team selected to represent a <i>National Association</i> at any level, including age-group teams from Under-16s up to “Masters”.

Team

No-Objection Certificate A document issued by an *Athlete's Home National Association*, certifying that it has no objection to his participation in an *Event* organised or sanctioned by another *National Association*.

Regulations These Regulations on Sanctioned and Unsanctioned Events.

Sanctioned Event Any *International Event* organised or sanctioned by the relevant *Continental Federation(s)* and/or the *FIH* in accordance with Article 3.1; and any *Domestic Event* organised or sanctioned by the relevant *Continental Federation(s)* and/or *National Association(s)* and/or the *FIH* in accordance with Article 3.2.

Statutes The Statutes of the *FIH*.

Unsanctioned Event Any *Event* that is not a *Sanctioned Event*.

- A2.** In the case of conflict between the *Statutes* and these *Regulations*, the *Statutes* shall prevail. In the case of conflict between these *Regulations* and any other document issued by the *FIH* or a *CF* or a *National Association*, these *Regulations* shall prevail.
- A3.** For convenience and clarity, in these *Regulations* the masculine gender is used and shall be interpreted to include the feminine gender as appropriate. Words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.