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To National Associations and Continental Federations

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Dear National Association/Continental Federation

We have pleasure in attaching the Rules for Hockey5s – the new version of the game which has been developed specifically for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games (YOG). As you are aware, we were encouraged by the IOC to implement an alternative game for this event based on a smaller number of players with simplified rules. The FIH went through a process of consultations with FIH committees and expert panels as well as industry experts in developing this game. Hockey5s will be the working title that will be used up to and during the event in Nanjing.

The establishment of Hockey5s is a new initiative which FIH will be reviewing and developing in the next few years. For example, it will be included in discussions with National Associations and Continental Federations at the 2012 FIH Forum and Congress; feedback will be collected from events where this version of the game is played. The concept will therefore develop further both before and after the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

2014 Youth Olympic Games

The vision of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) is to inspire young people around the world to participate in sport and adopt and live by the Olympic values; it enables them to participate in a high performance sporting event in the spirit of cultural exchange and education. It is also an opportunity for innovation in the dynamic world created by the younger generation. Hockey5s fits this philosophy.

Accordingly, the Rules for Hockey5s have been developed to cover all aspects of the game including the field and its boundaries, the composition of teams, conduct of play and penalties. Because the Youth Olympic Games is an important and structured hockey competition, the Rules must be explicit and consistent for that event.

Adapting Hockey5s

Hockey5s can be readily adapted, however, to a variety of playing circumstances. For example, if the playing area is less than specified in the formal Rules, it might be appropriate to play with only four players of each team on the field. A goalkeeper is required for the Youth Olympic Games but, if necessary and appropriate, the game could be played with a player with goalkeeping privileges or only with field players. It might not be possible to provide pitch boundary-boards, in which case if the ball travels outside the sidelines it could be dealt with in the same way as it is in eleven-a-side hockey. Other playing Rules can be adapted as necessary within the broad concept of Hockey5s.

--- FIH Partner ---

Further, we do not specify the type of surface on which Hockey5s is played. It is perfectly acceptable to play the game on any surface including natural grass, synthetic turf and hard recreational play areas.

In these ways, Hockey5s can be played virtually anywhere at any time. It is therefore an ideal introduction to the sport which enables core skills to develop and the game to be enjoyed with simple Rules in more informal surroundings.

FIH would welcome suggestions for development of the game or for clarification of specific Hockey5s Rules especially from National Hockey Associations. Suggestions or questions can be sent by email to info@fih.ch or to the FIH postal address.

With kind regards



Kelly Fairweather

CEO

--- FIH Partner ---