



INTERNATIONAL
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COMMITTEE

IF Sustainability Project
**FIH QUALITY
PROGRAMME FOR
HOCKEY TURF**





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IF SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

The world faces important challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental issues, and the sport community is not immune from their impacts. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020 (“Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement’s daily operations”), the IOC conducted the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project throughout 2016. The IOC carried out the project with three objectives: obtaining an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives; identifying common topics, good practices and shared challenges; and sharing information among the IFs. As part of this project, the IOC collaborated with the IFs to compile a series of case studies reflecting how IFs are contributing towards a more sustainable world.

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites;

sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. These focus areas were selected through an extensive stakeholder engagement process, taking into consideration today’s key sustainability challenges and the manner in which the IOC believes the Olympic Movement can most significantly contribute to addressing them.

The case studies are also aligned with the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement: in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”
Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



THE FIH HAS ESTABLISHED A CONSISTENT SET OF STANDARDS FOR HOCKEY TURFS AND FIELDS AROUND THE WORLD.



New hockey fields are major investments, and it is important they meet the expectations of players, clubs and associations. To help ensure excellent fields for all levels of play, the FIH launched its Quality Programme for Hockey Turf in October 2015 as part of Hockey Revolution, its ten-year strategic vision for the sport.

The programme certifies suppliers, manufacturers, field builders and hockey turfs based on their compliance with a set of criteria, which include the use of sustainable best practices, staff experience, weather resistance and raw materials. The programme also offers certification for hockey fields through FIH Accredited Test Institutes, which meet the FIH's international standards and are evaluated regularly.

Certification helps ensure that hockey surfaces and facilities provide the appropriate quality of performance for the intended level of play. As well as providing the field owner with independent quality insurance,

certification allows owners to showcase the fact that their field meets international standards; reduce potential liability in the event of accidents; prove to competition organisers that their field is suitable for tournaments; and gain promotional opportunities through the FIH website and social media channels.

FIH Preferred Suppliers

manufacture hockey turf surfaces and build hockey fields. As well as meeting the FIH's sustainable procurement requirements and the criteria required for both FIH Certified Manufacturers and FIH Certified Field Builders, FIH Preferred Suppliers have demonstrated a global commitment to working with the FIH to provide high-quality fields.

FIH Certified Manufacturers

have a proven ability to manufacture hockey turf using preferred sustainable materials, ensuring consistency and providing comprehensive maintenance advice. Their surfaces have been approved by the FIH.

FIH Certified Field Builders

design and construct both 11-a-side and Hockey 5s fields to the standards the game requires, ensuring consistency and providing comprehensive maintenance advice.

FIH Certified Fields have been independently assessed by FIH Accredited Test Institutes. Any new 11 a-side or Hockey 5s field, or any field that already exists with an Approved Hockey Turf surface, can



OBJECTIVES

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has sought to create international standards ensuring the sustainability, affordability and accessibility of hockey turfs worldwide. The FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf has been designed to provide consistent standards for the categorisation of playing fields and the certification of suppliers, manufacturers, field builders and turfs. By defining standards and certifying key stakeholders, the FIH has tried to ensure that hockey fields are built in the most adequate and sustainable way possible.



Each project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's SDGs:



UN SDGs



apply to become certified in one of four categories: Global Elite, Global, National and Multi-Sport. Certification is required to host any FIH tournament, and the FIH is encouraging National Associations (NAs) to take the same approach for their own major tournaments.

TIME & PERSONNEL

The project requires one manager, allocating 50% of their hours, supported by three staff members, each dedicating 30-40% of their time.

COMMUNICATION

The FIH's communication strategy has included printed brochures, sent to all NAs; press releases, sent to the media; presentations by FIH representatives at turf conferences; visits to various NAs; and "Turf Times", a biannual newsletter sent to all major stakeholders.

EVALUATION

The programme has received the IF Collaboration Award from the European

Synthetic Turf Organisation (ESTO) for being the most proactive IF at engaging with the industry. The FIH has also received encouraging responses from its NAs and direct communication from cities, architects and governmental bodies responsible for constructing facilities.

The two main challenges facing the FIH are to create a stronger awareness that hockey can be played on various surfaces, not just fields similar to those seen at international level; and the increase in the cost of having the field approved and certified if there is no Accredited Test Institute in the country.

