QUALITY PROGRAMME FOR HOCKEY TURF

Engineered for Hockey
Welcome to the Hockey Revolution!

Launched at the FIH Congress in 2014, the Hockey Revolution, a ten-year strategy for hockey, has sparked a new era in hockey worldwide. We have shifted gear and are making a step change – faster and further than at any time in our proud 90-year history! Our purpose is to raise the global status and popularity of hockey. Our ambition is to make hockey a global game that inspires the next generation.

We believe that the long-term success of our sport lies in the quality of hockey facilities around the world. As part of the Hockey Revolution, therefore, we want to create international standards ensuring the sustainability, affordability and accessibility of hockey turf fields worldwide. As a result, we have launched the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf.

This document provides a summary of the new programme which has been developed with the best interest of hockey players, of all levels and from around the world, at its heart.

LEANDRO NEGRE
President, International Hockey Federation (FIH)
An internationally recognised quality-assurance programme

A hockey field is a major investment. The FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf provides comfort for all those building a new field or owning an existing facility by providing international standards of quality-assurance.

The programme provides consistent and dependable industry standards and ensures the appropriate quality of performance for the intended level of play - whether it is community development, international competition, or anything in between. It protects the investment made by facility owners by ensuring the field meets the expectations of those who will be using it.

"Everyone wins with FIH Certification. Facility owners are satisfied the field performs correctly. Commercial managers are assured the field is safe to play. Contractors are content the field is built to specification. Successive re-testing allows facility managers to maintain performance throughout the field lifecycle. We always recommend field testing via an FIH Accredited Test Institute to every client developing a hockey field."

TODD BETTS
Sports Field Consultant, Surfacing Standards Ltd, United Kingdom

The FIH, working with its independent Accredited Test Institutes, certifies:

- **Preferred Suppliers**
  Providing quality assurance in a selection of companies offering manufacturing and field building

- **Hockey Turf Manufacturers and their Approved Products**
  Providing confidence that the products used to surface a field meet international quality standards

- **Hockey Turf Field Builders**
  Providing access to industry recognised hockey turf field building experts to ensure top-quality fields are built

- **Certified Hockey Fields**
  Ensuring the quality of fields thus protecting those investing in and using hockey facilities
Work with trusted products

Choosing the right hockey turf surface can be difficult. The surface needs to provide the performance required by the players, offer adequate protection to minimise the risk of injury and withstand the damaging effects of use and the climate so it lasts a realistic period of time.

To assist in the selection of the right products, the FIH Quality Programme recognises quality-approved products offered by FIH Certified Manufacturers.

Tested for over twenty different properties, only those hockey turf products that fully satisfy the requirements of the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf are awarded the prestigious FIH Approved Product designation.

The FIH recognises 3 different categories of Approved Products:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global</strong></td>
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<td><strong>National</strong></td>
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“FIH Certification has played a key role in attracting visiting world-class hockey teams to use our community pitches for exhibition games. This has elevated the pitch profile regionally, leading to local growth in the game and economic benefits to the community. The design and construction of a field is highly specialised with a tight set of specifications. FIH Certification provides owners and users with independent assurance that their field designer and builder have delivered a high-quality installation.”

CATHERINE EISWERTH
Manager, Landscape Architecture, Sports & Recreation, Canada
Protect your investment, certify your field

To ensure that hockey fields are being built to the highest standard and that FIH Approved Products are being installed correctly, the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf includes the certification of hockey fields.

A FIH Certified Field is independently tested by a FIH Accredited Test Institute to ensure it meets the requirements of the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf. Tests include measurements of how the ball interacts with the playing surface, verifies adequate comfort and performance is being provided to ensure the well-being and protection of players and includes checks to confirm the field has been built to the dimensions, line marking, slope and surface drainage requirements of the FIH.

Field Certification also includes a comprehensive series of quality control checks to ensure the installed hockey turf product used is the same as the FIH Approved Product; ensuring manufacturing and installation mistakes do not go undetected. Any 11 a-side or Hockey 5s field that is being built or already exists, that has a playing surface made of a FIH Approved Product can apply to become certified.

The FIH certifies 4 different categories of hockey fields:

- **Global Elite**
  Non-filled water based surfaces similar to Global Fields but meet the requirements for FIH top-level international competitions

- **Global**
  Non-filled water based surfaces that are primarily used for lower level international and top level national competitions

- **National**
  Normally sand dressed or sand filled surfaces designed primarily for hockey. This category of surface is normally used for lower level national, regional and club play

- **Multi-Sport**
  Surfaces designed for a number of sports and on which basic community and development level hockey can be played

"What FIH certification means to Hockey Geelong is that we are confident that the product meets a standard set by our international body. The certification has also allowed us to apply for higher grade tournaments as we have been certified to a national standard pitch which opens up many doors for our facility."

ALAN CLIMPSON
President Hockey Geelong, Victoria, Australia

New fields less than 12 months old are certified for a period of three years. Fields older than 12 months that are either being tested for the first time or being retested after their initial certification has expired are certified for a period of two years.
What are the benefits of having a FIH Certified Field?

By certifying your field you are not only demonstrating your commitment to the sport of hockey but you are also benefiting from the following:

- **Independent quality assurance** of the construction of the field and hockey turf installed, providing reassurance to players, national hockey associations, funding parties and insurance companies.

- **Demonstration of best practice** by showcasing that your field meets international standards and has benefited from over 30 years of international expertise in hockey turf.

- **Increased worldwide promotion** of your field through your presence on the FIH’s website and social media channels as well as the use of the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf logo and a FIH Quality Programme Certificate of Registration for your field.

For competition organisers
Field certification provides proof that the field is suitable for relevant levels of competition and is of a standard quality.

For those investing in hockey fields
Certification provides independent assurance that the field has been built to the quality levels recommended through the use of approved products and proper design methodology, thus ensuring the longevity and sustainability of the facility.

For facility owners
Field certification demonstrates that the facility is suitable for hockey and helps reduce their potential liability in the event of an accident occurring.

For players
Field certification provides confidence that the field has been designed and constructed to allow hockey to be played safely.

How to get your hockey field certified?

1. Contact an FIH Accredited Test Institute near you and have them test your field.

2. Once the Institute has completed the field test and checked the installed hockey turf product is the same as the FIH Approved Product, a test report is prepared and sent to the FIH for review.

3. If everything is in order the report is approved and you will receive your certification!
Building a new hockey field? Before you get started...

If you are planning to build or invest in a new hockey facility, the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf is here to support you by reducing your risk of ending up with a poor quality or underperforming hockey field.

By incorporating the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf into the plans for your new field, you can be confident you are working with partners that share in the FIH vision of making hockey more enjoyable, more affordable and more accessible around the world.

Get full information on how to integrate the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf into your building programme to ensure you are headed in the right direction for a safe, affordable and sustainable field.

“Our new hockey field was a major investment for the club. Knowing that we were using a FIH Certified Manufacturer that was installing a FIH Approved Product and that everything was being checked by a FIH Accredited Test Institute, gave us great comfort and ensured we would get the great field we wanted. It was tried out during a major international event only weeks after being installed, with complete satisfaction.”

MARTIN SCHAFER
Board Member, Club Deportive Manquehue Santiago, Chile

Field Building Process

- Specialist design consultant or architect with a background in hockey field development appointed to manage the project.
- Site investigations & project feasibility reports prepared.
- FIH Preferred Supplier or FIH Certified Field Builders invited to bid for the construction of the field.
- Site layout plans and tender specification prepared; the tender specification stating that the hockey turf surface must be an FIH Approved Product of the required category.
- Bids assessed and successful contractor appointed.
- Field constructed.
- Following construction a FIH Accredited Test Institute appointed to test the field and report to the FIH.
- FIH reviews the test report; if the field meets all requirements a FIH Field Certificate is issued and the field is listed on the FIH website.
- Another high-quality hockey facility is available to the hockey community.
The FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf includes an exclusive group of suppliers, manufacturers and field builders. They work in partnership with the FIH to ensure quality materials and processes are being used in the creation of hockey fields worldwide.

FIH Preferred Suppliers, Certified Manufacturers and Certified Field Builders are companies that have a proven ability to manufacture hockey turf products or construct fields to the standards considered appropriate and that also share in the FIH’s aims and objectives to develop the sport globally. Only companies that are able to demonstrate their commitment to hockey are awarded this prestigious recognition. The companies contribute to the development of hockey by working with the FIH to set the industry standards and build the fields needed to grow and sustain the game.

FIH Preferred Suppliers
FIH Preferred Suppliers are companies that manufacture hockey turf products and build hockey fields allowing customers to benefit from a one-stop approach to the construction of their new hockey field. In addition to meeting all the criteria of FIH Certified Manufacturers and Field Builders, FIH Preferred Suppliers also have to demonstrate a global commitment to working with the FIH to provide high-quality hockey fields suitable for international, national, club and development hockey.

FIH Certified Manufacturers
FIH Certified Manufacturers are companies that specialise in the manufacturing of hockey turf. These companies have a proven ability to manufacture hockey turf to the standards the game requires, operate quality management systems to ensure consistency in their products and provide comprehensive maintenance advice to customers purchasing their products.

FIH Certified Field Builders
FIH Certified Field Builders are companies that specialise in building hockey fields. The companies have a proven ability to construct fields to the standards required for hockey, have appropriate in-house civil engineering expertise for the design and construction of hockey fields, operate quality management systems to ensure consistency in their work and provide comprehensive maintenance advice to their customers.

“This was our first hockey field and we had heard of other artificial pitches that did not have the required guarantees adhered to by the contractor. It was a substantial capital investment and the FIH testing gave us the satisfaction that the quality and durability of our field was in fact up to the required standard.”

GIDEON VAN NIEKERK
Maragon College, Johannesburg, South Africa
Quality testing through independent Accredited Test Institutes

All certifications under the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf are based on tests undertaken by FIH Accredited Test Institutes. This international network consists of independent organisations that assist in the ongoing quest for optimum field construction and equipment development for hockey.

All of the test institutes meet the international standards set by the FIH in regards to their competencies to perform specific tests, calibrations, measurements and inspections. They are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that their operations and procedures remain in-line with FIH practices and requirements. It is required that each institute also has in-house quality systems to ensure that their output is correctly performed to the high-quality standards set out by the international hockey community.

FIH Accredited Test Institutes, therefore, provide reliable testing, calibration, measurement and inspection services for all FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf certifications.

“Certifying of synthetic hockey pitches is essential in confirming that construction meets the high standards set by the governing bodies, it also plays a key role in cases of litigation from any injuries occurred on the field.”

NEIL MCHUGH
Director of MUGA-UK Ltd
Chairman of the Professional Services Group - UK Sport and Play Construction Association
Join the international group of FIH Certified Fields today and increase the worldwide access to high-quality, sustainable hockey fields!
HOCKEY IS...

FAN-CENTRIC
200 million+
watched the 2014 World Cup on TV
with rights sold in more than 80 countries

RANKED 3rd
Olympic sport on Facebook

The national sport of INDIA
of the world’s population

SOCIAL

INCLUSIVE
50% male / 50% female

Target of 152 National Associations
Played for life with NUMBERS GROWING at both ends

OLYMPIC
First played in London in 1908
Excellent anti-doping record

3rd biggest sport at 2012 Olympics in terms of ticket numbers sold

630,000 / 97% sold

facilities@fih.ch
fih.ch/hockeyturf