
TELEVISION HOCKEY – AIDING BALL VISIBILITY & CREATING A POSITIVE TV IMAGE

Guidance for venues proposing to host televised FIH events – Part 1 Hockey Turfs



The FIH wish to maximise the impact and appeal of televised hockey. A key part of this is ensuring the audience, at home or at the event, can easily see the ball and follow the game. Unfortunately, the nature of hockey makes this a challenge; we have a small ball moving quickly, often into congested areas where players' feet and sticks can hide the ball.

Equally important to broadcasters and sponsors is the need for hockey to be played globally on visually good looking and easily identifiable fields.

Field colours

Based on research commissioned by the FIH, and feedback from broadcasters, we have concluded that elite level televised hockey is best played on single colour (field of play and perimeter margins) blue fields using white hockey balls. Moving forward, the FIH will therefore be incorporating this conclusion into our competition and stadium specifications for our top events such as the FIH World Cups and Hockey Pro League, etc.

We do recognise that many venues we use for these top events have relatively new hockey turfs that do not justify being changed immediately. We are therefore asking that when the hockey turfs at these venues are replaced or when new venues are being designed they have all blue hockey turfs installed.

The research has shown that the best shade of blue for hockey is that commonly known as *London Blue*. It is recognised, however, that small colour variations between hockey turf manufacturers and even within production from a single manufacturer can result in small colour variations. Therefore, again based on the research, several alternative shades of blue have also been approved for use on fields intended for high level FIH competitions. These are all detailed at the rear of this guidance note.

Turf life expectancy

The appearance of all types of synthetic turf surface will deteriorate with time. Even the best quality hockey turfs will eventually start to fade through exposure to UV radiation from the sun; algae growth is often a major problem that is difficult to eradicate and can make a field look dirty and uncared for; the pile of the hockey turf will also often flatten and appear to be a different colour, especially in high use areas of the field. To ensure the image of our sport is not tarnished by us having to use unattractive fields we believe, based on current evidence, that hockey turfs at top level stadia hosting televised hockey should typically be replaced after five or six years use. We are not saying the playing surfaces will have worn out at this stage or that it will not be performing adequately, we are saying that visually it will look 'tired' and the playing surface will not create the image our top sporting competitions deserve.

As we do not wish to contribute to unnecessary or premature waste, we are encouraging stadium owners to relocate these used hockey turfs to alternative sites whenever possible, so they can provide great hockey facilities for community and development hockey for many more years. We therefore encourage stadium owners to install new hockey turfs in a manner that aids their relocation at the appropriate time. Experience suggests this is easiest achieved if the adjacent rolls of hockey turf are stitched together and the turf is loose laid, tensioned and clamped along the sides of the field.

Maintenance

To maximise the life of hockey turf installed in a stadium it is very important that it is fully maintained from day one. Regular brushing to remove litter and to lift the pile of the carpet should be undertaken. If, as is likely, algae starts to appear, the surface should be deep cleaned to remove the algae before it becomes established in the turf.

The quality of the water used to irrigate the field is also important. Water that has a high mineral or salt content is likely to result in the minerals drying on the turf and encrusting the carpet pile, resulting in discolouration and a poor appearance for the field. If such water is used, we recommend it be filtered and treated to remove the impurities prior to application.

FIH approved colours for televised hockey venues

RAL Classic Colour Number		RAL colour name		L a b coordinates	
FIH recommended colour					
5005		English	SIGNAL BLUE	L*	32.45
		German	SIGNALBLAU	a*	-6.7
		French	BLEU DE SÉCURITÉ	b*	-37.15
		Spanish	AZUL SEÑALES		
This is the shade of blue used for the hockey fields at the London 2012 Olympics and is now often described as <i>London Blue</i> within the hockey world.					
Other possible shades of blue					
5002		English	ULTRAMARINE BLUE	L*	24.18
		German	ULTRAMARINBLAU	a*	11
		French	BLEU OUTREMER	b*	-42.7
		Spanish	AZUL ULTRAMAR		

5010		English	GENTIAN BLUE	L*	30.95
		German	ENZIANBLAU	a*	-7.45
		French	BLEU GENTIANE	b*	-32.91
		Spanish	AZUL GENCIANA		
5017		English	TRAFFIC BLUE	L*	34.83
		German	VERKEHRSBLAU	a*	-13.51
		French	BLEU SIGNALISATION	b*	-36.3
		Spanish	AZUL TRÁFICO		
5019		English	CAPRI BLUE	L*	36.62
		German	CAPRIBLAU	a*	-11.43
		French	BLEU CAPRI	b*	-28.42
		Spanish	AZUL CAPRI		

- Line markings should be white.
- Fields used for televised hockey should have no other line markings (inlaid or painted).
- Logos within the field of play or perimeter should be installed in accordance with competition and FIH sponsorship regulations.

Notes:

1. As elite level hockey is played on wet Hockey Turf it is important that the pile yarns forming the playing surface are not too glossy or reflective. This is especially important for fields that will be used under lights. As a precise method of measuring the gloss of a wet hockey turf surface has not been found, guidance should be taken from the turf manufacturer. Light Reflectance Values can be obtained for the pile yarns, but these may not match reality due to the multi-direction nature of the yarns when they are incorporated into the Hockey Turf.
2. The colours depicted above are also for guidance only. The displayed colour will depend on your monitor, and angle of the screen. The finished colour, therefore, may **not** be as shown here.
3. The L* a* b* values above are based on the average of various measurements using various spectrophotometers using D65 light with a standard observer according to CIE 1964 which may be updated or modified by any other relevant available information. They should only be used as a guide

For further information or general facilities related enquires please contact facilities@fih.ch.