

# SCOTTISH HOCKEY FACILITY STRATEGY



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

Hockey has existed in Scotland for over a hundred years. During this time a variety of facilities have been used for training, matches and the social side of the game. Hockey has always been a sport that has required access to facilities to play the game. It is not like some sports that can utilise general access areas such as roads and parks. With the advent of Artificial or Synthetic Pitches (ATP's or STP's), the sport has become even more facility driven with most people preferring to play on these surfaces. New and different types of surfaces have provided different standards of facilities to be available and introduced further cost implications to the sport. The funding available to develop these surfaces is also limited, therefore there is a need to prioritise its use to ensure maximal benefit for the game.

## 1.2 PURPOSE

Facilities are developed and funded by various organisations throughout Scotland. Scottish Hockey feels it is important for these organisations to be aware of what the priorities are in relation to the development of hockey. These priorities relate to the continuation of existing hockey activity and the development of increased standards and amounts of activity. These priorities take on two forms, that of the location of facilities and the type of facility that needs to exist. In addition there are access, maintenance and management issues that need to be considered to ensure the facility achieves its optimum performance for its users and owners.

## 1.3 HISTORY

The Scottish Hockey Union's (SHU) first facility strategy was developed for a period between 1996 and 1999. This identified the need for facilities that were well planned, including for future usage, and supported the development of facilities involving partnerships. It also identified the need for an increased number of water based facilities for hockey to be played on. Finally, in association with all projects it identified the need for the development of a club atmosphere and programmes to increase participation around facility developments to ensure the sustainability of the facility and clubs.

This strategy identified three tiers of facilities across the country. The premier being a national facility for training and competition. This has been realised through the SHU's partnership with the University of Edinburgh and the development of Peffermill Playing Fields. Also identified was the need for a national residential facility. This exists through The National Sports Centre – Inverclyde. To facilitate the development of clubs and players around the country, the need for regional based specialist facilities was identified. The strategy also identified the need for local facilities, within ease of access for the hockey playing public. Each of these areas set out the SHU's requirements for these facilities in detail.

In 1999 the SHU revised its facility strategy. This revision recognised that some of the identified locations were not feasible for the development of facilities. The Strategy reiterated the need for the different tiers of facilities and detailed how progress was being made towards the national stadium.

The introduction of new programmes, new funding sources and a revised business plan has induced the need for the revision of the facility strategy. With increasing pressure to meet targets and measurable outcomes there is a need to acknowledge the role of facilities in achieving these targets and to set out what facilities are required to help hockey achieve them.

#### 1.4 OUTDOOR / INDOOR / SOCIAL

Hockey is a multifaceted sport. Whilst the majority of hockey is played outdoors, indoor hockey is a popular alternative. Both require access to facilities for matches and training. For outdoor hockey, most club training occurs on weekday evenings with matches at the weekend. Indoor hockey is slightly different with local indoor matches taking place during the week and national league occurring on weekends. Schools and junior clubs have different requirements, with hockey taking place during the week, during the day, early evening and also on weekends. Representative hockey has a wide range of requirements from full weekends with accommodation to short training sessions with limited numbers of athletes.

Social activity is considered an important part of hockey. The SHU's business plan reemphasises the goal of being "Scotland's leading family team sport". To do this there is a need for social facilities. A limited number of clubs have regular access to social facilities on site, but most identify an external venue for activity to develop the "Club". This is not ideal and has seen changes in the culture of hockey in recent years. Clubs must now work doubly hard to ensure the club and family culture exists within hockey.

## 2 ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION

### 2.1 CONTEXT

The key guiding principle for the need for facilities is to achieve the aims set out in our business plan, Managing the Business 2004 – 2007. This plan sets out five main target areas, all of which require various contributions from facilities to achieve both the targets and the measurable outcomes set out. To achieve these targets there is a need for a range of facilities across the country, the detail of which is set out below.

One key area of the business plan is The Regional Strategy. This section clearly identifies the need for facilities to deliver hockey across the country. It also sets out the need for an annually updated facility plan, of which this document will form the core.

There are a number of other strategies guiding the development of sport and hockey in Scotland. Sport 21 recognises that facilities are crucial, both in increasing participation and putting people on a performance pathway. It identifies the need for appropriate, available facilities. This is of special significance where the standard of facility used has an influence on the quality of training and matches played.

sportscotland is a major funding partner of Scottish Hockey, as such Scottish Hockey makes contributions to achieving the 11 targets set out in Sport 21. Once again these targets have facility requirements for hockey to make a contribution against them. Nine of the eleven targets identify a facility requirement to achieve that target. For hockey to make a contribution, these facility requirements must take into account facilities useable by hockey.

sportscotland and the Scottish Executive have developed a National and Regional Facility Strategy. This strategy has the aim of developing a network of multi-sports facilities across the country. Whilst developing hockey facilities is not identified as priority, a number of synthetic pitches are mentioned in association with other projects.

Scottish Hockey has agreed an Integrated Performance Plan with sportscotland, the Scottish Institute of Sport and the Area Institutes of Sport. This plan sets out the need for increased training regimes by athletes. To achieve this there is a need for facilities to be available. The facilities need to be of suitable standard and in appropriate locations for ease of access. It identifies the need for national facilities for squad development and also regional facilities for everyday training by elite athletes.

This facility strategy takes into account the varying needs of these related strategies to identify what is required by hockey to meet it's current needs and future aspirations.

## 2.2 CURRENT FACILITY PROVISION

There is a wide variation in current facility provision across Scotland. This variation exists through number, location, type of facility, access by hockey, ancillary facilities and management. This diversity is both advantageous and a challenge for hockey. It is advantageous as it allows the development of different best practice models to be developed and shared with others involved in facilities. It is a challenge in that it requires the SHU and clubs to work differently to meet the requirements of each facility.

Number, location and type are the biggest issues for Scottish Hockey. All these factors influence the development of hockey from grass roots to performance. They also affect the development of the infrastructure behind the game, of clubs and to a degree districts. Identifying issues with these factors is relatively easy and quantifiable, where as identifying issues with access by hockey and management are more challenging.

All these factors influence how the SHU meets it's aims and objectives as set out in "Managing the Business". They are integral to the development of hockey and therefore need consideration. These factors guide the principles set out in the recommendations this strategy makes. Whilst the SHU is not a facility provider as such, we will support and encourage the development of facilities that help us meet our aims and objectives as set out in our business plan.

For Scottish Hockey to identify the need for facilities there is a need to understand the current provision across the country. This will enable hockey to identify areas where the demand for facilities by hockey outstrips the local availability, and for us to identify priorities for facility development. This doesn't preclude development in areas where there is currently no demand for facilities, but will enable the SHU to stress the need for programmes to generate interest in youth and adults to be attached to the development.

The current Facility provision is maintained as separate documents Appendix A and C .

## 2.3 POTENTIAL PARTNERS

There are a number of organisations who have shown an interest in developing sports facilities, in particular synthetic pitches. They do this for a multitude of reasons, both for themselves and the community. Partners in the development of facilities include Local Authority's, schools, both government and private, universities and further education institutions, hockey clubs, multi sport clubs and potentially others. Just as each location can bring benefits to hockey, so can the partners involved in the facility. This needs to be individually explored for each facility development to take advantage of what each partner can offer and maximise the benefit to hockey and the community. The SHU has experience of working with a variety of partners to make the most out of the opportunities available for hockey and the partner, and are willing to be involved in any facility development to ensure this occurs.

## 2.4 FUNDING SOURCES

In Scotland there are a number of sources of funding for sports facilities. These include, but are not limited to, the Lottery Sport Fund, Big Lottery, European funding, Public Private Partnership (PPP), private funding, Higher and Further Education Funding and Local Authority investment in facilities. Each of these have some objectives they are trying to achieve through providing funding. These are usually related to community development, social inclusion or health. Hockey is able to contribute to these objectives through it's nature and structure. It is a team sport, based on clubs, that has a culture of being played by anyone. Through careful examination of the issues of potential locations and facilities proposed, hockey can make significant contributions to the objectives of the funder. Once again, hockey has experience of working with a variety of partners and is able to assist in developing plans the meet the partners objectives.

### 3 RECOMMENDATIONS / STRATEGY

To achieve the targets set out in “Managing the Business” and other plans the Scottish Hockey Union has identified the need for a range of facilities. Both outdoor and indoor, there is a need for facilities that cater for differing activities at national, regional and local level.

#### 3.1 FACILITY PRIORITIES

The SHU has priorities for the development of facilities at national, regional and local level. Due to the work of the SHU and partners these are constantly changing. The SHU will maintain Appendix A as the current years priorities for the development of hockey facilities. This appendix will outline progress made at each of the different levels of facility and actions that the SHU will take to address any facility issues identified. This appendix will be updated as required, but at least annually to ensure it meets the current needs of hockey.

#### 3.2 KEY PRINCIPLE

The SHU support the development of a mixed facility stock in each Local Authority. We recognise that Scotland needs a diverse range of sports to flourish as a culture. The facilities within each authority should meet the needs of a multitude of sports and not just one individual sport. Facility planning should occur to ensure a mixed facility stock is available to meet the needs of as many sports as possible. The development of sport specific surfaces, such as water based or third generation, should only occur after multi sport facilities have been provided for general use. This is especially important at school sites where the facility is used for curricular, extra curricular and community use.

#### 3.3 OUTDOOR

##### 3.3.1 NATIONAL LEVEL

###### 3.3.1.1 NATIONAL STADIUM

There is a need for a National Hockey Stadium. This makes a contribution to performance matters and the development of the national teams. It enables the national team to train and play on an international standard facility regularly. It also enables Scotland to host international events as they become available. The Integrated Performance Plan sets a challenge of competing in 15 to 20 international matches per year. It is important for the athletes and for the development of hockey that some of these be held in Scotland. The National Stadium needs to cater for as many of the requirements of the full training programme as possible including coaching, strength and conditioning, sports science and sports medicine and competition.

Having a National Hockey Stadium also contributes to developing strong clubs and districts. A national stadium provides a venue to showcase our talent. It is essential for national finals and national level tournaments as it enables the establishment of a spectator base for hockey. These international events and tournaments also

make a contribution to developing people within hockey. They provide activity for developing participation, coaching, umpiring and volunteering when used effectively.

The National Hockey Stadium has unique requirements, as it needs to cater for everyday activity and also major events. The key requirements were identified in previous strategies and still hold today. These include

- Double water based pitch (One with FIH Certificate)
- Integrated watering system
- International standard lighting
- Changing facilities for 8 teams of 18 players plus staff
- Spectator facilities – Grandstand, Catering, Bar
- Meeting rooms (Seating for 50 people, Audio Visual equipment)
- Function rooms
- Access to IT for tournaments and events, including internet access
- Medical / First aid / Anti Doping rooms
- Equipment storeroom
- Management at the level of the facility
- Accessibility at appropriate times
- Scoreboard
- PA system
- Sink fund
- Maintenance programme
- Goals per pitch
- Location – Central
- Video tower
- Facility Users Group

As identified the SHU is not a facility provider, but accesses facilities owned by other organisations. Due to the amount of use, sources of funding and desire for smooth operation there should be a partnership agreement between the facility provider and the SHU. Additional partners could include the SIS and appropriate AIS. This should identify issues including cost, access, maintenance, major events, national events, a users group and priority of access.

Integral to this agreement should be the provision of a facility user group. This should involve the facility manager, the SHU, the SIS and AIS, Club representatives and other interested users. This group should meet on a regular basis to discuss issues around the management of the facility.

As part of the partnership we would expect hockey to have a degree of priority of access. We would expect a priority list for access to all facilities including the pitch, change rooms and meeting rooms to be annually agreed but based on

- Priority 1 - National Senior Team / Scottish Institute of Sport
- Priority 2 – Area Institute of Sport access, Teams competing in European competition,
- Priority 3 - National League teams, Junior / Youth international teams, Facilities home teams (i.e. Edinburgh University Hockey Club teams at Peffermill)
- Priority 4 - Other registered clubs and teams
- Priority 5 – Pay and play Users

There would also be a need for access to the facility for regular national events that would be co-ordinated by SHU to avoid clashes with other hockey programmes. This would need the understanding of programming staff to avoid clashes with facility home teams and pay and play users.

One of the main reasons behind having a Nationals Stadium is to host major events. These have individual requirements that are specific for each event be it a national cup finals or a European cup tournament. The facility must be able to cope in terms of infrastructure and management to ensure the success of these events.

It is essential that the facility be managed to an appropriate standard. This includes flexible availability with the need for early starts or late finishes to be understood on occasion. The management of the facility needs to be able to adapt styles to changes in requirements for training, matches and tournaments. There is also the need for appropriate staff training and management, with an understanding of performance sport to ensure the facility can meet the requirements of users.

The facility needs to be maintained to the highest possible standard at all times. This will aid the provider in maintaining value for their investment but also maximise use by hockey at performance and participation levels. Through regular maintenance of the surface and surrounding facilities, programmes can be organised and run to ensure maximum development of hockey possible.

#### 3.3.1.2 NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL TRAINING FACILITY

Scottish Hockey has the need for a national residential training facility. This will provide accommodation and training for teams over a longer period, where we are looking to include education, longer delivery times and a residential setting in the programme. This helps contribute to performance matters and is of significant importance to Scotland Junior and Youth squads where travel can be an issue. It also enables the hosting of events that require international standard facilities, but not of national stadium standard. Another use is in the

development of people, as it would not only be used for training of athletes, but also for participation, coach and umpire development. Clubs would also be able to make use of it in developing their teams for competition locally and in Europe.

A national residential training facility for hockey has similar requirements to the national stadium. The Hockey facilities need not be as elaborate but a national stadium with the residential and catering capacity for a minimum of 50 people would meet hockey's requirements. The individual requirements of the facility would include

- Single water based pitch (To FIH Global requirements)
- Integrated watering system
- International standard lighting
- Changing facilities for up to 4 teams but ideally 6 teams
- Meeting rooms (Seating for 50 people, Audio Visual equipment)
- Function rooms
- Internet access
- Medical / First aid / Anti Doping rooms
- Equipment storeroom
- Management at the level of the facility
- Accessibility at appropriate times
- Sink fund
- Maintenance programme
- Video tower
- Goals per pitch
- Location – Central
- Accommodation and catering for 50 people on site
- Facility Users Group

This facility is likely to be part of a larger complex involving other sports and functions. As such a partnership agreement needs to be in place between the SHU and the facility provider. This should identify issues including cost, access, maintenance, major events, a management group and priority of access.

A facility users group should be developed to discuss issues surrounding the management of the facility. This should involve the facility management, the SHU and other users.

### 3.3.2 REGIONAL LEVEL

Scottish Hockey has identified the need for a number of regional facilities to aid in the delivery of the business plan. These regional facilities provide the core facilities for delivering the performance matters targets of the business plan and the Integrated Performance Plan. They allow regular delivery of coaching to athletes at a regional level, both at senior levels through the Scottish Institute of Sport and at lower levels through the Area Institutes of Sport and Sports Partnerships.

These facilities are also core in developing Districts and Clubs by providing appropriate training and competition facilities for aspiring players and teams. They provide training venues for District squads in preparation for international selection, they also provide a training and competition venue for elite club teams, helping them play at the highest possible standard. In addition they allow international hockey to be taken around the country and showcased in each region as a tool to enthuse people to participate in the game.

Each region has differing requirements depending on the hockey population base, number of elite teams and athletes and geography. Whilst the facility requirements might remain constant, the number of facilities or dedicated hockey access time required might differ. The minimum requirement is one facility in Central, East, North, Midland and West districts. These should be located centrally to allow access from all areas within the district and should where possible take into account ease of transport routes to the facility. The facility requirements include

- Single water based pitch (To FIH Global requirements)
- Integrated watering system
- International standard lighting
- Changing facilities for up to 4 teams but ideally 6 teams
- Meeting rooms (Seating for 50 people, Audio Visual equipment)
- Medical / First aid / Anti Doping rooms
- Equipment storeroom
- Video tower
- Management at the level of the facility
- Accessibility at appropriate times
- Sink fund
- Maintenance programme
- Goals per pitch
- Facility User Group

This facility is likely to be part of a larger complex involving other sports and functions. As such a partnership agreement needs to be in place between the SHU and the facility provider. This should identify issues including cost, access, maintenance, major events, a management groups and priority of access.

To support the smooth running of the facility, the quick resolution of issues and prevent conflict in programming, the facility should have a users group. This should involve the facility manager, the SHU, the AIS, Club representatives and other interested users. This group should meet on a regular basis to discuss issues around the management of the facility.

As part of the partnership we would expect hockey to have a degree of priority of access. We would expect a priority list for access to all facilities including the pitch, change rooms and meeting rooms to be annually agreed but based on

Priority 1 – National Senior Team, Scottish Institute of Sport and Area Institute of Sport access

Priority 2 -Teams competing in European competition,

Priority 3 - National League teams, Junior / Youth international teams,

Priority 4 - Facilities home teams (i.e. Edinburgh University Hockey Club teams at Peffermill)

Priority 5 - Other registered clubs and teams

Priority 6 – Pay and play users

### 3.3.3 LOCAL LEVEL

Local level facilities are essential for the ongoing delivery of hockey and the development of hockey. They are needed for the regular training and matches that make up the majority of hockey activity across Scotland. They are also needed to contribute to the development of club and school hockey. Local facilities are required to encourage more people to play, coach, umpire and volunteer to be part of hockey. Schools are also essential in the development of hockey. Without the introduction to hockey in schools, children might never be exposed to the sport and therefore there is a need for schools to access facilities.

At this level social facilities are also important in achieving our mission statement. Clubs and schools are the backbone of Scottish Hockey and an essential partner in our mission statement of being the leading family team sport. Clubs need social facilities to develop this culture of team and family. The challenges facing clubs are large enough without the additional challenge of moving from pitch to a social venue that can cater for the spectrum of hockey players.

Local facilities will rarely be for the sole use of hockey and therefore must meet a number of requirements. They must take into account a number of factors including percentage of hockey use, types of other sport usage and host agency. Hockey's prime concern is that they are suitable for training and match play by the general hockey public. This requires the following factors to be included

- Appropriate surface (to meet FIH Standard criteria)
- Hockey markings
- Dimensions including run off to meet minimum requirements
- Changing facilities for a minimum of 4 teams
- goals per pitch
- Accessibility at appropriate times
- Sink fund
- Social facilities – including notice boards, meeting rooms and availability of refreshments
- Maintenance programme

### 3.3.4 DETAILS OF MINIMUM AND IDEAL SPECIFICATIONS / REQUIREMENTS

The SHU has set out minimum requirements for each of the type of facilities identified above. These are the minimum required for the facility to be used for the purpose identified. Additional features above what have been specified would add value to the development. Whilst the SHU will support development of facilities on a case by case basis, the SHU will look to these requirements being the minimum standard required. All facilities should look to meet or exceed these requirements to gain support from the SHU and to maximise use from the hockey community.

#### 3.3.4.1 FIH REQUIREMENTS

The range of facility types suitable for hockey is significant, and growing. The overarching principle on the type of facility developed for hockey use is meeting the International Hockey Federation (FIH) playing standards. This is available from the FIH and should be considered in any facility development. The FIH and pitch constructors are constantly looking at new types of pitches to improve playing conditions and reduce costs. This might result in a change to the standards required for any future pitch developments.

National and Regional Facilities need to meet the FIH Global standard. Scottish Hockey's aim is to be a force on the European stage. To do this requires training and matches at this level and therefore the facilities available must meet this standard. The SHU have identified the need for these facilities to be available at national and regional levels to enable clubs and other squads to train and play on appropriate surfaces when possible.

Local facilities developed for the use of hockey should meet the FIH Standard pitch requirements. This requirement allows for the development of surfaces that can support a variety of sports and are usually less expensive and therefore enable more facilities to be developed.

	National	Regional	Local
To meet FIH playing Characteristics	Global	Global	Standard

FIH testing required	Yes	Yes	
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### 3.3.4.2 PITCH COMPOSITION

To meet the playing characteristics required for hockey it is important to meet the FIH guidelines. The SHU has identified additional criteria to ensure facilities meet the needs of Scottish Hockey. These are detailed below.

	National	Regional	Local
Pitch			
Carpet			
Type of Fibre	Various fibre types are available	Various fibre types are available	Various fibre types are available
Length of Fibre	13-14 mm	13-14 mm	16 – 25 mm
Fill type	Water	Water	Sand Dressed or Sand Filled
Markings (other sports)	No	By Agreement	Yes
Ability to apply temporary markings	Not priority	Yes	Yes
Lines	Incorporated during manufacture or inlaid on site White only	Incorporated during manufacture or inlaid on site White	Incorporated during manufacture or inlaid on site White
Colour	Green	Green	Green
Size	Minimum carpet area of 97.40m by 61.00m	Minimum carpet area of 97.40m by 61.00m	Minimum carpet area of 97.40m by 61.00m
Longitudinal Gradient	Less than 0.2%	Less than 0.2%	Less than 1%
Cross Fall Gradients	Ideal 0.4% Maximum 1%	Ideal 0.4% Maximum 1%	Recommendation 1%
Smoothness	6mm deviation over 3m	6mm deviation over 3m	6mm deviation over 3m
Base			
Shock Pad	8-35 mm depending on other factors	8-35 mm depending on other factors	8-35 mm depending on other factors
Orientation	North South - Essential	North South - Desirable	North South - Desirable
Watering System	To Meet FIH Requirements	To Meet FIH Requirements	N/A
Control	Cycle plus individual station control	Cycle plus individual station control	N/A
Cannon type (if Cannons)	Maximum of 1 metre off the ground	Maximum of 1 metre off the ground	N/A

Currently the fibre types available are Nylon, Polyethylene and Polypropylene. New technology is constantly being developed that could introduce new types of fibre to the market. These are suitable as long as they meet the FIH current playing characteristics.

### 3.3.4.3 LIGHTING

Due to the nature of Scotland and the short daylight hours during winter, the hockey season, it is essential that all facilities developed have lights to the specifications detailed below.

	National	Regional	Local
Lights	To Meet FIH Requirements	To Meet FIH Requirements	To Meet FIH Requirements
LUX level	500 Lux minimum	500 Lux minimum	300 Lux Minimum

### 3.3.4.4 PITCH SURROUND

The surround of the pitch is important for safely, security, developing hockey as a spectator sport and to ensure maximum use. There is a need for the following.

	National	Regional	Local
Immediate Surround			
Spectator Fencing	Spectator fence on all sides	Spectator fence on 1 side minimum	Not essential
Overall Fencing	2.70 m on sides with 5.00 meters for 25 m section behind goals	2.70 m on sides with 5.00 meters for 25 m section behind goals	2.70 m on sides with 5.00 meters for 25 m section behind goals
Dugouts	3 minimum with Water protection – Raised from the level of the surface to allow them to drain of water	3 minimum with Water protection – Raised from the level of the surface to allow them to drain of water	2 desirable
Gates	Able to accommodate Ambulance	Able to accommodate Ambulance	Able to accommodate Ambulance
Power points near pitch	Essential	Essential	Not essential

Spectator fence – 1 to 1.25 m fence to prevent balls from leaving the pitch, but to allow spectators to view the game with an unobstructed view.

### 3.3.4.5 ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS

The following additional facilities are required for the development of hockey.

	National	Regional	Local
Additional Buildings			
Change Rooms	8 Minimum	4 Minimum Ideally 6	2 Minimum, Ideally 4
Club House	Ideal	Ideal	Ideal
Meeting rooms	Essential	Essential	Desirable
Office accommodation	Essential for tournaments	Not Essential	Not Essential

Spectator Toilets	Essential	Essential	Essential
Spectator facilities	Essential	Desirable	Desirable
First Aid / Medical / Anti Doping room	Essential	Essential	Not Essential
Video Tower	Desirable	Desirable	Not Essential
Storage area for equipment	Essential	Essential	Essential
Disabled Toilet	Essential	Essential	Essential

### 3.3.4.6 EQUIPMENT

The following equipment should be included in any facility development.

	National	Regional	Local
Equipment			
Goals	Minimum 4 Per Pitch	Minimum 4 Per Pitch	Minimum 4 Per Pitch
Score Board	Essential		
PA facility	Essential		
Freezer for Ice	Essential	Desirable	
Drinking water	Essential	Essential	Essential
Corner Flags	Essential	Essential	Essential

## 3.4 INDOOR

### 3.4.1 NATIONAL

Indoor hockey forms part of the competition programme at both national and international level. The SHU organises a Indoor National League for clubs from across the country. We also organise national teams for indoor hockey for senior men and women. Clubs also qualify and compete in Europe in indoor hockey. All national league indoor hockey is currently played at a central venue. This is due to lack of suitable facilities and to facilitate the completion of the programme in the time available. There is the need for appropriate facilities to run this competition. Participating in competition in Europe also brings the expectation that we will host events at certain times. Due to the limited nature of the national league and indoor hockey, the facilities at national level for indoor hockey should be multi-use with the hockey requirements taken into account.

With this participation in indoor hockey brings a need for national facilities. Due to the nature of the national league there is a need for more than one national facility to cope with the demand. This demand is on weekends for a period of approximately 3 months between December and February at present. Each facility requires a full size indoor hockey pitch and associated boards and goals. The surface needs to meet the requirements of indoor hockey. In addition there should be changing facilities for a minimum of 4 teams, spectator seating, opportunity to video matches and playback on site and catering facilities. There should be meeting rooms available to teams to access.

### 3.4.2 REGIONAL

In addition to the National League, each district runs a district league for lower teams. The timing of these leagues vary depending on the district, but usually occur across the whole season. These matches can be played on weekends or in the evening. Once again these are run at a central venue within the district and bring a need for regional facilities.

Ideally these facilities should be of a size to fit a full size indoor hockey pitch. If this is not possible then they should at least be large enough to accommodate the minimum requirements for indoor hockey (See FIH Guidelines – Appendix B). Their development should include budgeting for indoor boards and goals to enable hockey to be played from the outset. It is expected that these facilities will form part of a larger sports facility and so will have a minimum of 4 change rooms, spectator facilities, catering facilities and meeting rooms.

### 3.4.3 LOCAL

Local facilities are important for the development of hockey. They play an important role in the development of both club and school hockey as they provide another venue for training and matches.

Local indoor facilities on a school site provide a smooth flat surface on which people can be introduced to hockey. It can also be used for the development of skills and if large enough for game play.

Local indoor facilities can also support clubs. It is unreasonable to expect juniors to continue to train and enjoy hockey outside in the winter months. It is also unreasonable for them to take 3 months off and then come back to hockey unless they are very keen and have significant parental support and encouragement. For this time moving to an indoor venue is a suitable alternative. It encourages participation, develops existing and new skills and provides a continuation of hockey activity throughout the year for those who wish to participate. Most of this indoor training occurs in local facilities.

In addition training for district and national league usually occurs at a local level. This requires less travel and time commitment from players. Local facilities also allow players who just play outdoor hockey to continue to train indoor during the winter months when there is a reasonable chance pitches will be frozen.

Ideally local facilities will be a full size hockey pitch, with markings, boards and goals. Training can occur with less than that, but ideally boards and goals should be included in any facility development of more than 2 badminton court size.

### 3.4.4 DETAILS OF MINIMUM AND IDEAL SPECIFICATIONS / REQUIREMENTS

The following table details the minimum requirements for the facilities set out above, to ensure they are usable by hockey for the purposes identified.

	National	Regional	Local
Court			
Size	Length Minimum 36m Ideal 44m Width Minimum 18m Ideal 22m Plus 3m runoff at ends and 1m at sides	Length Minimum 36m Ideal 44m Width Minimum 18m Ideal 22m Plus 3m runoff at ends and 1m at sides	Length Minimum 36m Ideal 44m Width Minimum 18m Ideal 22m Plus 3m runoff at ends and 1m at sides
Floor Type	Sprung	Sprung	Sprung
Boards	Essential	Essential	Essential
Goals	2 minimum, 4 depending on overall size of facility	2 minimum, 4 depending on overall size of facility	2 minimum
Lines	Marked for Indoor Hockey	Marked for Indoor Hockey	Marked for Indoor Hockey if large enough

Additional Facilities			
Change Rooms	Minimum 4, Ideally 6	Minimum 4, Ideally 6	Minimum 2, Ideally 4
Spectator Seating	Essential	Desirable	
Score board	Essential	Desirable	
PA Facility	Essential	Desirable	

Health and Safety considerations must be taken into account when deciding the appropriate size of court for the facility. Whilst it is desirable to have a close to the full size as possible, it is important to allow enough room for the game to be played safely with sufficient runoff at the sides and end. It is recommended that the minimum run off is one meter outside the boards on the sides and three metres at the end of the court.

### 3.5 ADDITIONAL FACILITY ISSUES

#### 3.5.1 MAINTENANCE

All facilities need maintenance and this must be allowed for when developing the business plan for any project. Each contractor who supplies and builds the facility should supply recommendations regarding the maintenance of their facility. It is essential that the appropriate schedule and procedures are followed. This will provide for an extended life of the surface, a major economic consideration, optimise playing conditions and reduce the potential for injury, a health and safety consideration. The FIH has provided guidance for facility maintenance "Handbook for the care and maintenance of synthetic pitches – outdoors" which should be used should the manufacturers guidance be insufficient. The regular inspection of the facility and programmed maintenance

needs to be included within all staff's responsibility. Time needs to be allocated for this to occur with regular monitoring to ensure standards are maintained.

### 3.5.2 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

A high proportion of facility developments only consider the construction of the facility and not the ongoing development of activity. All plans should consider how they are going to increase the demand for the facility. The SHU will support developments that include a revenue strand to increase the hockey activity that occurs at the facility. This includes links or partnerships with local clubs and schools. Consideration should be given to running participation (Afterschool / Cluster clubs) and potential programmes (Development squads) at the venue. Other possible programmes that should be planned for include outreach programmes to encourage school children to participate and use the venue, a programme of festivals for the local schools and clubs, central venue leagues and adult participation activity.

### 3.5.3 PRICING AND ACCESS

All facilities need to be priced to make them accessible to the hockey community. sportscotland conducts an annual survey on charges for sports facilities. This survey the running costs of facilities, the demand for facilities and charges levied in other local facilities should be used to determine the cost of the facility. Consideration needs to be given to having different rates for sessions involving adults and children under 18. As clubs provide a service to the community, consideration should be given to different rates being considered for bookings by clubs who are conducting development activities and encouraging increased participation as opposed to those who just pay and play. Clubs who have a long term commitment to the facility at both youth and senior level should be given preferential rates and access

There is a need to ensure hockey facilities are available to the hockey community at appropriate times. Where possible this should be included within any facility partnership agreement. Clubs that provide activities that are trying to increase participation should get preferential access over pay and play users. These groups are addressing national and local priorities, on a voluntary basis. Consultation should occur before regular lets are allocated and consideration given to the needs of those running activities that benefits the wider community.

### 3.5.4 FACILITY USER GROUPS

The SHU supports the development Facility User Groups to support and assist in the management and maximise the potential use of hockey facilities. Facility user groups should be included within any partnership agreements for facilities developed at national and regional level and where possible at local level. User groups should be made up of the facility owner / manager, the SHU or representative, the Scottish Institute of Sport and Area Institute of Sport where appropriate, representatives of the clubs, schools and other users of the facility. Other people can be invited as necessary. User groups should meet regularly to discuss any issues

related to the facility. Potential areas of discussion include bookings, booking priorities, maintenance, events and increasing usage.

### 3.6 ALTERNATIVE FACILITY TYPES

#### 3.6.1 GRASS

Hockey was first developed on grass pitches. The need for smooth surfaces led to the association of many hockey clubs with cricket clubs as the sports complemented each other in the use of facilities in different seasons. The development of artificial turf has provided another option. The advantages of artificial turf surfaces include being more consistent in their play, being able to be used in more weather conditions and aid in the development of players skills. Disadvantages include the cost of playing, and access to facilities at appropriate times. As with all facilities health and safety must be taken into consideration when selection the pitch for use.

Grass continues to be an option for playing lower level hockey however due to it's limitations the development of new build grass pitches is not a priority for hockey.

#### 3.6.2 MUGA'S

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's) are a popular development for schools and leisure centres. Whilst these areas are usable for modified youth hockey training and basic skill development, they are too small to play any versions of modified hockey. The development of a full size hockey pitch that can be subdivided into smaller areas through nets is seen as a much better investment of the limited funds available to sport as it allows use by more than one sport for more than one type of activity. The SHU doesn't support the development of Multi Use Games Areas.

#### 3.6.3 THIRD GENERATION TURF

Third Generation Turf, Long Pile Turf or Rubber Crumb surface have become more common as surfaces for Artificial Turf Pitches recently. These surfaces are not deemed suitable for hockey due to health and safety and performance issues. These surfaces have longer, less dense pile. Due to the diameter of a hockey ball, the ball sinks further into the surface increasing it's frictional drag. The same applies to the hockey stick. In addition due to the surface being less dense the stick can get under the ball more easily and therefore causing the ball to lift increasing the danger element. (Refer to the FIH for more information) The SHU does not support the development of these surfaces and recommends that competitive hockey is not played on them.

#### 3.6.4 BLAES

Hockey has been played on Blaes for a number of years. Whilst this surface provides a reasonably flat, smooth surface, it requires significant maintenance to keep it in this way and has health and safety issues associated with it's use. Blaes is suitable for use in introducing hockey and competition where required. All effort should be

made to conduct hockey on a suitable artificial grass surface. The SHU doesn't support the development of Blaes surfaces for hockey.

### 3.7 HOSTING OPTIONS

Facilities can be hosted by a variety of organisations. Each of these have benefits to the facility and hockey. Hockey doesn't specify any preference, but recognises the value diversity can bring to the sport.

#### 3.7.1 SCHOOLS

Having local facilities on school sites has major benefits in terms of increasing participation if the school provides hockey in the curriculum and as an after school activity. There are a number of schools with facilities who have no children who play hockey at all. This significantly reduces the value of the investment in facilities if it is not used to its full potential. Facility usage needs to be considered when planning facilities. Usage should include the development of the sport in curricular time for activities such as standard and higher grade courses in hockey and also as leadership activities through Leaders Awards and the Youth Umpire Award. Provision should also be made to develop hockey as an after school activity either through staff time, additional funding for a coach or identified volunteers. The SHU will support school facility proposals that include these areas.

School sites need special consideration to maximise the use of the facilities by the community. Schools need to plan for out of hour's facilities usage in their development to ensure maximum benefit to the school and community. This includes lighting for the pitch and surrounds, access out of school hours and in holidays, costs of staffing associated with this and ancillary facilities that meet the needs of the community. Support will be provided to facility bids that demonstrate steps to make school facilities accessible by the community.

A number of school facilities are being developed as Public Private Partnerships. Similar issues need to be considered in the development of these facilities as with other facilities. To maximise the use they must provide appropriate pricing, access and maintenance programmes to ensure access by the community. This should be considered within any contracts developed for the project.

#### 3.7.2 LEISURE CENTRES

Leisure Centres are one of the places Local Authorities develop facilities. They have the infrastructure behind them to provide the appropriate management of facilities. Local Authorities have a duty to provide sporting provision for their communities. This usually means they provide facilities for the local community to use. They also have a financial need to generate income. In some cases this means that priority is given to income generating lets rather than meeting local need. Plans need to be included that prioritises use by clubs and groups that are working to increase participation. These facilities don't usually have the opportunity for social activities that are an important part of the fabric of hockey. Leisure centres can be excellent venues for facilities if run in a developmental manner.

### 3.7.3 CLUBS

There are a number of examples of Hockey and multi sport clubs hosting pitches to great effect. There are advantages and disadvantage to this practice. By placing a pitch at a club it provides the readymade infrastructure for the development of the sport. It provides the volunteers, the pathways for playing, coaching and other aspects of the sport interlinked with the social side of the game. The club needs to be well managed, have other supporting facilities and usually other sports attached to ensure the viability of the club. Care needs to be taken as a hockey or sports club doesn't have the infrastructure backing of a school or leisure centre. A robust business plan is essential with a need to identify sources of income from letting the facility and appropriate risk management procedures in place in case of lettings below that expected. The club needs to be aware of appropriate health and safety requirements and other legislation relevant to the facility and activity planned. Well managed clubs provide the best location for facilities for hockey development.

### 3.7.4 UNIVERSITIES / COLLEGES / FURTHER EDUCATION

Sport is an important part of HE / FE life and they have a facility requirement. Some university's have developed their own facilities, whilst others access external facilities. These organisations make a good host for facilities due to their infrastructure, the additional use through education programmes and their sports programmes providing limited clashes with community use. Universities also have the advantage of economical accommodation being available during university break. This makes the facilities good for hosting tournaments and events.

### 3.7.5 PRIVATE

Private facilities have not been fully developed for hockey as yet but we will investigate opportunities as they arise and work with potential partners to provide appropriate facilities.

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Facilities are developed by organisations other than the SHU. Where the facility development is through a need identified by another organisation, the SHU hopes to influence / work with them to ensure the maximum benefit for hockey. Where the SHU has identified a need for a facility, we will work with local partners to develop facilities that meet the needs of hockey. The ultimate aim is to ensure the maximum benefit for hockey from the limited facilities and funding for facilities available.

The recommendations in this document set out what is required of a hockey facility in Scotland. The SHU will ensure these recommendations are as widely available as possible. This includes distributing them to sportscotland, Local Authorities (Planning, Sport Development and Education), other funding bodies (BIG Lottery fund, Foundation for Sport and Arts, Lottery Fund), facility contractors, private schools, universities, colleges and further education institutions, hockey clubs and the hockey public. They will also be available on the SHU website and on request.

To ensure the facility meets the requirements of hockey, the SHU should be involved in developments at the earliest possible stage. All organisations wishing to develop a facility for hockey should inform the SHU at the commencement of any proposals. The SHU will make itself available to consult on the development of any facilities intended for hockey use. We are able to consult on two prime areas, the requirements for hockey and the usage of the facility, including links to clubs and schools, and development plans to increase the demand in the local area. Consultation on the technical aspects of the development of facilities should occur through either sportscotland, SAPCA or an appropriate facility contractor.

The SHU will offer its support to new facilities on an individual, case by case, basis. Each proposal requesting support will be assessed on its individual merit and how it benefits hockey. The basis for assessment will be the criteria set out in this document. To gain the support of the SHU, facilities should be developed to the requirements set out above. If this is not possible and SHU support requested, information should be provided as to why the requirements cannot be met. Where hockey is identified as a prime sport, the SHU expects sportscotland and other funding bodies to apply significant weighting to the SHU's recommendation.

The SHU will support sportscotland to maintain a database of facilities suitable for hockey. We will work with sportscotland to annually review the database and provide additional details as available. The SHU will use this information to identify where there is a need to develop facilities for hockey.

Where the SHU has identified a need for a facility, either through this strategy or through local needs analysis, we will develop and implement a specific action plan (Appendix A) to influence the development of facilities

appropriate for hockey. This will include identifying partners, encouraging those partners to develop suitable facilities, supporting access to sources of funding for capital and revenue developments and encouraging appropriate usage.

The needs of hockey are constantly changing, in terms of facility requirements, usage and access. The SHU will support existing facilities to meet the challenging demands of hockey. At national and regional level the SHU will support the development of facilities user groups as identified above to ensure the changes are catered for. These should be used to resolve any issues of management, maintenance and priority. The SHU will work with other facilities and especially their funding partners to ensure access for hockey at times that meet the needs of hockey, for training, competition and development purposes.

## 5 CONCLUSION

This Facility Strategy sets out the SHU's position regarding the development of facilities for the use by hockey. The purpose of the strategy is to inform partners of the requirements for facilities to maximise the use by hockey and for the development of hockey. These requirements are in line with achieving the aims in our business plan and other strategies. We identify the types, purposes, locations and future actions required to develop facilities for hockey.

This strategy identifies 3 levels of facilities for hockey, National, Regional and Local. It sets out the minimum requirements for facilities at each level, the current position regarding these facilities and future actions required. It also sets a mandate to update the strategy on an annual basis, to ensure the actions required are representative of the needs to achieve the objectives.

Whilst the strategy sets out hockey's position, hockey recognises we are reliant on partners to develop, manage and maintain facilities. To ensure this occurs, hockey will distribute this strategy to all potential partners and members of the SHU. We will identify and work with partners, offering our experience and expertise, to achieve the objectives set out in this strategy. Facilities are essential for hockey. Their development and the actions in this strategy are a priority for hockey.

## REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

6.2.2 Below is the pitch diagram and appropriate dimensions

Managing the Business 2003 –7 (2003) – Scottish Hockey Union

<http://www.scottish-hockey.org.uk/PageAccess.aspx?id=8>

Sport 21 2003 – 2007 (2004) – sportscotland

Available from sportscotland

Integrated Performance Plan (2004) – Scottish Hockey Union

Available from Scottish Hockey Union

National and Regional Sports Facility Strategy (No Date) – Scottish Executive and Sportscotland

Available from sportscotland

[Performance Requirements and Test Procedures for Synthetic Hockey Pitches - Outdoor](#) (1999) – International Hockey Federation

[Care and Maintenance of Synthetic Turf](#) (2001) - International Hockey Federation

Guide to the artificial lighting of hockey pitches (2000) International Hockey Federation

Rules of Hockey including explanations (2005) International Hockey Federation

Rules of Indoor Hockey including explanations (2005) International Hockey Federation

All Available from [www.fihockey.org](http://www.fihockey.org)

[Code of Practice for the Construction and Maintenance of Artificial Grass Sports Pitches](#) (2005) SAPCA

Available from [www.sapca.co.uk](http://www.sapca.co.uk)

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