

# International Hockey Federation

## Development and Future of Synthetic Turf

- FIH recognizes there are strong environmental concerns about water usage
- As a result the development of « waterfree » synthetic turf for toplevel hockey has become a must
- Besides toplevel pitches FIH needs lowering the cost barrier of synthetic turf to make further development of the sport possible by being more affordable. Development of « multisport » pitches to enable sharing costs with other sports (mainly soccer) is a main issue, together with durability

# Requirements for top level "waterfree" pitches



- Existing measurable requirements unable to differentiate in terms of "playability" between unfilled watered pitches and dry sand filled pitches
- Necessity to develop new tests, especially for ball-turf interaction
  1. ball pace : study by Isaport, using a shooting cannon and a radar gun may result in a specific new requirement for top level pitches
  2. Ball to surface friction : existing test unable to differentiate « dribble » characteristics between the various type of pitches. Proposal to use skin friction tester from FIFA with hockey ball profile instead of skin is under consideration.

- Development of pitch meeting main FIFA requirements and essential hockey requirements
  - Height of pile  $\leq$  35 mm ?
  - Filling height  $>$  height of pile less 10 mm ?
  - Filling to be stabilized
  - Ball roll  $>$  5 m
  - Ball roll deviation max  $3^\circ$



- Durability tests for carpet and shock absorbing layers to be introduced
- Guidelines for long lasting sub-base construction to be defined



OR



Skin abrasion test to be considered  
for "waterfree" pitches

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