

FIELD HOCKEY CANADA

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2023-2024



SEPTEMBER  
2024



CANADA

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## STRONGER ORGANIZATION

LETTER FROM THE CEO	4
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR	6
STAFF & ORGANIZATION	8

## STRONGER SYSTEM

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	10
MASTERS HOCKEY	12
HALL OF FAME	13
OFFICIALS REPORT	15
COMPETITION REVIEW	16

## STRONGER INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE

YOUTH TOURS & JR WORLD CUPS	18
INTERNATIONAL HOSTING	20
INDOOR PAN AMS	21
JUNIOR PAN AMS	22
SENIOR NATIONAL TEAMS	24
MEN'S TEAM	25
WOMEN'S TEAM	26
RETIREMENTS	27



# **STRONGER ORGANIZATION**

**LETTER FROM THE CEO**

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

**STAFF & ORGANIZATION**

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

**SUSAN  
AHRENS**

CEO Field Hockey Canada

Welcome to Field Hockey Canada's Annual Report for 2023 - 2024,

This report highlights the continued progress made towards reaching our strategic goals which are: A Stronger Organization, A Stronger System and Stronger International Performances.

Progress towards all three has been led and supported by our wonderful board, staff, volunteer and community team. I would like to thank them all for their continued drive to serve our sport with passion and integrity.

As we strengthen our Team of Teams with contributions from our wonderfully diverse hockey family from coast to coast to coast, I am in awe of the dedication, time and care that is put into our sport at all levels. From managing, coaching, umpiring and officiating; you are our hockey makers.

As I read our committee and staff annual reports, I am impressed by the outcomes and outputs we have achieved together in this reporting period. These extend both on the field of play and behind the scenes to ensure the growth and development of the sport across the country.

Last season we welcomed back Field Hockey New Brunswick and this season work with membership has continued through our monthly meetings to support progress in local communities across Canada. Notable has been Field Hockey Quebec's re-birth under a new provincial name - Fleur de Lys Field Hockey Federation. This body is leading the unification of field hockey across the province and is formally linked to the Government of Quebec which will support the continued growth of the sport across Quebec in future years.

Field Hockey Canada's work with provinces and local community organizers was perhaps most prominent this year in relation to hosting, as the international hosting strategy swung into full gear. In March, the Indoor Pan American Championship was held in Calgary, Alberta and just three short months later, the best junior national players from across the continent descended on Tamanawis Park, Surrey, BC for the Junior Pan American Championships. These events were only possible because of the partnerships and support with provinces, clubs, leagues and an incredible group of volunteers. What a joy it was to work with you all to deliver international hockey to these local communities. Thank you.

The continued building of a stronger system resulted in some hugely significant outcomes over the past season. Firstly, a growing NextGen program extended out into the Atlantic provinces via a camp-based approach which supported local work in the development of athletes and coaches. This work in the Atlantic by supported all the great volunteer led work and helped accelerate the return of all three Atlantic provinces to the under 18 national championships — the first time in over a decade that all three have been back competing nationally. This continued system growth will be supported by the delivery this year of the Competition Review and phase one of the new Competition Strategy which focused on university sport.

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

**SUSAN  
AHRENS**

CEO Field Hockey Canada

In this, Field Hockey Canada steps into the leadership role, partnering with U SPORTS to deliver an extended national championship roster — one which includes a pathway back to the national championship after a long hiatus for the Atlantic provinces.

All this work in the organization and system builds a strong base for performance. Over the past season, Field Hockey Canada's senior national teams — WNT and MNT — had a busy season which included three major international tournaments: the Pan American Games, Olympic Qualifiers and Nations Cup filled the calendar. In what felt like the first full international season post pandemic, team rosters began to evolve with a cohort of younger athletes bridging from junior national teams into the senior ranks. Congratulations to all those making this step and achieving first caps this year and our thanks to all those who led the way for so many years and have this year stepped down as they look to the next exciting stages of their journeys with career, family or other focuses taking centre stage.

Sincerely,

**SUSAN AHRENS**

CEO FIELD HOCKEY CANADA



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

**DEB  
WHITTEN**  
Chair of the Board

The last season has been an incredibly busy one, with national teams active from youth to masters and a continued organizational focus on delivering strong financial and governance stability for the sports system build and international performance. As we enter the final year of our current strategy, it has been challenging work to put in place this critical foundation which will serve FHC well as we move for the future. Part of this of course is the delivery of the Hosting Strategy, with this season including Canada hosting 2 continental championships. To that end, on behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank the Field Hockey Canada staff for their tireless efforts in preparing, organizing and hosting the 2 continental championships and also to the Field Hockey BC and the Field Hockey Alberta Community who came together and volunteered time, energy and resources to ensure the championships were successful.

## **2023 / 2024 Highlights**

### **Strategic Objective: A Stronger Organization**

- Stewardship of Field Hockey Canada into the Office of the Independent Sports Commissioner and continued focus on safe, inclusive and accessible sport
- Updated risk management assessment and registry – achieved through engagement with board, staff, committees, athletes, and community to raise awareness
- Continued focus on financial stability and resources

### **Strategic Objective: A Stronger System**

- Member support - Continued monthly member meetings to provide forum for engagement and discussion as we continue work towards an aligned, safe, well governed and thriving sport system.
- Member support extends to targeted assistance to progress where required.
- Delivery of Competition Strategy – and a new model for university sports national championships
- International Youth Tours for the next generation of Canadian MNT and WNT
- Growth of NextGen into the Atlantic provinces with FHC led camp approach

### **Strategic Objective: Stronger International Performances**

- National Teams narrowly missing Olympic qualification – but with very young teams bouncing back at
- Nations Cup. Thanks for High Performance Director and National Team Coaches for their leadership in this area.
- JMNT qualifying for 2025 Junior World Cup
- International Hosting: Delivery of strategy home hosting in BC and Alberta. Canada successfully hosting the Indoor Pan American Cups in March, followed by the Junior Pan American Championships in July.

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

**DEB  
WHITTEN**  
Chair of the Board

Thanks to all directors and our small and hardworking staff group for the tremendous amount of work, dedication and progress made during this past year.

A thank you to all the chairs and the members of our ad hoc committees. The chairs work with the Board and the CEO to help achieve our strategic goals and are a crucial part of FHC's governance structure.

- Hall of Fame: Dr. Sue Neill
- Coach Education Committee: Ann Doggett and Nancy McCutcheon
- Officials: Laurie Hogan
- U SPORTS: Deb Whitten and Nancy Mollenhauer
- Masters: Ronald Prins and Gord Plottel
- Sponsorship: Kerry Moynihan
- COF Women's Fund: Sharon Rajaraman
- COF Men's Fund: Hari Kant

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to all the volunteers who make sport happen at all levels. A special thank you to board directors who exited in this past season: Derm Coombs and Peadar O'Riain for their years of service and dedication to Field Hockey Canada. Welcome to new Directors Terry Lockhart, Kerry Moynihan and Ronald Prins.

Sincerely,

**DEB WHITTEN**  
**CHAIR FIELD HOCKEY CANADA BOARD**





# STAFF & ORGANIZATION

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CEO - Susan Ahrens  
High Performance Director - Kate Perry  
NextGen Director - Andrea Gibson  
Communications Manager - Kevin Underhill  
Events and Membership Services - Hailey Yhap  
Chan Campbell - High Performance Administrator  
Jenning Northgraves - Administrator  
Mike Van Iderstine - NextGen Pathway Lead

### Canada Job Summer Student Positions

Cameron Lattemore  
Harman Hundal  
Mohammed Hussain  
Calum Butterworth

*Live-streaming Manager / Partner:*  
*Match Vue - Goldie Dhillon*

## HIGH PERFORMANCE STAFF

### Men's National Program

Head Coach MNT - Patrick Tshutshani  
Assistant Coach MNT - Geoff Matthews  
Tour Manager MNT - Nancy Mollenhauer  
S&C Lead - Simon Taylor

### Junior Men's National Program

Head Coach JMNT - Geoff Matthews  
Assistant Coach JMNT - Richard Hildreth  
Tour Manager JMNT - Kim Ewasechko

### Women's National Program

Head Coach WNT - Sheldon Rostron  
Tour Manager - Carrie Trumpy  
HP Consultant - Danny Kerry

### Junior Women's National Program

Head Coach JWNT - Sheldon Rostron  
Assistant Coach - Kate Perry  
Tour Manager - Nicky Graham

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair - Deb Whitten  
Athlete Director - Ben Martin  
Athlete Director - Krissy Wishart  
Director - Kerry Moynihan

Director - Terry Lockhart  
Director - Ronald Prins  
Director - Nancy Mollenhauer  
Director - Nick Sandhu



# **STRONGER SYSTEM**

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**MASTERS HOCKEY**

**HALL OF FAME**

# U16 NATIONALS

AUGUST 6-11, 2024 - CALGARY, AB



It was a busy summer of hosting — after the Junior Pan Ams, Field Hockey Canada hosted back to back National Championships, including the U16 Nationals in Calgary, AB. Many thanks to Field Hockey Alberta and the local organizing committee for taking this challenge on and leading the charge. The tournament featured six girls teams and three boys teams and laid a foundation for high performance youth hockey, as these athletes take the next step in their national-level hockey careers. Congratulations to all medalists and award winners at this tournament and thank you to the staff, organizers, officials and volunteers who made it all possible.



# U18 NATIONALS

JULY 23-28, 2024 - SURREY, BC



After taking a breath following the Junior Pan Ams in Surrey, Field Hockey Canada did it all again, hosting the U18 National Champs in Surrey, BC at the same field site. Many thanks goes out to Field Hockey BC, without whom, we could never have hosted so frequently this spring and summer. Huge thanks to the organizing committee of FHBC staff and incredible officials on the field and off. The U18 Nationals was an 8-team women's tournament in Surrey, and featured some incredible hockey from across the whole country. Notably, PEI won the bronze medal, making it their first medal in the modern U18 Nationals era. Congrats to all medalists and award winners and a special thank you to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI for making the trek across the country to make this a true national championship tournament.

# MASTERS HOCKEY



## **TEAM CANADA MASTERS PERFORM AT THE WMH INDOOR WORLD CUP IN NOTTINGHAM**

Field Hockey Canada would like to congratulate our two masters indoor teams that went to Nottingham, UK, for the WMH Indoor World Cup in March. Canada sent an O45 Men's and an O45 Women's team to participate. The men finished 8th but had impressive draws with Wales and Bangladesh. The women had tight losses in pool play to USA and Ireland and defeated Ghana in the 7th place game to finish 7th. Canada's Tony Stewart represented as an official for the tournament.

### **COMING UP:**

## **TEAM CANADA WILL ATTEND THE WMH WORLD CUP IN AUCKLAND IN NOVEMBER**

# FIELD HOCKEY CANADA HALL OF FAME

## HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2023



**YAN  
HUCKENDUBLER**

Builder



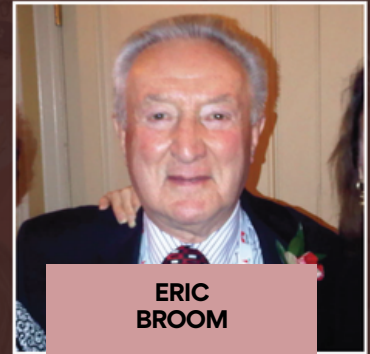
**JUDY  
BROOM**

Builder



**CHRISTINE  
GRANT**

Builder



**ERIC  
BROOM**

Builder



**JANICE  
MCCLINTOCK**

Official



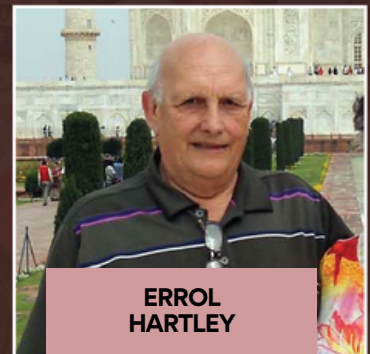
**CHRIS  
WILSON**

Official



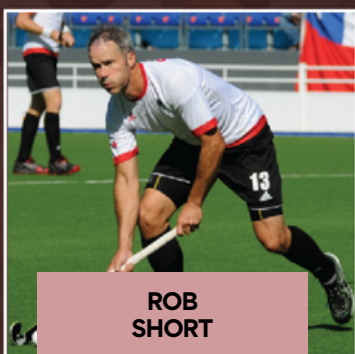
**LYNNE  
BEECROFT**

Coach



**ERROL  
HARTLEY**

COach



**ROB  
SHORT**

Athlete



**ANDY  
RUSHTON**

Athlete



**KEN  
PEREIRA**

Athlete

# FIELD HOCKEY CANADA HALL OF FAME

**IN-PERSON CEREMONY - RICHMOND, BC**



A very successful Induction Ceremony took place on Saturday July 13, 2024 in Richmond BC in conjunction with the Junior Pan American Championships, held in Surrey. The event was attended by the Inductees and their families and friends as well as previously inducted Hall of Fame Members primarily from Ontario and British Columbia. It felt like a truly national event!

Special thanks to the Field Hockey Canada staff who put this event together and to Ali Baggott who was an expert Master of Ceremonies!

Prior to the next call for nominations, the Committee will be reviewing the documents relating to the Hall of Fame and the nominations and selections process itself.

Thank you to Committee members – Susan Ahrens, Mario DeMello, Yan Huckendubler, Nancy Mollenhauer and Paula Parks for their diligent work during the selection process.

*Submitted by Sue Neill, Chair FHC Hall of Fame Committee*

# OFFICIALS REPORT

## OFFICIALS COMMITTEE - REPORT

The Field Hockey Canada Officials Committee has made several significant updates and recommendations throughout the year. Notably, the committee has submitted recommendations to the Pan American Hockey Federation (PAHF) regarding technical officials and umpire appointments for various events scheduled in 2024. This initiative underscores our commitment to encouraging Canadian representation at international competitions.

To further support the development of our officials, the committee has actively collaborated with Provincial Sports Organizations (PSOs) to deliver comprehensive umpire education programs. By enhancing the skills and knowledge of officials at the grassroots level, we aim to elevate the standard of officiating in our sport across the nation. Additionally, we have successfully made appointments for the U SPORTS events, contributing to the officiating framework for collegiate competitions.

In a bid to facilitate greater participation in international events, the committee has secured funding specifically earmarked for the travel of officials attending these prestigious competitions. This funding is crucial for ensuring that our officials gain valuable experience and exposure on the global stage, which in turn benefits the overall development of officiating and umpiring in Canada. We have updated the Umpire Development Model to better align with the evolving needs of the sport. This ensures that umpires are continually supported and developed throughout their officiating journey. During the national championships, the committee appointed tournament directors (TDs) who oversaw the events, while the sub-committee was tasked with appointing the umpires, ensuring an efficient process for officiating at the domestic competitions.

Overall, the efforts of the Officials Committee are focused on strengthening the framework of officiating in Canada, nurturing talent, and enhancing the quality of field hockey across all levels.



# COMPETITION REVIEW

## U SPORTS COMMITTEE - REPORT

The U SPORTS Advisory Committee has been together for some time with our focus and intention continuing to create and launch a new structure for the University National Championships which will include representation from all three conferences - Canada West (CW), Ontario University Sport (OUA) and Atlantic University Sport (AUS). After countless meetings, conversations and input from varsity coaches across Canada the committee is happy to report that, in partnership with U Sports and starting this fall, Field Hockey Canada will take the lead in presenting a new model for the University National Championships. University field hockey in Canada is a key pathway for our NextGen and Women's National Team programs and it is essential that we continue to work to develop, improve and maintain this in order to offer young women the opportunity to pursue playing varsity field hockey. Likewise, and as important, are the benefits not only for the student-athlete, but for our greater field hockey community as a whole. Coach, umpire, and technical official development is crucial to this model and with a new structure in place it will allow for FHC to build, nurture and grow the game to a high standard right across the country. There is still much work to be done but the pieces are falling into place and we look forward to implementing changes this fall.

Thank you to Committee members – Susan Ahrens, Deb Whitten, Krista Thompson, Robin d'Abreo, Beth Ali and Sharon Rajaraman for their ongoing involvement, expertise, enthusiasm and commitment. We could not be where we are without all of you.

*Submitted by Nancy Mollenhauer, Co-Chair FHC U Sports Committee*





**STRONGER  
INTERNATIONAL  
PERFORMANCE**

**YOUTH TOURS & JUNIOR WORLD CUPS**

**INTERNATIONAL HOSTING**

**INDOOR PAN AMERICAN CUP**

**JUNIOR PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**SENIOR NATIONAL TEAMS**

**MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM**

**WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM**

# YOUTH TOURS

## YOUTH WOMEN'S INDOOR TEST SERIES

The Field Hockey Canada U18 Women's Indoor Team made history as they traveled to Spring City, Pennsylvania, to compete in the Big Apple International Indoor Championship from March 1-3. The team performed admirably against senior competition. This was the first U18 Indoor National Team tour and builds the foundation for exciting indoor hockey moving forward.

## FEBRUARY 2024 - PENNSYLVANIA



## YOUTH MEN'S CAN AM SERIES

Field Hockey Canada's U19 Canadian Men's Team made Canada proud by convincingly beating the USA in the 2024 CanAm Junior Indoor Series in Philadelphia in March. The team swept the four game series 4-0. A big shout out for the admirable work by the Team Canada staff in Kim Ewasechko, Jamie Dowhaniuk, Faheem Hack, Geoff Matthews and coach Sean Pereira.

## MARCH 2024 - PENNSYLVANIA



## U18 WOMEN'S UK TOUR

Field Hockey Canada's Women's U18 team completed a successful tour of Scotland and Wales, marking a significant milestone in their growth as elite athletes. The tour included 2 matches against Scotland and three vs Wales. The tour provided insights into the demands of international hockey and facilitated substantial growth among the players, reflecting positively on Canada's development efforts.

## MARCH-APRIL 2024 - NETHERLANDS



## U17 WOMEN'S NETHERLANDS TOUR

The U17 Canadian Youth Women's Team concluded an exciting 10-day tour in the Netherlands, brimming with growth opportunities and competitive spirit. The centre-piece of the tour unfolded at the HDM Easter Festival in The Hague, where international matches with teams from Germany, Gibraltar, and the Netherlands highlighted the team's ability and international competitiveness. The team finished a commendable 6th place finish among 15 teams at the tournament.

## MARCH-APRIL 2024 - SCOTLAND & ENGLAND



# JUNIOR WORLD CUPS

Last November, the Junior National teams traveled to Malaysia and Chile for their respective Junior World Cups. Both teams took younger rosters in order to prepare for the home Junior Pan Ams and continue the talent pipeline. Thank you to our coaches and management team for preparing the athletes for competition. Congratulations to all athletes named on the Junior World Cup rosters and continuing the tradition of Canadian hockey on the international stage.

## MEN'S RESULTS

Canada vs Spain	7-0 Loss
Canada vs Korea	4-1 Loss
Canada vs India	10-1 Loss
Canada vs Belgium	12-0 Loss
Canada vs Egypt	1-1 (3-2 SO Loss)
Canada vs Chile	4-1 Loss



## WOMEN'S RESULTS

Canada vs India	12-0 Loss
Canada vs Belgium	8-0 Loss
Canada vs Germany	8-0 Loss
Canada vs USA	8-0 Loss
Canada vs Zimbabwe	1-1 (4-3 SO Loss)
Canada vs New Zealand	5-3 Loss



# INTERNATIONAL HOSTING



 **INDOOR  
PAN AMERICAN  
CUPS**  
MARCH 2024, CALGARY, CANADA

CALGARY, AB - March 19-22, 2024



SURREY, BC - July 3-12, 2024

# INDOOR PAN AMERICAN CUP

MARCH 19-22, 2024 - CALGARY, AB



Field Hockey Canada welcomed the Pan American countries to Alberta with open arms. This tournament is a part of Field Hockey Canada's hosting strategy along with the 2024 Junior Pan American Championships. The tournament served as an Indoor World Cup qualifier. The Women's tournament was a four team tournament and the men's was a five team tournament. Unfortunately, the Canadian teams failed to qualify for the Indoor World Cup in both divisions. Field Hockey Canada would like to give tremendous thanks to the Field Hockey Alberta community and the local organizing committee who worked tirelessly to prepare and host this incredible event in Calgary. We are looking forward to hosting more often in Calgary after the tremendous show at the Seven Chiefs Sportsplex.



# JUNIOR PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY 3-12, 2024 - SURREY, BC



The Surrey hockey community stepped up big time! A huge thank you can not suffice for what the clubs of the Tamanawis Field Hockey Society did to help support Field Hockey Canada host the Junior Pan American Championships in Surrey. The two-week event was a smash-hit and featured some incredible Junior Pan Am hockey. A major highlight was the Canadian junior men defeating Chile in the semifinals and qualifying for the 2025 junior World Cup. The event took a massive effort from volunteers, staff, partner organizations, provincial bodies and many, many more people behind the scenes. We're so proud of our community and look forward to hosting again shortly!



# INTERNATIONAL HOSTING

## SPONSORS & PARTNERS

An immense thank you to all partners and sponsors who supported the hosting of the Indoor Pan American Cup in March and the Junior Pan American Championships in July. Your support means the world!



# SENIOR NATIONAL TEAMS



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**MEN'S  
NATIONAL TEAM**



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**WOMEN'S  
NATIONAL TEAM**





# MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

*The Red Caribou*

## PAN AM GAMES

The Men's National Team brought an experienced bunch under Head Coach Patrick Tshutshani to the Pan Am Games in Santiago. The team won a bronze medal after losing to Chile in the semifinals. Disappointing not to be playing in the gold medal match but a positive finish to build on moving forward.

## FIH OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

The MNT (Men's National Team), led by Patrick Tshutshani, travelled to Oman for the Olympic Qualifier. The pool play presented tough obstacles as competitors battled for the final berths in the Olympic Games at an elite level. The squad bounced back to win the cross-over match against China handily, and they ended fifth after a close encounter versus Malaysia.

## SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP

The Red Caribou were invited back to the annual men's invitation field hockey tournament in Malaysia after a one-year hiatus after it was postponed in 2023. This was an opportunity for our young squad to gain valuable experience against team all ranked above us. Even though in this tournament the Men did not win a match, the experience this young squad received was good preparation for the Nations Cup in a few weeks' time.

## FIH NATIONS CUP

A few weeks after the SAS (Sultan Azlan Shah) tour, the team headed to Poland to play in the Nations Cup tournament. Another opportunity for the red Caribou to play matches against team in higher ranks competitions. With a young squad with an average 20 caps, we understood there were going to be some challenges but an opportunity to grow, learn, develop, and rise to this challenge.

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## OCTOBER 2023 - SANTIAGO, CHILE



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## JANUARY 2024 - MUSCAT, OMAN



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## MAY 2023 - IPOH, MALAYSIA



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## JUNE 2024 - GNIEZNO, POLAND





# WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

*The Canadian Wolf Pack*

## PAN AM GAMES

Canada's Women's National Team, led by Danny Kerry and Kate Richardson-Walsh lost in the semifinals to Argentina, ending their gold medal dreams. They then lost a super close fight with Chile for the Bronze. Lots of great hockey and lots to be proud of moving forward for this group.

## FIH OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

The Wolfpack had to contend with a difficult Olympic Qualification Tournament, where fiercely competitive teams were vying for a ticket in the Olympics. They played some close games against highly ranked nations, giving it their all. Danny Kerry and Kate Richardson-Walsh served as the Wolf Pack's head coach and assistant coach respectively, in their last event for FHC (Field Hockey Canada). Over the course of their eight months of commitment, the program learned world-class lessons and contributed to the hockey IQ to the program, laying the groundwork for the future.

## FIH NATIONS CUP

The wolfpack went to Scotland in May to play two official matches out of a four-match test series against Scotland. Gaining more experience in games was the primary goal as we prepared for the Nations Cup. This was Sheldon Rostron's first tournament as head coach. The team then travelled to Valencia, Spain for the Nations Cup. The team lost in all pool matches, but they prevailed over Korea in the sudden death shootout in the cross-over match. In their last match, they fought Japan for the fifth and sixth place, and they lost 1-0 in a remarkably close and competitive game.

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## OCTOBER 2023 - SANTIAGO, CHILE



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## JANUARY 2024 - VALENCIA, SPAIN



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## MAY 2023 - TERRASSA, SPAIN



# NATIONAL TEAM RETIREMENTS

After the Olympic Qualifier six stalwart veterans retired from international hockey and took a step back from full time training with the Men's National and Women's National squads. This provided a reset for the programs following the Olympic Qualifiers and an opportunity to bring in the younger members of the squad to now start to focus on the next Olympic cycle. Huge congratulations go out to the following athletes who all put over a decade of service into our national team programs.



**KEEGAN PEREIRA**

210 CAPS



**TAYLOR CURRAN**

214 CAPS



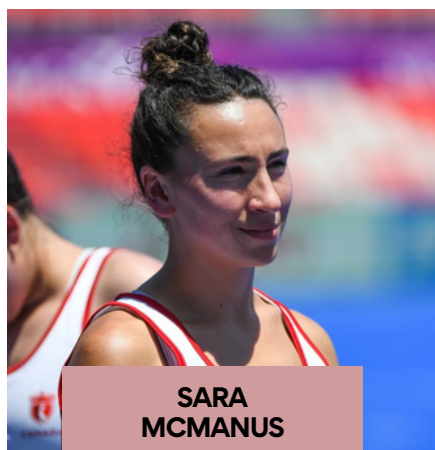
**OLIVER SCHOLFIELD**

116 CAPS



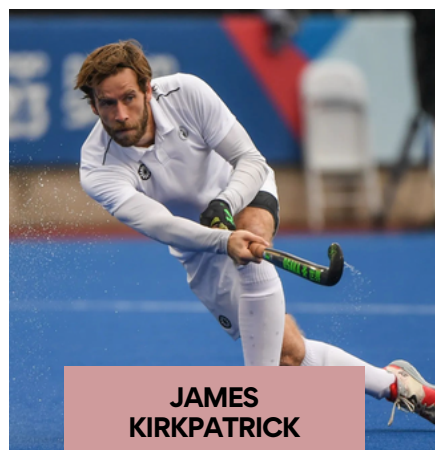
**GORDON JOHNSTON**

208 CAPS



**SARA MCMANUS**

216 CAPS



**JAMES KIRKPATRICK**

124 CAPS

# CONGRATULATIONS